

Newsletter

Somerton Public School

Developing Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness

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Term 3 – Week 4

Tuesday 9 August 2016

Mr Reid's Message

It is week 4 already and we have had a jammed packed agenda to the start of the term! Being a small school allows us many opportunities to experience different and interesting activities.

Christmas in JULY

We recently celebrated Christmas in July with parents, staff and students. It was wonderful to have so many parents and grandparents join us and an enjoyable day was had by all. The day began by singing Christmas Carols and then indulging in a delicious lunch and dessert. The students then received their Secret Santa gifts from under the Christmas tree. We concluded the celebrations by drawing our SRC "Christmas in July" Raffle. The lucky winners were:

1st Prize: Sharon Holden

2nd Prize: Angie Holden

3rd Prize: Elijah Brownell

The raffle raised \$267 for the school.



Bective Small Schools Athletics Carnival

After the postponement of the Small Schools Athletics Carnival in Week 1 we were finally able to have it last Monday. It was a beautiful sunny day and all the students had a wonderful time competing and meeting up with their friends from Currabubula, Attunga and Duri. All the students competed with spirit and determination and by the end of the day, all students went home with ribbons pinned to their shirts and smiles on their faces. Again, Somerton students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and manners. Thank you to all the parents and families who transported their students to and from the carnival and stayed to support their students and to help the teachers when needed.



CWA Mongolia Presentation

On Wednesday 27th July the students were invited to the annual CWA Celebration Day at the Somerton Hall. The country theme for 2016 is Mongolia and the students researched the country and created posters describing various features of the country. The students displayed and explained their posters to the ladies. They also performed their eisteddfod item "Zippity do da" for the ladies, who thoroughly enjoyed their presentation and performance. Once again we were so proud of their manners and effort on the day. A big thank you to the CWA for their support and donation of \$50 to our school.



NAIDOC Day

Last Tuesday, Carroll and Bendemeer PS joined us to celebrate NAIDOC Day as part of our Education Week activities. The culture and heritage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people were



commemorated by the students participating in dot painting, fish net making and historical Aboriginal games. Meg Leathhart, our visiting

guest speaker spoke to the students about the Aboriginal history of Australia. Everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch where the students were able to sample kangaroo meat. This beneficial day allowed the students to learn about and experience many Aboriginal traditions and lifestyle activities of both the past and present.



P&C News

The P&C Meeting will held this Wednesday 10th August 2016 @ 5:30pm. All parents are welcome



Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you parents for sending the students dressed in jeans to help raise money for Gene research for students.



The students loved wearing their jeans to school (and so did Mr Clark and I). Thank you for your generous donations to a very worthy cause.

Sunglasses

We have received some orders for the sunglasses for the students.



Could all orders please be given to the school as soon as possible as we would like to submit the orders to the company involved. **Cost is \$11.00.** The glasses come in a protective case.

Community Sausage Sizzle!

The Community Sausage Sizzle is being held this Friday commencing at 1:15 in the playground.

Lunch is free and we would love to see parents, friends and community members attend – everyone is welcome to share our sausage sizzle, a cuppa and a chat!



Absent Notes

We have had many of our students unwell, needing days at home to recover. We would prefer for you to keep your child home if they are unwell as sickness can spread very quickly throughout the school community. Please remember a note or a phone call is needed to explain any absence, whether it be sickness, family matter or any other reason. This is a legal requirement of the Department of Education.

Playgroup

Come join us for some fun on Wednesdays 9:30am-11:00am.



Cooking

K-2 will be cooking each week this term.

Please bring \$2.

3-6 will be cooking on even weeks this term – so we will be cooking this week. Students will still need to bring their lunch as we will be cooking a variety of foods suitable for morning tea. Please bring \$2.



Weekly Focus Concept: Fairness-being tolerant

Tolerance means to listen to and have an understanding attitude to something or someone that you may not agree with. Being tolerant allows for interesting conversations and discussions. Tolerance is an important skill to have in the classroom and in life.



Assembly Awards

Week 2

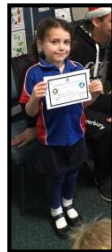
Merit Awards: Keisha Johnston

Terrific Award:

Nicholas Hook – excellent writing

Superstar Award:

Wade Holden – excellent reading



Week 3

Merit Awards: Matthew Pollard, Matilda Holden

Terrific Award:

Annie Hook – excellent NAIDOC Day recount

Superstar Award:

Sophie Hook – excellent writing



Great Literature!

We all know that children love the experience of being read to. Across our school day students experience a range of quality texts in both printed and electronic form. In K-2 these texts are used to stimulate discussions about the stories, the characters and their actions as well as the students' responses towards each text. This term as part of English in K-2, the students are studying *Rose meets Mr Wintergarten* by Bob Graham and *The Very Best of Friends* by Margaret Wild. The students love both these texts and know them well. Why not ask your child to tell you about these texts and why they think that they are great texts for children to read?

Mrs Stoker

The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools 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.

You may remember that our students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

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 us 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. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or students to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 12th August 2016**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

The *Partners in Learning* parent feedback survey

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

TERM 3 2016 Dates

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	8	9 11:30am Totally Gorgeous Performance	10	11	12 Tennis Music German 1:15pm Community Sausage Sizzle 2:00pm Assembly Scripture
5	15	16	17	18	19 Tennis Music German 2:00pm Assembly Scripture
6	22	23	24	25	26 Tennis Music German 1:15pm Community Sausage Sizzle 2:00pm Assembly Scripture
7	29	30	31	1 st September	2 Tennis Music German 2:00pm Assembly Scripture
8	5 Aussie Bush Camp Years 3&4	6 Aussie Bush Camp Years 3&4	7 Aussie Bush Camp Years 3&4	8	9 Tennis Music German 1:15pm Community Sausage Sizzle 2:00pm Assembly Scripture
9	12	13	14	15	16 Tennis Music German 2:00pm Assembly Scripture
10	19	20	21	22	23 Tennis Music German 1:15pm Community Sausage Sizzle 2:00pm Assembly Scripture



Why not visit our Website:

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