Dear Parents, Guardians & Community Members,

Another busy week has passed. It was pleasing to see so many parents at our first assembly which was held last Friday. The assembly was very capably run by our school captains, Hannah and Paddy. Congratulations to all of those students who received Principal Awards and Class Merit Awards. It is always special to recognise students and their individual achievements.

Parent /Teacher Evening

Just a quick reminder: we hope you can come along to the Parent /Teacher Evening to be held in the school library tonight commencing at 6.00pm. We will be sharing important information regarding your child’s learning, school routines, and also some useful guides to assist your child’s learning. However, this is not a time for personal interviews as these can be arranged with your child’s teacher during their release from face to face teaching (RFF) or at another convenient time. Tea and coffee will be provided. We hope to see you there.

Composite Classes

Over the years composite classes have been the source of controversy, with parents sometimes believing that their offspring is being disadvantaged in some way if they are placed in a composite class. The key to understanding composite classes is realising that growth is determined in stages and not by ages. Although a child may be chronologically older or younger – their maturity, social needs, academic needs and behaviour are uniquely their own. Some need stimulating, some need more maturing. It is better for students to be grouped according to need, as they will gain confidence and skill by working with their peer ability level. There is no hard and fast rule that says a ‘straight’ class will meet a child’s needs any better than a composite class. Children all get there – the path may be different but the destination is the same.

Composite classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students can benefit from helping younger students in cooperative learning situations. The younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it. International research has indicated that there are no differences found with respect to maths, reading and language; and that attitudes to school, self-concept and social adjustment are benefits associated with composite classes. Often children in composite classes are more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and are better problem solvers. Ultimately, whether students are in composite or straight age classes, it is not the age combinations that matter. What matters is the quality of teaching and learning, and the relationship between the child and their teacher.

SMDPSSA Swimming Carnival

We wish all those students who representing our school and district at the Snowy Mountains District Swimming Carnival in Cooma tomorrow every success. We know they will all do their personal best and be great ambassadors for our school.

Parent Helpers

This year we are implementing some new programs to work with children with needs – academic, social and emotional. Currently the gardening group has commenced and the Drumbeat Group will commence this coming Friday. I would also like to set up a reading fluency program. To ensure the gardening and the reading fluency group can operate I would like to invite parent helpers to be a part of these. If you have a spare half an hour or even two, please contact me if you would be interested in helping with these programs.

Until next week

Regards

Jo
Upcoming Events

SMDPSSA Swimming Carnival
Thurs 19th Feb. Cooma

Assembly
Years K/1, 2/3 & 3/4
Friday 27th February

Year 5 Cooba Excursion
9th March

Cross Country
13th March @ Delegate

Visiting Artist
Friday 20th March

Word of the Week

superfluous, adj: 1. exceeding what is sufficient or necessary: extra. 2. not needed: unnecessary
e.g. The textbook includes so much superfluous information that students often overlook key points.

School Banking Rewards now available!
Term 1

These new rewards have just been released for Term 1, and are available while stocks last:
For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for these exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour. There are 2 new items to come in Term 2 as well!
Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).
If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2015 School Banking program Information Pack from the School office.
Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Tuesday is school banking day.

Quiz Question

What unit of distance is equal to 1.85 kilometres?

THIS WEEK’S QUOTE

“The meek shall inherit the earth but not its mineral rights”
~ J Paul Getty

Gotcha Award

Winner for Term 1 Week 3
Nicholas Camm OHehler
Well done!
2015 ‘Say No to Bullying’ poster competition

The Say No to Bullying poster competition is open to all NSW primary school students. To enter the competition, students must draw a picture to show how they would help a friend who is being bullied, and is an ideal classroom activity for encouraging open discussion on this important issue.

Eligibility requirements

☐ Artwork must be A4 size original artwork and cannot be digitally modified
☐ One entry per student
☐ Entries may be used by Interrelate for promotional purposes without acknowledgement or prior consultation

Prizes

☐ Overall winner receives an iPad
☐ The winner’s school receives $1000 and a complete set of Interrelate’s ‘Questions Kids Have’ series for the library
☐ Each school that enters will receive a copy of ‘100+ Questions Kids Ask About Bullying’
☐ Each student that enters will receive a small gift

How to enter

2015 entry form available from Mrs Campbell or online at www.interrelate.org.au/poster-competition

To enter, students must write their full name, age, class and school on the back of their poster.

Entries must be received by Friday, 27 February 2015.

22nd Annual
Talent Quest
Country Music Association

Saturday 28th February 2015
9:00 am for a 9:30 am start

Bombala R.S.L. Club

Open to all ages
Audience support Encouraged
Admittance $15.00
Children under 15 free

For Enquiries -
M. Giles Model Farm Cathcart NSW 2632 Tel (02) 6458 2021
or Irene (02) 6458 3431

ENTRIES CLOSE WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2015

Attn Oztag Players

Oztag is cancelled this week
(Thursday 19th)