ACTIVE KIDS ARE SMARTER KIDS

After School Softball

This is a free After School Activity.

Keith is planning to be here on Tuesday 2nd
Let’s hope it isn’t raining 😊

Softball August 2nd and Softball is on again August 16th
We will consider further dates after this. We can only have these days when Keith is available and the weather is OK.

Carey Grammar Visits

This visit always generates real interest and excitement for our children. It seems that having teenagers playing games, having fun and spending time with young children is a time honoured recipe for success.

August
5th Genes for jeans day
11th Ski day
18th Ski day
25th Prep-3 Wangaratta Excursion. SnugglePot and Cuddlepie

September
16th last day term 3
9th Bilby day/ footy colours

October
3rd First day term 4
17th Rehearsal
21st Musical
27th Infant sports
28th back up Sports

November
2nd Canberra year 5/6

December
20th Last day term 4

This week’s Reminders

☀️ Sunsmart

❖ 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.

This week for being happy, cooperative and on task.

What happened this week?

جا Mr Lawler was away and we had a replacement teacher for library.
جا Keith came for softball
جا Carey Grammar visited
جا Parent surveys were returned
جا Homework surveys
جا Goal letter

IMPORTANT

Book Week

Book week is rapidly approaching and we will be organizing activities for this celebration. The theme will be ‘Books that Australian children love’. This broadens the opportunity for dress ups as is inclusive of books and comics that our students read. More details next week 😊
Wandiligong Primary School News

Homework Arrangements
Thanks to everyone who replied to our questionnaire. We appreciate that most families have been honest about their thoughts on the impact of homework on their child’s learning. Even just having this clarity regarding parent opinion is helpful. This week we will begin the new homework program. We will need to trial this for a couple of months so that we can have a chance to evaluate the success of this idea. It is possible that some families may change their minds re opting in or opting out and that will not be a problem. At the moment we do not have a current homework policy, however we need to have some solid results from this experience before starting writing a policy.

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. These interviews were organized to try to establish open lines of communication between home and school. This week we will send home a letter and a copy of the goals that were set in term 1 for your child. We would like you to make comments regarding your perception of your child’s progress and even suggest new goals for the remainder of the year if you believe that the original goals have been reached or are not appropriate. 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. Please take this opportunity to voice your thoughts about your child’s progress. This is a new strategy and we will be very interested to see your responses.

Parent Surveys
Thank you to all families who took the time to fill out surveys this year. We had a really high return response. I am really hopeful that the survey comments will be either positive, a new idea for improvement; or if there is a negative, that it is written as an explanation of what the problem or issue is; and then most importantly, what the solution could be. This way the survey serves its intended purpose, which is to gather information for whole school improvement. In the past years reports, homework and communication have been priorities that concerned parents. Unfortunately reports are mandated by the department, therefore we have no real power to change anything which is frustrating for all concerned. Homework is also usually an issue. Hopefully our new plan will work well and at long last homework will not appear as an area for concern in the future. Finally communication is another area that we have really struggled to improve over the years. Mostly because no-one has ever offered up an idea that could be easily implemented which would really enhance homeschool communication effectively. In recent years we have introduced emailing, the community notice board and the early first term parent-teacher interviews. I will be really interested to see if communication is rated as improved this year in response to those changes. The results for these surveys take a while to be automatically scanned, collated and returned to the school either as a scanned copy of the handwritten comments, or statistical collation of the answers to the questions. Receiving the results in October means that the year is almost gone before we receive this information. Therefore if when doing the survey you had a thought to share, please just come and talk to me now. That way if there is a way forward we can make changes immediately, or alternatively make some plans for a future modification. Hopefully we don’t have to wait for a survey once a year to share ideas 😊.

Principal’s meeting
At this meeting we discussed collaborative learning in school and between schools. We looked at the new Victorian curriculum and the use of digital technologies. The region has a new virtual learning coach and we will be the first school to benefit from her expertise. She will use polycom technology to talk to Wandiligong, Harrietville, Porepunkah and Tawonga school teachers simultaneously about the legalities and pitfalls to watch out for when beginning this work. Our teachers will be absent periodically this term as they take the opportunity to visit other schools to learn about classroom practice in other schools. This is by far the best way for small school teachers to gather new ideas and see resources being used in different ways. They come away either feeling validated about their own practice or inspired to try new ideas.
School Access Issues
This week we had to close off the front gates to prevent further accidents. We have had several close calls, and one actual accident where a parent was injured when she fell on the steps. I acknowledge that this is definitely not an ideal time to be closing pedestrian access to the school. However, we now can no longer wait for an idea, or funding, to correct the problem. It has to be addressed now. Please take a look and tell either Simon, Felicity or I or any staff member how you think this could be resolved. We had already begun discussions with the Shire prior to the accident, however this is now urgent and what we do needs to be a permanent solution not another stop gap measure. We will pass all ideas onto the Shire, however I stress that we have to move quickly with this. I will be visiting the Shire on Monday afternoon to discuss this issue further.

TEACHER REPORTS

Term 3 week 3

Mrs Manning

Grade Prep / 1
Over the last week the children have continued to explore rhyming couplets. They have created lists of rhyming words, read stories that use rhyme then practiced writing their own rhyming sentences.
We are all on the wall. I am smaller than them all. Eva
The sausages are in the hot, hot pot. The pot was hot. Joe
I saw three fish in a tree. The fish could see me. Stella
Don’t mop on Pop. I can mop in the shop. Tadhg
Stop! Don’t hop on Pop. Then let’s mop on Pop. Zeke P
It is hot in the shop. The pot is in the shop. Bailey
As the weather has not been the best for venturing outside for sport, the children have enjoyed reading to the older children.

In Maths we have been focusing on subtraction and grid references. The children had a lot of fun with the grid on the carpet and were able to use an alphanumeric grid to place themselves in the correct square.

Grade 2/3
Our focus for the 2/3s has been on division and recognizing the different symbols that are used such ÷ and the short division symbol.
On Wednesday’s the children with the Prep/1s have continued to learn about postcards. They wrote to each other in the class and I posted their postcards. We are all keenly waiting for our postcards to arrive back at school. The next activity is to write to a friend or relative beyond the school gate. Your child will be asking you for the address of the person who they have selected to write to. They will need to bring that address to school this Wednesday.
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Mrs Reid  
Term 3  week 3

**Grade 2/3**

This week in writing we continued our focus on explanations. Students focused on the text structure and that it signals time e.g. then, next, several months later. In reading we looked at the comprehension strategy ‘Compare and contrast within and between text.’ One way readers understand new ideas in text is by thinking about how things are alike or different. This understanding deepens their comprehension. Comparing and contrasting text assists the reader by engaging them in critical thinking. Comparing involves highlighting similarities and differences. Contrasting focuses only on differences. Exposure to various texts along with discussion is the best way to use this strategy to improve comprehension.

**Grade 4 / 5 / 6**

In writing this week students continued planning their explanation. Students used two different planners, one a cycle and the other a linear. It has been wonderful to see students picking out information from large texts and rewording it to suit their own explanation. In maths we continued looking at patterns, in particular the rule that could describe it. This week I am planning to do knitting as an example of real life patterns. If any parents have any spare wool or knitting needles to donate to this activity it would be much appreciated.

**This week a round of applause goes to:**

- Jess Brewster for volunteering to revamp the school website
- John Obryen for his work in costing and purchasing our new laptops and iPads.
- Simon and Felicity who have been busy looking at the grounds in preparation for planning for future grounds work.
- The Shire for visiting and discussing the front access at the school. Once again Felicity and Simon for participating in these discussions
- Mark Chambers for supervising softball on Monday night freeing up staff for a meeting and for fetching the softball off the roof
- Rainer Gatz for staining the stadium seats. I think I missed this acknowledgment after the holidays
- Simon Lodge for the plumbing investigations relating to the COLA flooding situation at the rear of the school
- Thank you 😊
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.

As we are introducing digital technologies and Alex has already begun using scratch, Anna is working on implementing Google classrooms and Nicole is introducing geocaching we need new equipment ASAP. We are currently in the process of purchasing new iPads and laptops courtesy of John Obryen. This means we will have 12 iPads for classroom use 8 laptops and then of course the 24 desk tops that John keeps up-to-date and in working order. He is also currently working on replacing our whiteboard projectors and our phone system. He is such a valued member of our staff, and I am sure that few people know how much work he does for us to save us money. Along with this work he is our sounding board and general advisor as we move along this digital adventure.

My greatest concern at the moment is how we continue to fund the continued expenditure on hardware as demand from the classroom increases.

Building works
As you all know we are working on the balustrade/verandah repairs, the COLA flooding problem and the traffic and pedestrian access issue.

I know that sounds like a huge agenda, however opportunity only knocks once. Therefore while there is an opportunity to achieve funding for improvements it is important to apply. Over the weekend I began the processes of applying for a shade grant for the sandpit, chess area. There was quite a tight time line for this funding, however we managed to meet the deadline. Hopefully we will be successful. At the moment there are also huge grants available that would enable us to modify the portable to provide teaching spaces with line of vision from the classroom. This would be a huge asset, enabling us to work one to one with student while still complying with the new child safety laws. Modifying the portable would also enable us to address the problem of no insulation in this building at the same time as we built the extension. We will need to have a talk about this one and make some preliminary sketches of what would work for us. We have a couple of weeks before applications close.

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.
In Science as part of the 2/3’s unit on Earth and Space the students created a model of the sun earth and moon. Kaitlyn has drawn a diagram of her model and explained how often the earth orbits the sun as well as providing information about the moon’s orbit.
Well done Kaitlyn