




A Window into Somerton PS

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Term 2 Week 6

Quality teaching and learning, excellent facilities and enriching programs.



School Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 6 May	25 Assembly 3:00pm	26 National Sorry Day	27 National Reconciliation Week	28	29 School Survey Due Bookclub Due
WEEK 7 June	1 Assembly 3:00pm	2	3 9:30am-Somerton Playgroup	4	5
WEEK 8 June	8 Public Holiday	9	10	11	12 12:30pm Delicious Dinner

Message from the Principal

There are two issues I need to bring to your attention.

Our school start and finishing times need to come into line with the Department of Education guidelines as our students are attending school for an extra 15 minutes everyday. Normal school times are 9 am to 3 pm or 9:30am to 3:30pm not 9:00am to 3:15pm like our school. I have been directed by the department to align the school times.

The other issue is the waiting time for our bus children. Students have to wait until 4pm to board the bus and my staff are giving up their time to help keep the students safe while waiting which means my staff are giving up 1 hour per day, that's 5 hours a week unpaid work to ensure the students can travel by bus. I am in negotiations with the bus company to solve this problem.

I have been directed by the department to solve these issues. After consultation with parents I have come up with a plan and will be asking you to fill in the survey attached to this newsletter for your opinion.

Uniforms:

I would like to congratulate the students on wearing their winter uniform with pride. They look very impressive and I have received positive comments about how neat and tidy they wear their uniform. If you need assistance with uniforms, please contact the school.



Excursion

Our students travelled to Gunnedah South Public School to use their Stephanie Alexander Kitchen to learn about Living Life Well and being safe in the kitchen. Our students participated in preparing, cooking and sharing their dishes with each other at a sit down meal. Afterwards they washed, wiped up and packed away their equipment. Kinder and Year 1 cooked flat bread learning how to roll dough correctly and Years 2-6 cooked Thai Curried Pumpkin mastering how to use a knife safely and stirring with being burned. Koby and Ben also cooked Kale Chips.

The students were shown the veggie plots and the farm animals. All the students became excited about a school having chickens and lambs.

The students learnt the importance of sustainable resources and the cycle of recycling resources.

PLPs

Thank you to the parents who have already participate in the PLPs as they are highly beneficial to both parties. These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss your child/children's progress with their teacher. The teachers will be contacting you in the near future for a suitable meeting time if you have missed having a meeting.



Delicious Dinner:

Our students have been busy learning new skills in food preparation and they are ready to cook and serve our guest a delicious 2 course dinner. All parents, carers, community friends are welcome to attend. We will also be hosting a game of bingo and lucky door prizes. Please reserve the date and an invitation will be coming soon, please ring the school on 67697520 to reserve a place. Friday 12.6.15 at 12:30pm



Walk to School Day

Last Friday our students discussed the 'Walk to School' day to keep children safe and build their fitness. Students talked about the rules associated walking to school and they focused on children aged 10 years and under must be supervised walking or riding to and from school and must hold the hand of a responsible adult when crossing roads.



Plants

The school is looking for some agapanthus and other plants to plant into the front garden to give the entry a more inviting look. If you are able to help please send the plants in to the office

This Week

National Sorry Day, 26 May 2015 acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal of Indigenous Australians.

National Reconciliation Week is focusing on how Australians can better recognise each other and recognise the contributions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June 2015



**Reconciliation
Week**



Sporting Schools

Our school has registered in the Sporting Schools program which allows our school qualified coaches to instruct our students in a variety of sports. We are looking at starting session in tennis.

Kind Regards

Shanyn Worley

Relieving Principal



Important Information

Pie Drive

Somerton PS is conducting a fundraiser pie drive through Thompson pies. Order sheets went home on Friday. Your family & friends will love these pies,! All orders & monies need to be returned to the school by Wednesday 4th June. If you require additional order sheet please see the office.



Parent volunteers

Parent volunteers are always welcome at Somerton Public School. If you are able to help in a classroom, kitchen, garden or reading please come in and chat to the class teacher.

Students enjoy having parents or family in the school to see their achievements and be a part of their progress.

Parents Helping Children



The Department of Education & Communities requires that all staff & voluntary parent helpers have a Working With Students Check (WWCC). Any volunteer helpers (this includes parents helping in the classroom, transporting students to out-of-school activities, etc) are eligible to obtain a WWCC at **NO COST**.

IT IS EASY...Please see Michelle in the office for more information & help with accessing the online registration.

To find out more & start your application please visit:

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-students/working-with-students-check/volunteers-&-students>



Book Club

Issue 3, 2015 orders & payment must be returned to school by **Friday 29th May 2015** in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it.



NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

- Are you an Aboriginal parent or carer?
- Would you like to have a say in local Aboriginal Education?
- Do you understand what is happening in our local schools?
- Are you an Aboriginal community member who can help achieve educational outcomes?

**Come along and join your local AECG and have a voice in education.
Your voice is important for our kids.**



NEW SOUTH WALES
AECG
INCORPORATED

Next Meeting:

Thursday 7th May at 4pm
Gunnedah South Public School
Light afternoon tea provided

For further information and membership details please contact:

Gwen Griffen (President) at Min Min Aboriginal Corporation on (02) 6742 4121
Meleah Walters (Secretary) at Gunnedah South Public School on (02) 6742 1899

School Start and Finish Times Survey

To the Principal,

I am aware of the current issues regarding the school start and finish bell times. I understand that staff are on duty 30 mins before start time and 30 mins after finishing time. I understand the bus routes and times and their effects. Bus 3 may be able to arrive at school at 9am.

After consideration, I would prefer the following bell times. (Please tick your preferred time)

9:00am - 3:00pm students arrive after 8:30am and children wait at the bus stop until 4:00pm
 teachers are off duty at 3:30

9:15am - 3:15pm students arrive after 8:45am and depart children wait at bus stop until 4:00pm
 teachers are off duty at 3:45pm

9:30am - 3:30pm students arrive at 9:00am and children delivered to the bus stop, teachers
 are off duty at 4:00pm

Please make suggestions in writing to the principal by Friday 29th May 2015.

Kind Regards
Shanyn Worley
Relieving Principal