

Newsletter

Somerton Public School

Developing Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness

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Term 1 – Week 6

Tuesday 15 March 2016

Mr Reid's Message

It is hard to believe it is Easter next week! The first term is absolutely flying! Even though the Easter break is only four days, students and staff are both looking forward to those few extra days of relaxing and recovering from the constant heat. School breaks for Easter at 3:00pm, Thursday 24th March and school commences on Tuesday, 29th March. The staff wish everyone a happy and safe Easter break.

Easter Hat Parade and Mufti Day

Our Easter hat parade and egg hunt will be held next Wednesday afternoon 23rd March commencing at 2:15pm in our Assembly area. This day will also be a Mufti day and the students can wear casual clothes. The students will make their Easter hats at school during art and craft lessons. After the parade, the students will be able to participate in the Easter egg hunt around the school grounds. All parents and friends are welcomed to attend.



Easter Scripture Service

Our Easter Church Service is on Friday at 2:15pm at the Somerton Church. Mr Fisher will be conducting the service with our scripture teachers, Mrs Hook and Mrs Pollard. As this is our usual weekly school assembly time, we will be presented the students awards and showing special work during the service. All parents and friends are welcomed to attend.



Why not visit our Website:

<http://www.somerton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

A Big Congratulation!

Congratulations to Benny Markwick on being a finalist for the New England region in Interrelates 2016 Say No To Bullying poster competition. Benny and his family will attend the Awards Ceremony at Chatswood in Sydney on Friday, 18th March. Benny's artwork was one of 5,000 entries from all over NSW to be chosen as a finalist and we are so proud of his achievement. We hope you have a wonderful day Benny and enjoy this special experience with your family.



Responsible Pet Education Program

Last Monday we had the presentation of the Responsible Pet Program. Mrs Pryer and her dog Becky visited us and taught us how to behave around angry dogs and dogs that we don't know. The



students did some great follow-up work through the week with artwork and singing and dance.

Clean Up Australia Day

Our Clean Up Australia Day event was conducted last Monday. The



students worked in pairs with gloves and rubbish bags to clean up Milkmaid St, the street of our school. They did a fantastic job and collected lots of rubbish.



Tell Them From Me Student Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. **Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary for Years 4, 5 and 6 students only.**

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by **Thursday 24th March.**

Farewell to Mr Brown

We sadly say farewell to Mr Brown, our dance teacher, who is no longer able to visit our school to teach dance. We will miss him greatly. However, he has been able to find a replacement who will teach dance, singing and percussion. We welcome Mrs Clark to our school and we look forward to all the exciting activities she will be doing with us.



YEARS 3-6 COOKING WILL BE COOKING THIS WEEK ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH!

Weekly Focus Concept:

RESPECT – Recognising our feelings

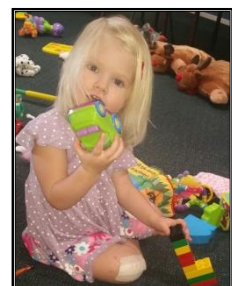
Sometimes we feel happy, sometimes we feel sad, sometimes we feel angry. We have lots of different feelings and that is good. We need to be aware of what we are feeling and how that may affect other people. Sometimes we might upset people if we are feeling angry! Think of how you feel before you act and how people might react towards you!😊



Playgroup 2016

No Playgroup for this week only. New mums and their children have been visiting our playgroup held every Wednesday 9:30am-11am in the school common room.

Here are some little ones having fun @ Playgroup:



Weekly Assembly

Congratulations to the following students:

Week 6

Silver Award:

Charlotte Heywood – congratulations Charlotte on achieving 5 merit awards

White Merit Award:

Charlotte Heywood, Annie Hook and Tiarna Harrison



Terrific Award:

Matthew Pollard – reading effort

Superstar Award:

Charlotte Heywood – patience and tolerance

Week 7

Silver Award:

Koby Heywood – congratulations Koby on achieving 5 merit awards

White Merit Award:

Koby Heywood, Matilda Holden, Matthew Pollard and Nicholas Hook



Terrific Award:

Macey Holden – excellent attitude in attempting all Maths activities

Superstar Award:

Nicholas Hook – great effort in reading



Great Aussie Bush Camp 2016

PLEASE REMEMBER PAYMENTS

ARE NOW DUE. Thank you to those families who have started their payments and returned their permission notes.



This camp will be held on **Monday 5th September to Wednesday 7th September 2016** for Years 3&4.

The cost will be \$315.00. A note with a payment schedule has been sent home.

Canberra Excursion 2016

PLEASE REMEMBER PAYMENTS ARE NOW DUE.

Thank you to those families who have started their payments and returned their permission notes.



This excursion will be held on **Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July 2016** for Years 5&6.

The cost will be \$555.50. A note with a payment schedule has been sent home.

SCHOLASTIC

Book Club has gone home today.

Issue 2, 2016 orders & payment must be returned to school by **Friday 1st April 2016** in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it.



School Dates for 2016

Term 1	Wednesday 27 th Jan (SDD) Thursday 28 th Jan (Students 1 st day) – Friday 8 th April (Easter: 25 March-28 th March)
Term 2	Tuesday 26 th April (SDD) Wednesday 27 th (Students Return) – Friday 1 st July
Term 3	Monday 18 th July (SDD) Tuesday 19 th (Students Return) – Friday 23 rd September
Term 4	Tuesday 11 th October – Tuesday 20 th December (SDD)

TERM 1 2016 DATES

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	14	15	16 No Playgroup	17 Library	28 Swimming Music 2:15pm - Easter Scripture Service & Assembly
9	21 Canteen	22 Canteen	23 9:30am-11:30am: Playgroup 2:15pm - Easter Hat Parade	24 Library	25 Public Holiday Good Friday
10	28 Public Holiday Easter Monday	29 Canteen	30 9:30am-11:30am: Playgroup	31 Library	1 April Swimming Music Scripture 2:30pm: Assembly
11	4 Canteen	5 Canteen 12pm- Outback Scripture	6 9:30am-11:30am: Playgroup	7 Library	8 Swimming Music Scripture 2:30pm: Assembly Last Day Term 1

Good for Kids good for life

IN YOUR BACKYARD

Children love to play and the backyard, courtyard or local park are great places to learn, explore, make up games and have fun.

Backyard games don't have to be complicated or expensive – a bit of chalk, a ball or a skipping rope can all get a game underway.

Try these games this weekend:

- Hide and seek
- Skipping
- Hop Scotch
- Throwing and catching games like piggy in the middle
- Chasing games like tag & stuck in the mud
- Racquet games against a wall
- Backyard cricket
- Running & jumping

Adapted from Healthy Kids 'In Your Backyard' Resource

**Good for Kids** good for life

RECIPE: ZUCCHINI SLICE

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Zucchini, grated	2
Carrot, grated	1
Red capsicum, finely diced	1
Spring onions, thinly sliced	2
Cheddar cheese, grated	1 cup
Shortcut bacon, diced	4 pieces
Self-raising flour	1 cup
Eggs, lightly beaten	4
Reduced fat milk	1/4 cup
Olive oil	2 Tbsp



METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease a 20cm x 30cm baking tin and line with baking paper.
2. Combine the zucchini, carrot, capsicum, spring onions, cheese, bacon and flour in a large bowl.
3. In a separate jug whisk the eggs, milk and olive oil until combined and add to the vegetable mixture. Stir to combine.
4. Pour the mixture into the lined baking tray and cook for 40 minutes until golden and firm to touch.
5. Serve with a crisp refreshing side salad.



Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, **The Learning Bar**, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by **Thursday, 24th March, 2016**.

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Toni Reid
Acting Principal
Somerton Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

***Tell Them From Me* Student Feedback Survey non-consent form**

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by **Thursday 24th March, 2016**.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the ***Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey**.

Name of student/s

Roll class/es

Name of parent/carers

Signature of parent/carers

Date



Tell Them From Me student survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following 18 measures for **primary schools**:

Participation in sports	Behaviour at school	Effective learning time
Participation in extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Teaching relevance
Sense of belonging	Interest and motivation	Teaching rigour
Positive relationships	Effort	Experience of being bullied
Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge	Advocacy at school
Positive teacher student relations	Expectations for success	Positive learning climate

The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for **secondary schools**:

Participation in sports	Homework behaviour	Expectations for success
Positive learning climate	Participation in clubs	Behaviour at school
Experience of being bullied	Truancy	Sense of belonging
Interest and motivation	Effective learning time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive relationships	Effort	Teaching relevance
Wellness	Valuing school outcomes	Positive learning climate
Teaching rigour	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive teacher student relations	—	—

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child's school has decided to participate.



4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, *The Learning Bar*. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide

analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

8. What sort of analysis will be done of the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data.

The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3.



What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the *Tell Them From Me* surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056 /9561 8688 /9561 8370.



Family & Community Services

Ageing, Disability & Home Care

Are you caring for a child with a disability?

You are invited to a presentation from staff of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services – Ageing Disability and Home Care where you will be provided with information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way to make sure people with a disability get

- the care they need
- the supports they need

The NDIS will help people for their whole life. So they can start planning for the NDIS, children with a disability and their families need to decide

- what the child's goals are
- what supports the child needs

Some children who are participants in the Scheme may be attending school and require additional support as a result of their disability.

Find out how you can check your child's eligibility for the NDIS and learn more about how the Scheme will operate in New England.

Where: Bullimbal School

When: Tuesday 22nd March, Parent Sessions 2pm and 6:30pm

Please phone 67628003 by 21st March to confirm your attendance.



Bullimbal School **FAMILY FUN FAIR**

Live Entertainment
Sausage Sizzle/ Hot Food
Market Stalls
Jumping Castle

Saturday 2nd April 2016
5pm - 8pm At Corner
of Degance & Kathleen st

All Proceeds go to Bullimbal School's Kitchen Renovations
To Book a Stall (\$10) or For More Information
Call Tracey 6762 8003