

Newsletter

Somerton Public School

Developing Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness

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Term 2 – Week 8

Tuesday 14 June 2016

Mr Reid's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend and the lovely weather that accompanied it. Students have been working hard and have had some wonderful extra-curricular opportunities over the last week.

We visited Oxley Vale Public School on Wednesday for a performance by Indigenous comedian and storyteller Sean Choolburra. The students were engaged in songs, dances and dreamtime stories with a number of our students performing on stage as part of the interactive show. Both students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed this valuable experience. The school would like to thank Mr Rod Stoker for driving the bus which made it possible for us to attend.



On Friday the school participated in Pirate Day Friday to raise valuable money for research into Childhood Brain Cancer. The students put a huge effort into their costumes and we were extremely proud of their understanding, attitude and generosity towards such a wonderful cause. Students raised \$38, well done!

Gunnedah Eisteddfod



Somerton PS students placed 3rd in the Gunnedah Eisteddfod Musical Theatre section. Well done

everyone! Mrs Clark awarded Annie Hook with a trophy for her enthusiasm and effort in preparation for the performance.



Why not visit our Website:

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



Education
Public Schools

Golf in Gunnedah

Students attended the first of four golf sessions at Gunnedah Golf Club on Friday for sport. The students were working on their putting skills through a number of engaging games with Jye Booby-Woodward winning a prize for the longest putt and Matilda Holden also winning a prize for nearest the pin. This week students will be learning how to chip.



School Attendance

We had our attendance register (roll) inspected last week as well as our procedures for following up on attendance. I want to take this opportunity to remind parents that it is a requirement of the Education Act (1990) to ensure that your children attend the school they are enrolled in whenever instruction is provided. Of course, there are acceptable exceptions to this in the case of unexpected illness or approved leave for different circumstances. However, schools and parents are required to work together to ensure students attend school on a regular basis. It is our responsibility to follow up with parents not only when students are absent for a day, but when student's attendance is not regular or reasons for absence are unjustified, and to report such cases.

Attached is an article by parenting educator Michael Grose about the importance of school attendance.



Community Sausage Sizzle!

Our community BBQ is this Friday at 1:15pm. We would like you to come join us and stay for our assembly afterwards.





P&C News

The Federal Election will be held on the 2nd of July which is the first weekend of the school holidays. The P&C will be running a cake stall to raise money for the school. If anyone is able to bake some cakes and slices and bring to the front office on Friday the 1st of July it would be greatly appreciated.

Please list all ingredients used on the container or packaging as we cannot sell food without these.

Christmas in



The SRC are organising a Christmas In July Toy and Gift Raffle to raise money for the student excursions to Canberra and The Great Aussie Bush Camp. Books of tickets have been sent home with the costs and details of the prizes. If students require more tickets please see the office.

Canberra Excursion 2016

This is our final newsletter before the Canberra Excursion. Mrs Gallagher will be attending with students. It will be a great experience for all attending.

Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July 2016 for Years 5&6.



Playgroup 2016

New mums and their children have been visiting our playgroup held every Wednesday 9:30am-11am in the school common room.



SCHOLASTIC

Book Club has gone home.

Issue 4, 2016 orders & payment must be returned to school by **Friday 17th June 2016** in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it.



School Photos

A photographer will be taking school photos on Monday 25th July (Week 2 Term 3). An order envelope has gone home today. If you would like sibling photos, please contact the school. Parents are welcome to order online or return the envelope with order and money included.



Cooking

Years 3-6 will be cooking this week. Please bring \$2.



K-2 will be cooking this week. Please bring \$2.

Weekly Focus Concept: Respect for others property

When you want to use something that belongs to someone else make sure you ask them and that they approve of you using it. When handling an item that belongs to someone else, ask yourself how you would like that item to be treated if you owned it.



Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Jump Rope for Heart

Our Jump Rope for Heart Day will be next Friday 24th of June. The students have been working hard on their skipping skills and shown great improvement. Please ensure that any fundraising forms and money are returned to school before then.



Weekly Assembly

Week 6

Silver Award

Annie Hook

White Merit Award:

Sophie Hook, Max Daly, Benny Markwick, Shannon Colley, Kiesha Johnston, Matthew Pollard, Matilda Holden, Brendan Colley

Terrific Award:

Charlotte Heywood – great effort in writing

Superstar Award:

Matilda Holden – great effort in writing



Week 7

White Merit Award:

Nicholas Hook

Terrific Award:

Benny Markwick – great effort in writing

Superstar Award:

Matthew Pollard – excellent work in reading



Native Trees for Sale

Somerton PS SRC have native seedlings from the North West Local Lands Service for sale.

There is Silver Leaf Iron Bark and River Oak for sale.

Trees are \$5 with stakes and a guard. Limited number available.



TERM 2 - 2016 DATES

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	13 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	14	15	16 Library 2pm-Healthwise visit	17 Golf in Gunnedah Music German Scripture Community Sausage Sizzle 2:00pm Assembly
9	20	21	22	23 Library 2pm-Healthwise visit	24 Jump Rope for Heart Golf in Gunnedah Music German Scripture 2:00pm Assembly
10	27 Canberra Excursion Years 5&6	28 Canberra Excursion Years 5&6	29 Canberra Excursion Years 5&6	31 Canberra Excursion Years 5&6 Library 2pm-Healthwise visit	1 July Canberra Excursion Years 5&6 Golf in Gunnedah Music German Scripture Community Sausage Sizzle 2:00pm Assembly

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

As a Parent:

- ☒ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ☒ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ☒ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ☒ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ☒ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.