

Newsletter

Somerton Public School

Developing Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness

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Term 4 – Week 7

Tuesday 17 November 2015

Mr Reid's Message

Kindergarten

Orientation

Last Thursday we had our last Kindergarten orientation. It was a lovely sunny day and the children were able to play outdoors and enjoy our outdoor equipment and activities. All of the children had a great time and are very excited about returning next year to commence their kindergarten year. Thank you Miss Brechin and Mr Clark for providing a fantastic Kinder orientation program.

Presentation Night 2015

Our students will be performing a special item for the night under the guidance of our dance and movement teacher Mr Brown. The staff and Mrs Hook will be sewing skirts for the girls, and we will purchase shorts for the boys and white T-shirts for all of the students. There will be a cost involved to be decided once all items have been purchased. I realize this is a very expensive time of the year and if there are any concerns please contact the school and I can discuss it with you.



Year 6 Farewell

This year we are having a change of tradition and we will be holding a combined Year 6 Farewell with Attunga PS in the Somerton Hall. It will be held the day after our school presentation, Friday 11th December. It will be a luncheon and dance for all students from both schools, K-6, and the parents of the Year 6 group. We are negotiating the cost of food and a farewell cake. Westside Petroleum Somerton Roadhouse has kindly sponsored the event by providing drinks and ice blocks. More information will be available when final arrangements are made.



Playgroup

Held every Wednesday from 9:30-11:00am. All children & parents are welcomed to attend.



READ-A-THON:



All money has been collected and I am now in the process of compiling the students's reading records and money and forwarding it to the organisers.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the students with this worthwhile cause.

Thank You

A big THANK YOU to Westside Petroleum Somerton Roadhouse, who are donating drinks, ice blocks and a platter of hot food for our Presentation Night. We welcome the business into our community and we appreciate their generosity and willingness to be involved with our school and the community.



P&C Fundraiser - Festive Tea Towels

Remember the Festive Christmas Teatowel orders are due this Friday 20th November. These teatowels make a great Christmas gift at a very reasonable cost.

Thank you ☺



P&C Christmas Raffle

We have had a few items donated from families to go towards the raffle, however we need many more to make this a super Christmas hamper. All items will be gratefully accepted and appreciated – household items, food, toys, books, beauty products, gift items etc. The books of tickets are going home today with the students – remember the more tickets we sell the more money raised which goes towards literacy resources for our school.

Netball

Due to unforeseen circumstances in last week, there was not a netball clinic during sport time. The clinic will take place on this Thursday so could all students please wear their sports uniform and joggers.



School Swimming & Water Safety Program 2015

Two lessons per day: Week 9.
Just a reminder that money is due into school by the end of week 8. The cost of \$50 covers bus travel every day, swimming instructor fees and entry into the pool. This is a necessary activity for all students and is provided at a very reasonable price.



Concept of the Week - STAY HEALTHY:

Although the cold weather has left us, sickness is still around. We had many students ill last week with tummy bugs and nasty colds. Remember, wash hands often, use a tissue, get enough sleep by going to bed at a reasonable hour and eat healthy food and fruit. Drinking lots of fresh water can also help to keep nasty bugs away.

Live.Life.Healthy

Good for Kids good for life

Tips to Encourage Drinking Water

We all know that water is the best drink for children however sometimes it can be difficult to persuade them to choose water over sugary drinks.

Here are some tips to help encourage water intake:

- Always have water available and accessible e.g. have a jug of water in the fridge or provide bottles of water for outdoor play
- Remove temptation by not storing sugary drinks such as soft drink in the house
- Keeping water cool or using a water filter may better suit your child's taste
- Try flavouring the water with lemon or lime slices. You can even add herbs such as mint
- Explain to your child why it is important to stay hydrated and why water is the best choice



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

PHONE 4924 6499

School Reports

The assessment and reporting procedures are well under way and Miss Brechin and I are looking forward to chatting with the parents and students on our 3 way interview day on Wednesday 9th December. After much deliberation with the staff I have decided to send the reports home the day before the interview rather than give them to the parents on the day of the interview. This will give the parent's time to examine and discuss the report with their child. Then on the following day, the report can be discussed in regards to your child's progress and future directions, and also discuss any concerns or comments the parents may have. Please complete the interview time request sheet and return it to school at your earliest convenience and I will endeavour to accommodate your requested time for interview.



Assembly Awards

SILVER AWARD: Congratulations to Nicholas Hook for receiving the Silver Award. This award means that Nicholas has earned 5 white merit awards – a wonderful effort!



White Merit Awards:

Nicholas Hook, Wade Holden, Benny Markwick, Tiara Markwick

Terrific Award:

Tiara Markwick – excellent school citizenship.

Superstar Award:

Shannon Colley – fantastic effort in reading groups.

SCHOLASTIC


Book Club has gone home today.

Issue 8, 2015 has gone home today.

Orders & payment must be returned to school by **Friday 4th December 2015** in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it.



TERM 4 2015 DATES:

7	16 2pm: Meet & Greet 3pm Assembly	17	18 9:30-11:00am: Playgroup	19 Music 11:45am-Netball Library	20 10am-Netball Tea Towel Orders Home Readers Numeracy @ Home
8	23 3pm Assembly	24	25 9:30-11:00am: Playgroup	26 Library	27 10am-Netball Home Readers Numeracy @ Home
9	30 Swim School	1 December Swim School	2 Swim School 9:30-11:00am: Playgroup	3 Swim School Library	4 Swim School Home Readers Numeracy @ Home
10	7 3pm Assembly	8	9 Parent/Teacher Interviews	10 6pm: Annual Presentation Night & Community Christmas Tree 	11 Year 6 Farewell (with Attunga PS) Home Readers Numeracy @ Home
11	14	15 2pm: Christmas Scripture Service 	16 Students last day for 2015 Happy Holidays ☺ 	17 Staff Development Day	18 Staff Development Day NOTE: No staff will be present @ school today

The formalities will commence at 6:00pm

@ Somerton Hall, Scotland Street on

Thursday 10th December 2015

YOU
are warmly invited to:

Somerton Public School Presentation Night 2015

*Please RSVP by Friday
27th November 2015*



*Families of students & officials are supplied with supper on the night . Given community members, grandparents, aunts, uncles & friends attend, it would be greatly appreciated if families could please bring a plate of food to share (cakes, slices, sandwiches or snacks)
Thank You.*

Everyone is welcome to come along & join in with our end of year Celebrations
Relieving Principal:
Toni Reid

Following to the official Presentation's you are welcome to join us for the annual Somerton Community Christmas Tree



PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THIS BEING A SCHOOL FUNCTION
ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED



ParentingIdeas Schools
Building Parent-School Partnerships

Helping kids deal with horrifying news

Terrorist events in Europe in recent days have reverberated around the world. Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms and onto our devices via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as terror attacks. In reality we can't do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society?

Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don't understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.
2. Explain what happened. Sounds obvious but it's important not to simply assume that children and young people understand what's happened. Be calm and stick the facts, using a map to show older children where it happened.
3. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.
4. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.
5. Support children's concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.
6. Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.
7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.
8. Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Children's worlds can be affected in ways that we can't even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children's needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

Micheal Grose