

Coming Events

Feb	
16	P & C AGM 7 pm Allan's Bus Route AGM
17-19	Leader ship camp
19	Sec Arts Council
March	
4	Primary Arts Council
10	Deadly Australians
11	Engineering Challenge NSHS
17-19	Sec Camp Emu Gully

RAPP WINNERS

Prep	Rachael Evans Jaiben O'Farrell
Year 1	Logan Potter Nicola Irwin
Year 2	Hayden Binnie Shaqukirra Finger
Year 3	Nathan Wood Lilly Wilkinson
Year 4	Brandeena Langton Bianca Grogan
Year 5	Jesse Lea Bath
Year 6	Rachel Armstrong Josh Law
Year 7	Jesse Hedges Claire Tuskin
Year 8	Chloe Bird Bryan Noakes
Year 9	Emily Rutledge Lewis Munroe
Year 10	Brodie Litfin

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL: Mrs Ruth Miller

Victoria's bushfires

I will be asking the Student Council to consider their first fund raiser to go towards those in need in Victoria. It is beyond belief how whole towns can be eliminated. If anyone has any ideas as to how we can show our support, please let us know. Please remember the families, especially the young children, in your thoughts and prayers. I will ask our chaplain when he visits the school tomorrow for ideas as well. I can remember the terrible feelings after September 11 back in 2001. The bushfires I'm sure have stirred up similar thoughts in many families. Please reassure your own children of your love for them, and how you always put their safety first. Reassurance in such times for our young ones is very important.

Homework (from Year 1 to Year 10)

We wish to keep every child/student focussed on learning and improving their knowledge and skills. As such, our homework policy is being slightly modified as it was developed before Prep was introduced. In regards to homework, there is an expectation that every student attempts whatever homework is set. In some cases, teachers are identifying what is "optional" and students have a choice as to whether or not they do this section. The LIBRARY is open every morning from 8.30 am and all students are able to use the library at this time and are ENCOURAGED to take their homework to the library, and ask for assistance. Similarly, Mrs Ross and myself can be accessed in the third break if a small group of students wish to go somewhere to do their homework.

Responsible behaviour

Sadly, the few students who have made very negative choices around their behaviour, have had to be dropped to rung 4. This is very disappointing, as it is only week 3. For most of this small group, they seem to have got the message as they are making every effort to return to rung 3. Until this happens, events like Dance Fever will not be possible for them to attend.

EMPLOYER FOR SCHOOL BASED TRAINEE – AGRICULTURAL AREA

The school is looking to place a Year 10 boy in a rural-based traineeship, **one day per week**. The traineeship is heavily subsidised and organised through RITE. They are in the area next week and would like to meet with prospective employers. PLEASE CONTACT ROSEMARY POWLEY on 4787 4933.

P&C MEMBERSHIP FORMS – please return this ASAP. We'd love to know how you can assist us throughout the year. Filling in one of these doesn't mean you have to take on any positions on the committee, but you do need to have filled one in if you are going to have voting rights at meetings etc.

How you can help your child with writing

The best way to help your child with writing is to encourage them to use real occasions in family life to practise. This can include writing notes, messages, reminders or even helping to keep a family diary.

Here are some other ways to help your child with their writing:

- if they are unsure of how to spell certain words, encourage them to have a go. Keep a dictionary close by and start a spelling list
- read your child's writing and discuss what you like about it. This makes writing fun and encourages children to keep writing
- if possible, give examples of your own writing to your child to show how it is important in your daily life and your work
- talk to your children about the types of writing they do at school and praise their efforts as well as correcting grammar or spelling
- encourage them to use a computer keyboard if there is one available
- encourage your child to make greeting cards for special times of the year and suggest they write their own verses or messages
- when reading their draft writing and commenting on what you like about it, remember not to change the writing. Leave all the creative decisions to the writer.

If you would like more information or tips about helping your child with their writing visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

How you can help your child with reading

To get your child interested in reading, it's important to vary the books you read together and to talk about the types of material you read each day.

Our school encourages parents to work with us to develop children's reading skills. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- play number plate games in the car by looking at different number plates and making sentences starting with the same letters
- encourage children to re-tell stories they have read and to share these stories with other family members
- when reading to your child, stop and ask "what do you think will happen next?" and occasionally ask "why do you think the author included that part in the story?" to ensure they understand what they are reading
- if your child makes a mistake when they read aloud, give them time to correct the mistake themselves.

For more information about how you can help your child with reading visit

Admin News

From Karen Sheather and Debbie Weber

UNIFORMS: Kingaroy Clothing has advised us that Secondary Uniforms are now available. Unfortunately, Primary Uniforms are still unavailable for another couple of weeks.

SPELLING MASTERY BOOKS – These books are available for purchase for \$20 through the office.

STATEMENTS: Family information sheets and statements are being sent home this week. Please check that all details on student information sheets are correct and send back into the office as soon as possible. It is very important that we have all contact details recorded correctly in case of any emergencies that may occur here at school.

Parents are also reminded that prompt payment of school accounts is essential and that Centrelink payment plans are available for convenience and for those experiencing difficulties paying. Many families have already taken advantage of this service.

MEDICATION – Any students who requires medication must have a medication form filled out and signed by parents/caregivers. These forms and assistance are available at the school office. ALL medication is required to be kept at the school office and must have a Pharmacy label attached.

UNWELL STUDENTS: Students that present to administration unwell are observed by admin staff prior to entering the sick room. If the student is still unwell after being in the sick room for more than ½ hour parents are contacted to collect their child. If the student presents to administration vomiting or requesting to go home and generally look unwell parents are contacted immediately. Administration staff do their best to assist students prior to calling home but don't want to be left in a position of leaving the call too late. If you are contacted by admin it is essential that parents/caregivers organise for collection of their child.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers, students and general public for your patience when entering our very busy office.



Instrumental Music News



Instrumental Music in 2009 will take place on Mondays. It is vital that students bring to each lesson their instrument, music and a positive attitude.

Timetables are distributed to each teacher so that students can check what time their lesson is.

Beginning students will receive their first Instrumental Music lesson on Monday 16th February.

I am looking forward to seeing our students work hard and hear them make some fine music.

Mr Matt Phillips
Instrumental Music Teacher

Community Announcements

EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES

Have you ever considered introducing your own children to an older international sibling?

World Education Program is looking for Volunteer Host Families for International Students arriving in July 2009.

Our Secondary School students from France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium are keen to start corresponding with a family they can call their own and learn about the place they will call home.

If you would like more information on becoming a Host Family, please contact Nikki Medwell for your information pack:

**Nikki Medwell
Inbound Exchange Administrator
World Education Program**

**Ph: (03) 9598 4733
Fax: (03) 9598 4233
Toll Free: 1300 884 733
E: nikkimedwell@wep.org.au**

Contact us today for this fantastic experience for all!

Fight Fire Fascination

Many children will, at some stage during their childhood, display a natural curiosity about fire. But playing with fire is another matter all together.

As parents and carers, you play a pivotal role in educating your child about fire safety.

However, what do you do when you find your child playing with matches or lighters, setting rubbish or paper alight or even burning toys or other people's valuables?

Children don't often consider the ramifications of starting a fire, and if you suspect your child's fascination with fire is risking their safety or the safety of others, help is at hand.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service has developed the Fight Fire Fascination Program to support parents in their efforts to educate their children about fire and promote fire safety.

Through the program, also known as *Triple-F*, specially trained firefighters work directly with your child and family in a series of home visits.

They explain the consequences of playing with fire and teach your child to make positive choices with regards to fire and help them understand how their behaviour affects others.

The Fight Fire Fascination is a free confidential service that brings together the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, schools, and other services, where necessary, to help families address this very serious issue.

To find out more about the Fight Fire Fascination program visit www.fire.qld.gov.au or contact your local fire station.

Bookclub News

First bookclub due back 16 February. All orders to the office before school.



STUDENTS - REMEMBER TO SLIP SLOP SLAP