Dear Parents/Carers

Great Harmony Day

Thanks you to all the students, community members and staff who contributed to making the day such a memorable event. The Serviceton South State School Harmony Day performances and activities are one of the highlights of our calendar, and renowned as one of the best Harmony Day celebrations in our region.

Our community can be very proud of the way in which we have so many cultures represented at our school, and who clearly feel quite connected to their cultures, yet as a school community, are still able to come together under our school expectations of ‘we learn, we care, we are team players’. It is perhaps one of our strengths that so many of our various cultures share a sense of team work, and that could be why our student chose this aspect of our expectations.

Whatever the outcome, our school and community can be comfortable that everyone has pulled together to achieve the best we can achieve. We are seeking to re-create the excellent results of 2013, and of course history needs to be re-written as we work towards such results with entirely different groups of students. We looked at our year 3 and 5 results of 2012 and will be keenly interested in the distance travelled by those students over the following two years. We note that generally around 80% of our students were at our school at the time of their previous NAPLAN assessments, and we look at our data accordingly.

NAPLAN

As we come to the end of Term 1, we have looked at our data to assess the progress our students have made since the beginning of the year. It is gratifying to all that so many students have been able to demonstrate significant growth in their learning. Today our Years 3, 5 and 7 teachers have received the results of our analysis of student assessment and we will spend the 13 school days next term working to fill some of the gaps in learning noted in student performances.

Whatever the outcome, our school and community can be comfortable that everyone has pulled together to achieve the best we can achieve. We are seeking to re-create the excellent results of 2013, and of course history needs to be re-written as we work towards such results with entirely different groups of students. We looked at our year 3 and 5 results of 2012 and will be keenly interested in the distance travelled by those students over the following two years. We note that generally around 80% of our students were at our school at the time of their previous NAPLAN assessments, and we look at our data accordingly.

Camp and Excursions

Our planning for Term 2 has been undertaken and our units of work in many cases include excursions linked to key learning areas. These will be put to P&C for approval as variations in routine.

We were advised that Tallebudgera had limited capacity for our camp in 2014. Accordingly we have

(Continued on page 2)
sourced a camp at Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast with a similar program and which is used by many schools. To keep costs down, we are limited by bus capacity, and the camp also has limited space. We have booked for a minimum of 55 students and can expand this to around 65 if necessary. Expressions of interests to our Year 6 and 7 students have already resulted in 55 nominations.

To distribute costs for parents, and to allow time for relationship building and development through the final term of the year, we have booked the camp for the final week of Term 3, 2014.

As a year which is unique in having both Years 6 and 7 in their last years at primary school, it is proposed that we limit the 2014 camp to these two year levels, and seek maximum participation by these students so as to have them bond more strongly before transitioning to secondary school.

Insurance and Risks

It has come to our attention that some parents are concerned about the disclaimer put on permission forms. This statement is required so as to point out to parents that the Department of Education, Training and Employment carries no insurance at any time, whether at school or off-site. All our excursions and camps, and our school learning programs are required to include risk assessment and management as part of planning. Please do not view the disclaimer as an indication that any activity carries identifiable risks not already considered.

Staff Changes

As we move into Term 2, we have said farewell to Mrs Sue Kropp, who has been a Teacher Aide in our school for many years, Sue has decided to move to another phase of her life. She is continuing her valuable work for the Transport Department as a Crossing Supervisor.

Congratulations to Mrs Kropp for her 20 years of service as a Crossing Supervisor.

We wish Mrs Kuzwicz a successful outcome with her pregnancy and we have been very fortunate to again source an experienced teacher, Mrs Rosemary Cusack, to fit to our school year one program.

The region has again invited Kim Tvede to remain as Principal at the school for the forthcoming Term, and we look forward to rolling on with our school developments that will keep our school on track towards achieving our goals under the Great Results Guarantee which has replaced the National Partnership Program. The school plan and budget were presented to the P & C and we will have these on our website along with the already-loaded Guarantee document as soon as the regional approval process is completed.

Curriculum Corner

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of Term 1. This term, I have been fortunate enough to work with some of the Year Five and Year Seven students in reading groups. We have worked diligently to unpack a variety of reading comprehension strategies and are looking forward to seeing the results of work as we go into next term. At the commencement of next term, I will be taking a few weeks of Long Service Leave and Mrs Wessling will be working with these groups in my absence.

As a staff, we will continue to unpack our Pedagogical Framework next term, focusing on our Explicit Instruction strategies. We will also be working on enhancing our differentiation and this was focussed on the teacher planning meetings held this week.

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable break with your children. I look forward to seeing you again next term.

Lauren Sturges
Head of Curriculum

Positive Behaviour Day

We celebrated our Positive Behaviour Day for all students who have not had a Thinking Room or Office Referral all term. Students in Prep - Year 4 played group games in the Hall. Students in Years 5 -7 had special Inflatables, Real-life Angry Birds and XBOX Kinect. Special thank you to IY Youth for the equipment at their wonderful volunteers.

(Continued from page 1)

ANZAC Day Parade

Our ANZAC Day Parade will be held on Thursday 24 April at 2.00pm in the hall. All welcome.

We will be selling ANZAC Day silk ribbons for $1.00 each from Tuesday 22 April until Thursday 24 April at the office.

District Cross Country

The District Cross Country will be held at St Mark’s school, Lilac Street, Inala, on Thursday 2 April starting at 9.00am and finishing @ 12.30pm.

Permission forms have been sent home with selected students.

Dinosaur Stomp - Prep 1 & Prep 2

On Wednesday 26 March, Timbarra Productions came to the school to perform for the Prep 1 and Prep 2 students. The show was called “Dinosaur Stomp” a fun, engaging and interactive introduction to live theatre.

Every Day Counts

As we reach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year.

Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year.

Brekkly Club

Breakfast club will commence the second week of Term 2 on the 6th May.

Thank you to Second Bite and YMCA for their amazing support and donations.

Chaplaincy Corner

Thank you for a fantastic first Term for 2014. It has been a fun and action packed and I look forward to spending another great Term at Serviceton South.

I am excited about the upcoming programs and activities with a “We Care” Team forming, NAPLAN, Pancake Day and of course Chappy Week. So get ready for some more Chappy Fun and see you all in Term 2. Chappy Jane :)

(Continued from page 2)

P & C News

The next P&C meeting is on Monday 28 April 2014 at 9.10am in the Parent Room. All welcome. Come and hear what is happening in our school.

Amy Whiteman
P & C President

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop hours have changed, the new hours are: Monday CLOSED

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 8.15am – 9.15am

Thursday 8.15am – 9.15am

Friday 8.15am – 9.15am

Teena Zeitsch
Uniform Shop Manager

Preparation for Chapped Children for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion

An invitation is extended to Catholic children who are 8 years old and above. Enrolment forms can be obtained by contacting the parish office by phone on 3372 5658 or by email at stmarks@bne.catholic.net.au. Enrolment forms are due by Monday 5th May.

We Learn

We Care

We are Team Players

We respectfully acknowledge the Jagera people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which this school stands.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>First Day Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>Anzac Ceremony - Anzac Square - School Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Anzac Day Parade - 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>12 May</td>
<td>Tallebudgera Excursion - Year 4</td>
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Have a safe and happy holiday.
School returns Tuesday 22 April.