**ACTIVE KIDS ARE SMARTER KIDS**

*After School Softball*

This is a free After School Activity.

Hopefully Keith will be back **Tuesday 19th**

Let's hope it isn't raining 😊

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**Hot Lunches.**

**Term 3**

Hot lunches are back this term.

Families will be able to send in food wrapped in tinfoil that we will put in the oven to heat ready for lunch each day.

Please do not send food that requires boiling water or microwaving.

**ONLY FOOD SUITABLE FOR HEATING IN THE OVEN PLEASE.**

We will still have pies in the freezer to sell, however that will just require a note from home with money attached if a pie is needed on that day.

We will not have specific pie days as we have been having this term.

Thank you

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**This week’s Reminders**

- Sunsmart
- **The children do not need to wear their sunhats.**
- **PLEASE LET KRISTIE KNOW IF YOU STILL WANT A BEANIE. WE HAVE QUITE A FEW ON HAND $8.00 EACH.**

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**STAR PERFORMERS.**

This week for being reliable and for making very consistent efforts this week.

**STELLA, ZOE AND GRACE**

**What happened this week?**

- Mr Lawler was away and we had a replacement teacher for library.
- Mrs Shaw started back this week. She will be here every Friday for the rest of the years.
- Our sincere condolences to Sharon who has been absent this week due to bereavement leave after the passing of her mother.

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**IMPORTANT**

We have received funding to repair the balustrade and planning is underway to complete this project
Reading
This term we have introduced reading buddies at the start of each day. The stronger readers listen to those who are making slower progress. The mentor models how the book should be read, asks questions and selects words to try to spell and then provides support during practice of words spelt incorrectly. Peer tutoring has proven to be successful in improving skill levels of both children, as the tutor is focused on all aspects of the task this reminds them of what they need to do to be more successful themselves.
The goal is that reading will be considered fun, and the regular practice every morning with one to one mentoring will ensure that everyone will make rapid progress.
However it is important to note that peer tutoring will not replace parent monitoring at home or at school so please continue to come in and help by listening to the littlies each day.
This new activity will only be for 10 minutes if the weather is appropriate for sport and 30 minutes if the weather is inclement.

Homework Dilemma
Unfortunately there is not a one model fits all solution. Over the years we have tried a number of different methods to manage homework successfully. We have tried homework related to classwork which meant that the length of time required each week varied, as did the degree of assistance required from parents. Parents found working around this model difficult and requested a change. Eventually we decided on the current homework books for a range of reasons. Primarily because these books provide parents with a realistic idea of what standard their child should be reaching if they are accessing the curriculum successfully at their year level.
At the front of the book there is a chart for Maths and English, and parents can track their child’s progress by filling in the grid each week. You may have all noticed that each question number focusses on the same content each week. Therefore if your child gets stuck on a specific question number every week, then the teacher needs to know that they need extra help with this aspect of the subject.
The negative is that occasionally there are questions set in the unit that are on a subject that has not yet been taught in class. However communication is the key here and it would be great if parents could let teachers know if there is a problem.
The current issue is that families are still finding that homework at their home is problematical. There isn’t a week that goes by that a family doesn’t provide negative feedback about the set homework and we have children who are weeks behind with their units. Taking into consideration John Hattie’s research which ranked homework as 94th in importance for student success demonstrating that there is only an effect size of .29 between those who do and those who don’t. My question is, does homework still have a place here at Wandiligong? Maybe we need to survey everyone to gauge opinion about this issue. I am going to put this question to the school council this week so if you have a strong opinion please let someone know prior to the meeting.

Parent Surveys
It is that time again for us to gather parent feedback about school operations. The goal of this survey process is to enable the school to make targeted improvements. The survey is anonymous and the responses are collated and the results are returned to the school and placed on the Education website for public viewing.
Your handwritten comments are scanned as written and returned to us as they appear on the forms. These results appear on our annual report each year as part of our record of school operations.

Musical
This week we started practicing for the musical. On Wednesday we have divided the school into two groups so that everyone still has their core subjects and Information Technology. In the afternoon Doug withdraws children so that they can have individual or small group practice with him. On Tuesdays once a fortnight Sally Thomson will be here to practice the songs for the musical. She will also work with individuals and small groups. We hope that this method is less stressful for everyone and even student absences won’t impact on the learning required to perform successfully at the concert. The concert will be October 21st the third week back in term 4. We believe that
managing the practices in this more relaxed manner will be helpful for everyone. Feedback for the children regarding the timetable for Wednesday was really positive this week.

**TEACHER REPORTS**  
**Term 3  week 1**

**Mrs Manning**
This was a very settled first week with everyone settling back into routines quite quickly. Unfortunately my laptop is with Mr O Brien being fixed at the moment. Therefore next week I will combine both weeks in my newsletter report.

**Mrs Reid**  
**Term 3  week 1**

**Grade 2/3**

In reading this week we focused on ‘recognising literary elements such as genre, plot, character, setting, problem/resolution and theme.’ Literary elements work together to form the story and make it interesting. We learn literary elements separately, but we combine them when reading to give us a better understanding of the story. It is important that children specifically look for these elements as they first learn them. It is through exposure and practice that readers become good at using these elements to comprehend text.

*How can you help your child with this strategy at home?*

1. When reading a story with your child, discuss the character. Begin by asking your child who or what the story is about.
2. After determining the character, see if your child is able to tell you where and when the story occurs. Ask your child how they were able to determine the setting? Did he/she use pictures, words, or infer to establish the setting?
3. Continue to read the selection and discuss with your child important events that occur in the story. Ask your child what the problem is in the story and how the problem was solved.
4. Conclude the story by talking about the theme of the story. The theme is the underlying message, or meaning, of the story. Encourage your child to use what they know about the characters, setting, and plot to help determine the theme.

**Grade 4/5/6**

This week the 4/5/6 class started their focus on writing an explanation. We looked at the purpose and features that are needed in this piece of writing. In maths we have also started a new unit on patterns and algebra. Students had one to one conferencing this week to focus on their success criteria (what they will know at the end of the unit) and make their own learning goals. It was great to see all students being able to reflect on their own learning needs and make achievable goals.
In History the class were asked to design a new Australian flag and give a rationale for their design. Amber has completed this task in a very mature and reflective manner. She has obviously thought quite a lot about our history, particularly the early European settlement of the country and has produced quite a thought provoking piece of work.

WHY MY FLAG IS A BETTER FLAG FOR AUSTRALIA

Now know listen up; I am going to tell you why I think my flag is a better flag for Australia. I will show you a small picture of my flag.

There it is

Firstly, it has got the common wealth star on it which represents the states and territories of Australia with its seven points.

Secondly, it has the Southern Cross stars on it just like our flag right now. It isn’t busy there are only a few things on there but they mean a lot.

Thirdly, it has all of the aborigine’s flag on it to represent that we are sorry for what we did. Just like the aborigines flag it has the sun and the skin of their people and the ground.

So this is why I think my flag is better for Australia.

BY AMBER

Well done Amber, concise and straight to the point. You flag design is very eye catching.
Wake up to Animal Cruelty
(Pyjama Day)

On the 22nd of July Indiah, Grace, Amber and Molly S are holding a Wake up to Animal Cruelty Pyjama Day to raise awareness for mistreated Animals. Please wear your Pyjamas to school on this day and if you wish bring your school clothes for after recess you may. Also please care to bring a gold coin donation for our cause all profits will go to Animals Australia or the RSPCA. There will be a majority of fun activities to do and hopefully the day will go well and we raise some money.

Thank You
From the Girls.
This week a round of applause goes to:

- Andrew Miller for clearing the blocked spouting at rear of school that was creating a rain shower at the back door
- Simon Lodge for fixing the hinge on the office door
- Thank you 😊

E-SMART NEWS

School eLearning Vision

Staff will feel supported and encouraged to provide appropriate stimulating and challenging e-learning experiences and opportunities. Use exemplary and innovative teaching practices to enhance each child’s ability to develop to their full potential, thereby securing the future viability of Wandiligong as a learning campus for the future.

This term Mrs Reid will be starting a program called Google classrooms. New permission forms will be sent home soon along with internet permission forms for the remainder of the year. Mrs Shaw is also introducing a new program called Scratch which is also a digitally based platform. Mrs Lodge is also using a digital platform called geocaching which will involve skills related to geography. These new programs should bring an exciting new dimension to our lessons.

Reminder that Kristie usually works on a Tuesday and Thursday. This week her days will actually be Tuesday and Wednesday 😊

I need to remind parents who have agreed to pay a weekly amount off their account for school expenses that they do need to do this. Unfortunately there are now some quite large amounts owed by some families and we cannot afford to carry these debts. Letters have been sent home to these families this week. Please talk to me if you are a family in this situation.

Notes and forms are to be posted in the mail slot in Kristie’s office door if she is not at work.