

Junior School Newsletter 1 Wednesday 10 December 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 11 Feb	Yr 5 Camp returns
Friday 12 Feb	Yr 1-6 Sport Afternoon
Monday 15 Feb	Reading Challenge commences
Tuesday 16 Feb	Parent Information Night Yrs P-2
Wednesday 17 Feb	Parent Information Night Yrs 3-6
Thursday 18 Feb	Junior School Photos
Friday 19 Feb	K-2 Celebrations 11.10am, 3-6 Celebrations 12noon
Tuesday 23 Feb	Swimming Carnival
Thursday 24 Feb	Thinkfest

I welcome 'and welcome back', all our Junior School families to our first newsletter for 2010, in this our third year as a Junior School (P-6).

We have started the year very well – greatly assisted by an established, settled staff and 473 smiling faces. Those faces truly bring this place to life and it has been great to hear of their holiday stories. As usual we will attempt to make this newsletter both relevant and chatty – our first however, will also contain important 'beginning of year' information.

Communication

Apart from this fortnightly newsletter, I encourage all families to utilise the many other forms of communication we offer, including our diaries, intranet, informal/formal sessions with teachers or coordinators, email messages, telephone or pop in and chat to me in person.

Year 5 Camp

As you read this, our 96 Yr 5 students are enjoying camp life in the NSW Southern Highlands. This camp provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to get to know each other and challenge themselves, in the first weeks of their Senior Primary experience. I will be spending some time with them as well.



Important dates/Activities

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Reading Challenge

Here we go again! Our Reading Challenge will start on 15 February and finishes on 9 March. All students (P-6) will be involved (reading to your sons and daughters also counts!). The target this year is 500 000 pages read in total. I am VERY confident of winning. Information will be sent home – all you need to do is encourage them to read, or read to them, and sign the sheet each night.



Parent Information Evenings

Parent Information Evenings will be held as follows;

Pre Kinder –Year 2	<i>Tuesday 16 February</i>	<i>6.00pm – 7.30pm</i>
Yrs 3 – 6	<i>Wednesday 17 February</i>	<i>6.00pm – 7.30pm</i>

BOTH evenings will commence in RA Young (Junior) Hall prior to individual classrooms – more information to follow. These evenings provide an opportunity to meet staff and hear about our programs. A reminder that they are INFORMATION EVENINGS – we hold Interviews later in this term.

Swim Carnival

Our Junior School Swim Carnival is at Big Splash Jamison and will be held on Tuesday 23 February (change to diary date). Students from Years 1 to 6 will be involved to some degree on this day. ELC students will be involved in a Boardies Day in the centre.



Photo Day

Thursday 18 February – I can smell the gel already!



Friday Sport

Friday Sport commences this week ('even' weeks). This week Years 1 to 6 will be involved with Kinder commencing Week 4. Students may wear their correct 'House' Sports uniform or their correct school uniform.

Try Rugby – Over the next three weeks Wests Rugby Club will be running lunch time Try Rugby sessions for any interested students from Kinder to Yr 6. These sessions will run over three weeks Wk 3 K-2, Wk 4 Yrs 3/4, Wk 5 Yrs 5/6. These sessions are designed to teach some skills of Rugby and promote an interest in the game they play in heaven!

Assemblies – Some Changes

Rather than continue to hold weekly assemblies, we will trial some minor changes this year. Our traditional 'Assembly' will now be called a 'Celebration'.

'Celebrations' will run in the same format as previous years

- Student Leader led
- Involve class presentations
- Include Awards and House Points
- Provide an opportunity for Mr Heath to join us
- PARENTS ARE NEEDED AS AN AUDIENCE!

'Celebrations' this Term will be held weeks 3,5 & 7. (K –Yr 2 at 11.10am and Yrs 3-6 at 12 noon.) On alternate weeks we will introduce a 'Jihui' Mandarin for 'gathering'. During this 'Jihui' time, Ms Stevenson , Mr Martin and myself will meet with different 'stages' to explore our Learner profile, Attitudes and other pastoral issues.

Parking and Drop Off

How do I start this! Yes, parking and pick up/drop off remain an issue for us. We try to ensure drop off/pick up area is left free, we have staff on duty – but rely upon your continued support. This time of year is very busy as routines are established.



I do want to revisit some ideas however:

Walking School Bus – I visited this in 2008 but we were unable to get sufficient numbers. A parent-run Walking School Bus. Parents park at a nearby location e.g UC (I could approach on our behalf) at designated time – at specific time the Walking School Bus Leader walks the group to School – similar in afternoon? Email me if interested.

Alternate Parking Areas – some parking is available further into the College – near tennis courts (its still crowded getting out and a little walk... but).

Finally, the Southwells enjoyed a quiet break. Lara decided to sleep through the night so we too took the chance to catch up on this strange thing called sleep. We were reluctant to throw her routine out, so ventured no further than Kingston!

Warm regards

Paul Southwell

Head of Junior School

TUNING IN to the PYP

Welcome to a new feature of the Junior School newsletter called, "TUNING IN to the PYP."

Some of you may be asking...What is the PYP?

Throughout the year, in our newsletters, you will receive bite-sized chunks of information that will explain all about the PYP.

We will also try to give you some practical strategies for things you can do at home.

When you see this symbol:



it means there is something



Ask your child/ren...What does PYP mean? (your child will probably not know but the answers could be interesting!!)

Nick Martin

GOOD HEALTH PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

Here are some tips to give your children a good start to the school year. Ensure your children have

- an adequate amount of sleep.** Primary School children need 10-11 hrs of sleep per night. Limit stimulating activities, e.g .no computer games before bed.
- some form of **daily exercise.** Try riding a bike or walking to or from school.
- a healthy breakfast.** Suggestions are cereal, toast, fruit and a drink of milk, juice or water. Juice boxes, fruit and toast are also portable options for eating in the car. Breakfast aids their concentration (so they'll be smarter) and sets up healthy eating habits for life.
- enough water to drink** through out the day. School age children should drink 1.5-2 L per day, more in hot weather. Ensure they bring a labeled drink bottle to school. Children don't need sports drinks on a regular basis.
- sunscreen** applied to their face, neck, arms and legs each morning.
- their hat** and wear it to and from school.

Mrs K Baker
College Nurse