ACTIVE KIDS ARE SMARTER KIDS

Parent Survey
This week I will be sending home parent opinion surveys to all families. Please take this opportunity to provide your thoughts and ideas to assist us to continue to improve our school operation procedures and activities.

If you have a real concern that is bothering you, please talk to me, staff or a school councillor so that we can try to work through the issues with you.

If you write these issues on an anonymous form, I can’t do anything to try to help the situation because I will not know who you are.

The process for collecting the information is as follows:
- the form are distributed
- the forms are completed and returned
- the identifying tag is removed and all unopened envelopes are sent to the department to be scanned and then the results and the scanned written comments are returned to us.
- School council and the staff then consider the results and if possible use the feedback to action some positive new developments

Please take this opportunity to lend a hand.

This week’s Reminders

- Please let Kristie know if you still want a beanie. We have quite a few on hand $8.00 each
- Hot lunches must be clearly named

STAR PERFORMERS.

What happened this week?
- Jo our Art teacher was back from her trip.
- Ms Thompson was here for music for the musical practice.
- We had our animal awareness day.

IMPORTANT

We have received funding to repair the balustrade and planning is underway. HOWEVER the scope of work needed to be done exceeds the current funding and the project has now been passed to another department. We are retaining the project manager who is quite excited that the verandahs are going to receive a significant makeover so we just need to be patient and it will happen. Possibly in the Christmas holidays.
Homework Dilemma

Ok. I know that most of you are probably too young to know the story of the Boy and the Donkey, which simply is a tale demonstrating that it is not possible to please everyone and if you try it will be a disaster. I have read it many times, however undaunted by this knowledge, we are going to try to do homework in a way that pleases everyone. This is a trial so please give it a chance.

My logic behind this thinking is that we already have the homework books and the content within them is relevant to the curriculum. Everyone wants the freedom to choose, so why not try to enable that choice?

Here is the plan.

This week inside the front cover of the homework books there will be a notes to families. You will be asked to tick an option that best suits your family’s preference. The choices are as follows:

- Homework is important at our home, as we believe it develops a valuable work ethic and keeps the channels of communication open between home and school. Please send the homework books home every week.
- We would like to choose when and if we do homework, depending on the family activities each week. Therefore please send the homework books home each week and we will decide if we have time to do this or not.
- Homework is an unnecessary burden at our house and we do not require the homework books to be sent home at all. Thank you.

Then we will match our expectation of whether homework is completed or not to the family preference. To ensure that children who do not do homework are not disadvantaged, the homework units will be corrected in collaborative work groups in class each Monday. The children will all discuss each question in the unit within their year levels and either correct or write the answers in their books as they work through the unit. This will ensure that the content is covered by all children and the correction process is relevant to those who did do the unit at home.

If the homework book is sent home please ensure it returns every Monday morning whether the unit has been completed or not. We have used collaborative group discussions before to correct homework and it is quite surprising how much interest and learning actually occurs within the groups. Only the relevant unit for each week will be corrected from now on.

Parent letters about Learning goals

At the beginning of the year we had interviews with all of you to discuss your child’s strengths and weaknesses. The aim was to set mutually acceptable goals for your child’s learning. This semester we will send home a letter to remind you of the goals that were sent at that time. We would like you to make comments regarding your perception of your child’s progress and suggestions for new goals for the remainder of the year if you believe that the original goals have been reached. If there is a real discrepancy between parent and staff opinion we will need to sit down together for a chat to sort this out. Hopefully this will be a time efficient way for parents to provide information without the inconvenience of an interview. This is also a new strategy and we will be very interested to see your responses.

Animal Cruelty Awareness Day

Thanks to Indiah, Molly Stevens, Grace and Amber for doing a great job organizing our Wake Up to Animal Cruelty Pyjama Day. Incidentally though, it gave quite a few children the idea that they would like a sleepover in the school, however that is on the back burner at the moment. Congratulations to Charlotte Chambers who was at an Activist Camp in USA over the holidays who wrote a very persuasive letter to be shared about animal rights. Our clear message to all families is that we are definitely not advocating vegetarian diets, simply that all animals should be treated humanely until they end up as food on our plates. I am hoping however, that the day’s activities did spark some family conversations about treating animals with respect as they are living creatures.

Musical

On Wednesday we divide 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. The concert will be October 21st the third week back in term 4. We do have some sewing to do for costumes so volunteers for sewing duties would be gratefully accepted. Sue is the wardrobe coordinator this year.

Staff visits to other schools for professional learning
Taking the opportunity of the change of timetable on Tuesdays and Wednesdays the staff are pairing up and visiting schools in the area. Visits to Wangaratta Special School, Belvoir Special School, Montessori and Baranduda are planned at the moment. Hopefully we can visit a few local schools as well to really broaden our professional knowledge of what other schools are focusing on at the moment.

TEACHER REPORTS

Term 3 week 2

Mrs Manning  Newsletter report Week 1/2 combined
The children have settled in well since the beginning of term. Our focus at the moment in literacy is rhyme. Together the children are creating lists of rhyming words then writing sentences that rhyme. In reading the children are also looking for the rhyming words and recognizing the rhythm that is produced. Fluency when reading is another focus this term. Research has shown that when children read with fluency, their comprehension of text will increase. On a Wednesday, the Prep/1/2 room are exploring writing postcards which was spring boarded from the story of ‘The Day the crayons came home” by Drew Daywalt. We will be working towards making and sending our own postcards which should be a lot of fun. The children finished off the second week having a great day in their pajamas!
The 2/3s have been focusing on multiplication and division as well as the times tables. The children looked at ‘turn-arounds’ such as 5x7=7x5, discovering strategies that are the most efficient when solving math problems. A great week of learning!
Mrs Reid  Term 3  week 1

Grade 2/3
This week in writing we looked at the difference between an explanation and a procedural text. It was great to hear everyone sharing ideas and information regarding this. Our focus this week in grammar was on verbs. Students were able to identify and say verbs that described an action, state and occurrence. In reading we continued our focus on ‘recognising literary elements such as genre, plot, character, setting, problem/resolution and theme’ while reading our class book ‘Don’t Look Now’.

Grade 4/5/6
In writing this week students started researching and planning for their explanation. Some topics that the students have chosen are:
- How does snow form?
- How do hot air balloons fly?
- How are jellybeans made?
This week I will be sending students home with some information and permission slips on Google Classrooms, as I hope to implement it in the coming weeks for maths. If you have questions regarding this please don’t hesitate to contact me during the week.

This week a round of applause goes to:
- Simon and Felicity who have been busy looking at the grounds in preparation for planning for future grounds work
- Dave Danks for removing the tree from the fence after it fell during the storm and for doing a temporary repair
- 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 we are in the process of purchasing more laptops and iPads for classroom use. This will certainly expand our classroom work using technology.

COLA
As you could all see from the video that I sent out to you we have a very big drainage problem with the COLA floor that I hope that the Dept will step up and fix. If not, we as a community may have to make a lot more noise about this BER project that was incredibly expensive, but had poorly designed faulty drainage installed.
This is a sample of the posters that were made during our Wake Up To Animal Cruelty activities. Everyone did a great job with this work.

Well done Molly Stevens
Reminder that Kristie usually works on a Tuesday and Thursday. This week her days will actually be Tuesday and Wednesday 😊 Notes and forms are to be posted in the mail slot in Kristie’s office door if she is not at work.

Theme Day photos.