Sports Report

Welcome to the first sports report for the term.

On the weekend at Wilsons Prom a few kids competed in the cadets comp and also scored 7/10 in the tag team event. Kirra came 1st and Emily placed 2nd, with their team coming 1st overall. Grace, Evie, Tom T, Toby D, Mia D Remi & Nina also did the surfing for fun and got some prizes.

Well done to Mia Price on her first Gymkhana comp horse trials at Corner Inlet Pony Club.

Congratulations to Lochlan Gale for winning the Esler Family Award in Little Aths, which is for the most improved athlete for the season.

By Kairon & Zali

Peer Mediation

Last Wednesday Mr Twite came back to run a half day refresher for our Grade 6 Peer Mediators. The students did lots of role playing about how to help solve problems in the playground. The Peer Mediators will be in the playground on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch times to help out. They are easy to find in their bright orange vests!

Corner Inlet Stingrays Junior Football Club

REGISTRATION & TRAINING DAY

Sunday 16th March 2014, 11.00am
Followed by a BBQ lunch at 12.30pm

South Gippsland Secondary College Oval

Come along for a light training run, some fun games, meet your team mates, coaches and committee for 2014. If your son/daughter is interested in joining the Stingrays this season, in either Under-12s or Under-13s, and you're unable to attend this family day, please register their name with Robyn Hill 0427 871 339 or email rthill5@bigpond.com

Community Noticeboard

Kinder Fundraiser

Calligraphy Yoga Class with Howard Prosser
Saturday 8th March 10-11am in Fish Creek Hall Supper Room. Entry by donation.
Proceeds go to Fish Creek Kindergarten.
Calligraphy yoga is a gentle system of movement and breathing designed to encourage vitality and tranquility for people of all abilities.

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Principal Comment

Well it’s hard to believe we are over half way through the first term. I know it has been a busy start to the year and lots of new things are happening. I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience. There has been considerable media coverage about the DEECD’s new attendance policies and guidelines that came into operation on March 1st 2014. The State Government is determined to improve attendance in order to maximise educational opportunities for students. We are currently developing our understandings of the new requirements and reviewing our processes and practices to comply. Some initial advice is:

- Most absenteeism should be of an ‘unavoidable cause’ or ‘unseen event’. (e.g. illness or accident, medical appointment, bereavement)
- Family holidays—notify the school and try not to take this during the school term.

We appreciate parent/guardian cooperation up to this point and as the new guidelines come into place.

In the meantime attached to this newsletter is some information about "Every Day Counts" the new direction for school attendance.

A reminder that myself, Mrs King, Mr Farrell, Mr Le Page, Mrs Bonikos, Sandy and Caroline will be attending the Understanding Poverty session tomorrow. We welcome Mrs Higgins, Ms Gilian and Mrs Bright to replace the classroom teachers. Have a fantastic long weekend, see you at the cupcake stall at Foster Market on Sunday.
Homework Vs Home Learning
As a staff we have had discussions around the type of tasks students are required to complete at home. It is our professional stance (and one based on current research) that a more appropriate way of referring to this is home learning rather than homework. Homework has a negative connotation and implies that it is a chore to be completed. Home learning engages the family, encourages less sedentary activities and helps instil good, lifelong learning habits. You will notice that all teachers are now using a grid format. This will allow for more choice and flexibility in the tasks as well as focusing on the important skills (such as reading, times tables etc). Home learning is to be completed at home and teachers will be providing feedback as they see appropriate. They will NOT be supervising students at lunchtimes or spending class time or their planning and preparation time marking it. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to your child’s teacher. If you would like any further information about the grid format please see the following website.

Bus Reminders
Yesterday I attended a meeting with bus operators, PTV and 365SC regarding our bus routes. I am pleased to announce changes were approved to the Walkerville and Buffalo/Yankie times to allow secondary college students to travel on these routes. Changes will come into effect as off 23rd April and all parents will be notified of new pick up and drop off times. Just a reminder to all parents that students have to be picked up at their designated bus stop UNLESS the school has received a note or phone call PRIOR to 3.00pm. If you are running a little late, students can be held from the bus until 3.30pm without any problems.

Student Lunches
If sending lunch in from home that requires a utensil to eat it, please ensure you also send along a fork or spoon for your child to eat it with. If any student forgets their lunch, or their parent forgets to order it, they will be given toast for lunch.

New Bendigo Bank Details
Please remember to deposit payments into our Bendigo Bank account. BSB 633 106

Division Swimming
Congratulations to Leila, Kirro, Lucy, Skye, Freya & Karla who represented the school in the swimming at Korumburra last week. Each child put in a great effort in their individual and relay events. They should be very proud of themselves.

School photos 13th March
Order envelopes have been sent home this week. Please fill out and return to the school as soon as possible. Please note that the order form offers the option of a “retouch”. We have not used this company before and were unaware this was even an option. Naturally it is not something we encourage any parent to take up. If you would like to get a family photo please collect an envelope from the office.

Pancake Day
Next Tuesday, the prep/1s and their grade 6 buddies, will be making and selling pancakes to raise a bit of money for disadvantaged people. The pancakes will be $2 each, with a choice of different toppings.

Cupcake Stall Foster Market
Sunday 9th March
Donations of iced chocolate or vanilla cupcakes would be appreciated for the music room renovations fundraiser. For more information please see Signmee issued on Monday or contact Stacey Bright on 56832457.

KidsMatter Primary
What is Mental Health?
This week our Action Team worked with staff on the definition of Mental Health. KidsMatter recognises the World Health Organization’s definition that good mental health is “a state of wellbeing in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.” Or, put more simply… “Mental health is the way we think or feel about ourselves and what is going on around us, and how we cope with the ups and downs of life.”

On March the 18th there will be an overview session in Leongatha for those wanting to know more about KidsMatter. Attached is a flyer. If you are interested in attending please register online by Tuesday 11th March.

National Smiles Day
Tuesday 1st April
Junior School Council
On Tuesday the 1st of April (April Fool’s Day) the school will be dressing up as funny, colourful, wacky things! It’s a gold coin donation to raise money for the clown doctors who brighten sick children’s day in hospital. It is a great foundation for sick kids. Make yourself as wacky as you can! By Phoebe & Mia

PREP-2 READING HELPERS
Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered to help out with reading each morning. We would like to get a few more helpers involved. You do not have to commit to the same day each week, just come along whenever you can. If you can give up a half hour or so first thing in the morning, one day a week, please let Kerri or Ashleigh know.

Pop top Bottles needed.
Mrs Banikos is looking for 250ml bottles to use in a science experiment in the coming weeks so if you have any, please send them into school.

Model Planes
Congratulations to all of our students (past and present) who made a model aeroplane for the Foster Show this year. We had two prize winners: Toby Bowron came 1st in the Under 10 section and Riley Halt came 2nd in the Over 10 section. Well done to Tamara, Dany Ryan Lavardia and Lachlan Gale for their great efforts. We have recognised the need to begin making these earlier and will be asking students for expressions of interest. They planes will be ordered and distributed to schools in June.

Bookclub
Bookclub has been included in todays newsletter. Please return any orders by Friday 14th March.

Choir
Last Friday we had our first choir session with Mrs Dower. The students learnt some warm up exercises and began learning a new version of Advance Australia Fair to lead the school on Monday mornings at assembly. They will also be learning other songs to perform at Friday assemblies and out in the community.

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