

Junior School Newsletter 2 Wednesday 24 February 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed, Thurs 24/25 Feb	Try Rugby Yr 3&4
Mon 8 March	Canberra Day Holiday
Wed 10 March	Grandparents Day
Thurs 24 March	Thinkfest
M,T,W 2/3/4 March	Try Rugby Yr 5&6

Contact Numbers for Junior School

ELC Reception	6162 6298 8am- 4pm
1 - 4 Reception	6162 5330 8am- 4pm
5 - 6 Reception	6162 6290 8am – 10.30am

STOP PRESS: Swimming Carnival News

Congratulations to all our Junior School on a tremendous day – winners and ‘not quite winners’ congratulated each other throughout the day – a wonderful climate.

We enjoyed some slides at lunch, chants after, and an exciting climax. Mulford House won the chants but in their first outing as a House finished fourth in the swimming.

Final scores

Casson	364
Mackinnon	359
Wigg	283
Mulford	264

Dear Parents,

I start this week’s newsletter with a thank you, to all our families who were able to join us for our P-6 Information sessions last week. Feedback from the evenings has been very positive, as classroom and specialist teachers enjoyed sharing a little of our profession with you – as I said on both evenings, we are in a partnership now, working together for your sons and daughters.

Partnership

As I mentioned again, above, our partnership commenced with your decision to join us, to be involved in our Junior School. We come together to support and further develop your most precious “possessions”. We need to build trust together, to be positive, to be involved and supportive of each other. This takes many shapes – communication, reading at night, helping at school, checking homework, supportive questions about each day, excursions, or listening and being supportive. Together we can really make a difference.

House Captains

Last Friday it was my pleasure to present our 2010 House Captains with their school badges, following formal elections (where over 60 boys and girls showed tremendous risk-taking in nominating to fill these positions). I was able to acknowledge our Yr 4 House Campus Leaders as well as our Yr 6 House Captains and Vice Captains – which included Mulford House, a debut.

I congratulate the following students on their success and look forward to working with them in 2010. Yr 6 Class Captains will be our final leaders elected during this week, completing our Junior School leadership.

Casson	Wigg	McKinnon	Mulford
Captains Angus Muller Meg Hobson	Captains Owen Brooks Caitlin Melloy	Captains Lachlan Kay Eleni Haridemos	Captains Grant Simpson Maddie Wallace
Vice Captains Oliver Murray Sophie Cuschieri	Vice Captains Ed Simon Brooke Hatton	Vice Captains Max Mandl Madi Willett	Vice Captains Cassidy Shaw Bridget Brinsmead
Yr 4 House Campus Leaders Brad Tuck Lydia Murray	Yr 4 House Campus Leaders Fletcher Dobson-Harper Emily Naumann	Yr 4 House Campus Leaders Cameron Malcolm Claire Graham	Yr 4 House Campus Leaders Flaviano Casadei Mia DeBortoli

Swim Carnival

Our swim carnival has been run and won by Casson. This day provides us with our first four House Competition and our first competition under 'full colours' with our new House Shirts. It is always a full day with excitement, involvement, wins, losses and plenty of spirit.



Intranet

We are in the process of building a stronger connection with our Junior School community through our Intranet pages, take a peek and let us know!

Class Liaisons

My thanks to the parents who have volunteered to act as class liaisons this year (some classes still looking). This is an important communication role for us, assisting with contact between school and home, P&F and home as well as a social contact. I will be meeting with all class liaison families in the near future.

Cocurricular

I thank all families for your support of our Cocurricular program, with over 96% of our boys and girls involved in the wide range of activities. I apologise for some hiccups and or change, due to overwhelming numbers.

Finally, two things to share:

- The Reading Challenge! They take so much delight in my pain!
- Can't believe it, but Lara Mary Southwell turns one on 3rd March – a whole year.

Warm regards,

Paul Southwell

Head of Junior School

Brainwaves Club

During 2009 Radford Junior School hosted the G.A.T.E.WAYS 'Brainwaves Club.' The club met one Friday afternoon each month to undertake a range of activities designed to stimulate and challenge highly able children.

In 2010 there has been a re-structure of the Brainwaves Club. This year the club will meet on Saturdays at Canberra Grammar Junior School. The club has been differentiated to include a Maths/Science/Technology focus and a Books and Writing/Performing Arts focus.

So, unfortunately, Radford will no longer host the Brainwaves Club although we will continue to host the very successful Eureka workshops throughout the year.

If you would like some information about the Brainwaves Club please collect an information flyer from the Junior School reception.

Thinkfest

On Wednesday the 24 March we will be holding our first THINKFEST. Thinkfest is a day long thinking carnival for students in Years 1-6. We have athletics, swimming and cross country carnivals, so thought it logical to have a thinking carnival.

Our students will compete for their houses in multi-age groups. Students should wear their house t-shirts on this day. Our Year 6 students will be team leaders and will guide teams through a variety of challenges. The motto for the day is **"Everyone can think."**

We are seeking some parents to be involved as judges during the day. If you are interested please complete the appropriate section of the letter that came home and return it to school.

It promises to be a very enjoyable day!

Nick Martin

LEARNING SUPPORT at RADFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL in 2010

Many exciting changes are happening with the Learning Support team this year at Radford Junior School.

As Ms Jo Rossiter is off to have her baby very shortly – Mr Daniel Mackay will be taking over her role as Learning Support teacher during 2010. Dan and Jo are working together until the end of Week 5 Term 1.

We are very lucky this year as our Learning Support team has grown. We now have two Junior School Psychologists/Counsellors, Ms Paula Morelli and Ms Julie Smith. Paula will continue to work with us each Friday supporting children and their families from Pre K – Year 3. Julie joins us this year and will be working with children and

their families from Years 4-6.

Another exciting new addition to the Learning Support team for 2010 is Mrs Kerry Allen. Kerry has a vast teaching experience and is particularly skilled in reading tuition. She will be working with some children from Years 1 and 2 to support the development of their reading and writing skills.

We are also very lucky to have 4 teacher aides working with the students during Learning Support time. Mrs Jennifer Hillman will work with Years 1-4 alongside Mr Dan Mackay and Mrs Alison Kenny, Miss Kate Robertson and Ms Karen Mahar will work with Years 5-6.

Miss Kate Osten who previously worked in Years 5/6 has a slight change in her role this year. During 2010 she will be assisting children in classrooms who are eligible for funding.

We are excited by the opportunities for greater support of our children this provides. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything about your child's learning, our door is always open!

SPELD NSW Conference in the ACT!

Another exciting development we can bring you is the details of a conference that SPELD NSW (Specific Learning Difficulties Association) is holding here in Canberra for ACT Parents, Teachers and other Professionals.

'Understanding and Assisting with Learning Difficulties'

Lectures and Workshops for Parents, Teacher and other Professionals

An exciting program of workshops relating to Literacy, Numeracy, Organisation, Memory and Dyslexia.

Friday 26th March, 2010
Canberra Rex Hotel
8.45am-4.05pm
Cost: \$185

For further information, please pick up a registration form from reception or the Learning Support Room.

Jo, Dan and the LS Team