Principal’s Message:

School Leaders’ Badge Presentation
On Wednesday, 25 February 2015, our school will be hosting a special assembly for the presentation of student leadership badges to our 2015 Year 6 school leaders. The leadership assembly will be held in the school hall in the afternoon and the ceremony will commence as soon as classes assemble after 2:00 p.m. During the ceremony, each student will be formally presented with his/her badge. We have a fantastic team of young leaders, of whom we are very proud!

Parent/Teacher Meetings
I would like to thank the parents, who took the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their classroom procedures/programming and how you can support your child’s learning throughout the year. If you didn’t get the chance to attend, please check in with your child’s teacher for the handouts/booklet. We would also like to survey parents to check whether this form of communication meets their needs and also, to gather other ideas for increasing the number of parents connecting with the school community.

Every Day Counts — 97.8% attendance on Monday - Excellent

Everyday counts...because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day.
Everyday counts...because going to school means getting a better chance at life.
Everyday counts...because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.
Everyday counts...because going to school is a legal requirement.
Principal’s Message Cont....

Car Parks
Please remember that there is **no parent car park within the school grounds.** We have a kindergarten on our site which does have car parking for the parents of children attending the kindergarten. It has been brought to my attention that some parents are parking behind E block or down behind the demountable buildings. There is a designated drop off/pick up zone close to the fence and gate at the front of the school where parents **MUST NOT** park. It is essential that parents and carers do the right thing and move along – if your child is not there immediately to get in the car parents and carers must move on by doing a loop and coming back to the drop off/pick up zone. It is essential that all parents and carers put the safety of our students first.

Smoking banned 5 metres around school grounds
Over the holidays, new legislation was introduced, banning the smoking of any tobacco products or using an electronic cigarette within five metres of any state or private school grounds. This applies before, during and after school hours as well as over weekends and school holidays. On the spot fines can be issued by environmental health officers, police or other officers authorised by the local government to anyone found in breach of this legislation. The ban does not extend to businesses or residences that share a property boundary with a school. Smokers are asked to put out your cigarette and dispose of the litter thoughtfully well before you reach the school boundary.


Update your family details
It is imperative that your details are up to date as these are used when the school needs to contact you for a variety of reasons. In the event of illness or accident it is absolutely vital that we are able to contact you.

If your home address, home phone, mobile or work phone numbers have changed please complete the form included later in this letter and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

Meridee Cuthill
Principal
Deputy Principal’s Message

It was great to meet so many parents and carers at the Parent Information Evenings last week. One of the most common questions asked of teachers is how to best support children’s education at home. Your child’s teacher will always be happy to suggest ideas specific to year level and individual needs. However, the single most important thing you can do to support your child’s learning is to encourage them to read. **Educational research tells us that children who read more, do better at school.** With this in mind, anything we can do to encourage children to read will make a difference.

**READING TIPS**

Some children love to read. If your child is more reluctant, what can you do to encourage them? First of all, think about how reading fits into your home routines. Try to find a regular, unhurried time each day for your child to read to themselves and to read to someone else. Just as important, make time for your child to listen to you reading. By reading aloud, you demonstrate all the things a good reader does and you also give your child the opportunity to experience books that are too difficult for them to read for themselves. Try sharing favourites from your own childhood. If you too were a reluctant reader, try making a regular visit to the council library together, to choose books that appeal to you both.

Many a reluctant reader has learnt to love reading when they find the right book or the right author. If your child has enjoyed one book but is struggling to find another, help them to analyse what it was about the first book that they enjoyed. It could be the genre or topic of the book that appeals but often it’s the style of writing or the structure that is relevant. Does your child enjoy books where the action starts on page one rather than with a long descriptive passage to set the scene? Are graphic novels more interesting? Books with lots of conversation? Perhaps they prefer non-fiction?

Your local school and council librarians will be able to help. They will be familiar with authors’ writing styles and will also be familiar with new authors’ work. They may know the perfect book: about dragons, written with action on page one, lots of conversation and an eight year old girl main character that would be the perfect fit for your child.

**Remember that all reading counts.** Children’s magazines and computer based text provide valuable opportunities for children to practise their reading skills too. The more children read, the better they will become at reading. However, it’s really important to make reading a pleasurable experience. We can model this for our children by ensuring that they see us reading. Whether it’s the newspaper, a book, a magazine or website – when our children see us read they learn that we value reading.

What if none of this helps?

**Why not try this?**

Rather than your child reading their home reading book to you, take it in turns to read a page. If your child is very reluctant they could read the first sentence or two and then you could read the rest of each page. Your child will hear your intonation and fluency and will experience the book at the right speed. If it’s a short book you can re-read it several times with a change each time of who reads what. When your child enjoys success they’re more likely to persevere.

With older children, try reading their books too. If they have enjoyed a book, why not read it yourself so you can talk about it together. You’ll get a better understanding of their reading experience and taste and as they head into their teenage years you may even find a new common interest.

**Happy reading!**

Jill Rutland
Deputy Principal
Get involved in the School Banking program.

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youth saver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch. Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver’s license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program. When your child makes their first deposit at school they will earn their first Dollarmites token and our school will also receive $5 commission and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit). Thank you for supporting our school and helping to teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

**Tuckshop News**

**Online Ordering**

If you are ordering tuckshop online please make sure your student/s class are correct.

If you can assist at tuckshop, please give us a call as we would really appreciate your help.

Should you have a problem or cannot make your rostered day, please give the tuckshop a call with as much notice as possible.

Dianne: (07) 3818 0687
Mobile: 0403 945 014
Tuckshop: (07) 3381 4335

Please note: Prep students are not able to order tuckshop until Term 2.

**TERM 1**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 23/2/15</th>
<th>Jessica Williams</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24/2/15</td>
<td>Michelle Handyside</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25/2/15</td>
<td>Doreen Clement / HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Thursday 26/2/15</td>
<td>Carol David / HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Friday 27/2/15</td>
<td>Doreen Clement / Courtney Flynn</td>
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<td>Monday 2/3/15</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3/3/15</td>
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Music News

Congratulations to 1D who received the Junior Music Award for Week 4. Congratulations must also be given to 5A who created sensational soundscapes and was presented with the Senior Music Award for Week 3.

Choir Performance Wednesday 25th February

The Passionato (Years 4, 5 and 6) and Piccolo (Years 1, 2 and 3) Choirs will be performing on Assembly on Wednesday 25th February at 8:30am. We hope you are able to be there to watch our first performance for 2015.

Anna Polomski
Music Teacher

Scott Bignell
Instrumental Music Teacher

School Dental News

The school dental clinic at Collingwood Park is now closed. Over the past 12 months all grades were progressively offered care and all children who returned forms on time have now been seen.

In accordance with the School Dental Service provision guidelines - “A dental examination and a full course of oral health care will only be offered when the dental team visits your child’s school.” Outside of this time emergency treatment only is available by contacting the Business Service Centre who will refer you to the most appropriate clinic for care. If you require emergency dental care for your child please call 1300 763 246.

We wish to thank you all for our time here - we have enjoyed meeting and treating such a delightful bunch of good kids.

Running Club

Running Club will now occur on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:45-8:15am.

Running Club is for students in Years 3-6.

Students will be collected from the LCA at 7:45am and taken up to the oval to participate in fun running activities to get their bodies and minds started in the morning. Late arrivals can go directly to the oval.
As part of the commitment to our school’s Parent and Community Engagement initiative, we will be hosting a weekly playgroup in our school hall each Wednesday from 11th February (Week 3).

Each session is themed and offers parents and children under 5 a variety of activities including arts and crafts, music, movement, reading, games and more.

Playgroup is a great opportunity to meet other parents and children in our area, make friends, enhance your child’s learning and development, and familiarize yourself with our school, staff, and local community.

**DETAILS**

**WHAT:** Weekly playgroup

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday 9:15 – 11:00am

**WHERE:** School Hall

**WHO:** Parents and children under 5

**COST:** Gold coin donation per child

For further information please contact the school on 3381 4333.