From the Principal

This week:

- NAPLAN + Parenting Tips
- Stage 3 camp
- Surveys and school planning
- Stewart House
- Mother’s Day

NAPLAN + Parenting Tips

Next week Years 3 & 5 and thousands of other students across Australia sit tests in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy. Included in this newsletter is a very timely parenting tips article about this subject and I encourage you to read it. I would like to thank Mrs Jenny Perry who has been collating these useful parenting tips articles each week. They are informative and an easy read, aren’t they? If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see included, please email the school with the subject heading “parenting tips”. Thanks Jenny.

Stage 3 Camp

I have already had great feedback from the kids and teachers who are at the Great Aussie Bush Camp right here at our backdoor at Kincumber South. Although cold, the weather is great for the physical activities the children are experiencing and they are having a great time.

Many thanks to our parents, being very patient with a couple of communication glitches about camp as it was held much earlier in the year than usual. We look forward to seeing you back tomorrow, with piles of muddy clothes to wash on the weekend and lots of stories about your great time. See photo on page 3.

Surveys and school planning

I wrote last week that we are in the last year of our current school improvement plan and will be evaluating our progress against the targets we set during the next two terms, while concurrently taking steps to develop our next three year school improvement plan.

I also said that you may get a little bit sick of our requests for input on surveys and forums, etc., but we need to know what you think about our past performance and what you’d like to see change in the future. A paper survey went home this week and is also posted on the school website at http://www.kincumber-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/annual-school-report/school-improvement-evaluation/school-self-evaluation

It is very open-ended to give you lots to write about. If you are interested in attending a forum on the evening of the school disco, May 21, to discuss the results please email the school.

Relieving Director of Public Schools, Mrs Sally Conn, who has kindly volunteered to help, will facilitate the forum. She will also run a daytime session for those of you who are interested, but cannot make it on May 21.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Stewart House

Don’t forget that this Friday is Stewart House Day and if you return the donation envelope, you can wear “Blue for Stew” clothes so that everyone knows you are a Stewart House supporter!

Mother’s Day

Thank you to the lovely volunteers who helped the P & C to run our Mother’s Day stalls this week. They held one on Monday, so that Stage 3 students got a chance to buy a gift for their special person and did it all again on Thursday! Many thanks to you. I hope all mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers and anyone who has a mothering role, can take the time this Sunday to enjoy any praise or compliments, food and other special treats, and above all, time, that family and friends give you because you deserve it. Mind you, I always used to say to my own two daughters, “If you can’t be nice to me the other 364 days of the year, don’t think Mother’s Day will make up for it”. Enjoy!!!

Hope you have a great Mother’s Day and have had a great week at our great school.

Trish Peters

Principal

May 8, 2014

P & C meet the third Monday of every month, 7.00pm - President P&C: Cherie Castaign

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Students of Week 1, Term 2, 2014.

| K/1G | Chloe Smith |
| KE | Makayla Wright |
| KP | Blake Parker |
| KW | Imogen Williams |
| 1E | Nathan Kelly |
| 1H | Bailey Doroszak |
| 1M | Curtis Chapman |
| 1T | Leela Murray |
| 2C | Dylan Jackson |
| 2H | Odin Hudson |
| 2K | Francesca Nellis |
| 2L | Alex Borg |
| 2M | Felicia Tonga |
| 3K | Eden Scott |
| 3H | Sophie Beveridge |
| 3S | Bree Jackson |
| 3W | Layla Robertson |
| Library | Kate Wilkinson |
Do you have a child starting school at Kincumber Public School next year? If so, please call in at the front office to collect an enrolment package. Kindy Start will be run in the same format this year—Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 9.00–11.00am, beginning on Tuesday 14th October (term 4). The Kindy Start information evening will be held on Tuesday 27th May (for parents) and we will be holding an open morning on Wednesday 14th May for new Kinder 2015 children to come and see Kinder classrooms and stay for morning tea. If you have neighbours, friends, etc., who are intending to enrol their child in Kindergarten at KPS next year, please ask them to contact us.

All about NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 & 5 at our school will sit NAPLAN tests this month. Despite what you may have heard or read, there is no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child. NAPLAN is short for National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy and has been on our school calendar since 2008. It is simply a snapshot of the skills your child has developed up to this point in their education. It will allow teachers to focus on giving the right support to students as the year continues. The skills which NAPLAN looks at, include:

- Reading
- Writing
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy

These skills are considered the building blocks for learning in all subject areas. NAPLAN tests how well kids are developing them. If you want to help your child prepare for this year’s NAPLAN you can find out more about the skills they can practise at:


Also further detailed information including sample tests and key dates is available from the NAPLAN website at www.nap.edu.au.

KINDERGARTEN 2015

This term, 2C is in charge of The Worm Farm. We split up into groups. Each day we collect the fruit and put the fruit into our buckets and take them up to the worm farm. There are certain things like bananas, apples, mangoes, watermelon, grapes, lettuce and paper that the worms love. Skins that are not allowed are citrus and the seeds of nectarines. We collect the fruit scraps every day from each classroom after our fruit break.

Then we have to mash up the fruit with a spade. We pour out the food scraps and cut them into little pieces with a spade so the worms can eat it. Some people only take one or two bites of their apple. The worms can’t eat mandarin skins, lime skins, orange skins or lemon skins.

The worms need time to eat the food scraps so we feed only one side of the worm farm each day. We have a lid on each side to know which side we feed next. We need to make sure the food is chopped into small pieces so it’s easy for them to eat. We put newspaper in the worm farm for the worms to eat and help absorb moisture. We wash the buckets out to clean them.

We need to condition the soil with the powdery dolomite which we sprinkle over the worm food. Then we clean the buckets out with the hose and the brushes.

The worms eat the fruit and make worm juice, which we mix with water to make a good drink for our plants. We go to the worm farm and collect the worm juice in a bottle. Then we find a watering can and fill it up with worm juice and water the vegetables. We water the plants. Then we wash our hands and go to play.

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P & C Update

We have started term 2 with the exciting news of having won a $1000 sponsorship for our edible garden from a NSW government initiative, Local land Services. In the next few weeks citrus trees will be planted in new raised beds, seedling potatoes in growing bags and a multitude of small plants and seedlings will arrive along with cow manure and organic fertiliser to improve the soil.

We have also purchased some teacher resources to assist with lesson planning, so where possible the garden may be used in teaching the curriculum.

Last Friday, a P & C representative attended a Dept. of Education workshop at Niagara Park School regarding the merit selection of school teaching staff. This means we can continue to have a parent representative involved when selecting future teaching staff. Something we don't want to do too often!!

This term, we have our Mother's Day stall and hopefully our school mothers/grandmothers are delighted with their Sunday morning sleep-in and pressie this Mother's Day! Thanks to all our volunteers for making this happen, our students certainly seem very keen and enjoy recognising their mothers’ all year efforts.

Wednesday 21st May is the P & C Disco and BBQ. For years K-2 the dancing goes from 5-6.30pm and years 3-6 7-8.30pm. Our fundraising BBQ will be ready to feed families from 4.30-7pm, while your kids dance the night away you catch up with other school families.

I understand that while the disco is on, a forum will be held to discuss our school's next three year plan. Please email the school or return expression of interest form if you want to attend.

And of course, all those who have purchased an entertainment book through the school thanks so much. If you wish to purchase, please follow the instructions for payment. If you do not wish to keep the book, please return it to school as soon as possible.

Please be sure to let the office know of any changes to your child’s contact details. This includes changes to;
- Home address
- Email address, please advise of any changes to email addresses - for distribution of newsletter.
- Mobile (for Skoolbag notices) or work numbers
- Emergency contact detail

Thank you. This information is critical in the event of an emergency.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS—P & C FUNDRAISER
The entertainment books have been sent home last term to all families. If you wish to purchase, please follow the instructions for payment. If you do not wish to keep the book, please return it to school as soon as possible. If you know of someone (friends, family) who would like an entertainment book, please see the office or order online https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/34h166

LOST
Lachlan Phillips of class KW is one very upset little guy as he took his Apple iPod Touch 16GB to school on the last few days before end of term and very unfortunately this didn’t come home with him. It is a white IPOD without a case, when you turn it on there is a picture of Lachlan and his Dad. If you have seen this or know where it is we are offering a $20 REWARD. If you happen to find the IPOD please take it in to the school office. This would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

STUDENT BANKING
WESTPAC BANK
Student banking has commenced. Please send bank books to the office first thing on Thursday mornings. Bank books are returned to students on Friday.

If your child does not have a bank account and you would like them to start banking, please visit the Westpac Bank at Kincumber to open an account. You will need to provide a birth certificate to open an account. Thank you to Wendy Shadbolt who will be collecting and processing the bank books. Students are asked to bring their books to the school office.
Rajdhani
Indian Restaurant
Anil & Rina Lamba
Shop 9, 37/41 Avoca Drive
KINCUMBER 2251
(Next to Australia Post)
Phone: 4369 1277
Take-away: 4369 1256

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