**COMMUNITY WELCOME**

It was wonderful to see such a great roll up at last week’s Community Welcome. The afternoon kicked off with an address by our new principal, Ms Morrison, after which students and their families visited classrooms to meet teachers. It was wonderful to walk around the school seeing parents, students and staff building those very important relationships that will help us work as a team throughout the year. It was also an opportunity to view some of the wonderful learning already occurring in the school.

The sausage sizzle was very well received with 137 entries in our raffle. Wendy from Year 4 and her family were the lucky winners of a $50 Woolworths voucher. Thank you to all families who attended and to all staff who helped make the evening a success.

**CHESS TOURNAMENT**

During the first two weeks of February two chess tournaments were held in the library. A senior tournament was held for more advanced players, and a junior tournament was held for younger players. Twenty four children each played six games over six lunchtimes. Only half a game separated the top four players in the senior tournament, with two grade three players doing very well. The top four place getters were Lachlan (Year 3) and Johnny (Year 6) with 4.5 wins each, and Kien (Year 6) and Anthony (Year 3) with 4 wins each. These four boys will make up our top team for the next interschool tournament at Fernvale State School. The second interschool team will be made up of Anthony (Year 6), Amir (Year 6), Vincent (Year 4) and Natasha (Year 6).

The top four players in the junior tournament were Anthony (Year 4) with 6 wins, Zachariah (Year 3) and Patiliki (Year 3) with 4 wins each, and Max (Year 3) with 3.5 wins. It is pleasing to see that so many children are playing chess throughout the school.
Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

This time of the year is a very busy time for strategic planning for the year to come. Our school priorities and budgets were presented to the P&C at Monday’s meeting. Our school priorities for 2015 are -

**Reading**
- Ensure consistent school-wide teaching practices for reading;
- Develop an early intervention strategy for at risk students;
- Establish rigorous data collection and analysis cycles to inform the teaching of reading and ensure that every teacher knows what their students know and what they need to learn.

**Writing**
- Schedule NAPLAN style writing assessments that are marked and moderated using NAPLAN criteria;
- Develop whole school editing conventions in consultation with the teaching team.

**Numeracy**
- Ensure consistent school-wide teaching practices for reading;
- Establish rigorous data collection and analysis cycles to inform the teaching of reading and ensure that every teacher knows what their students know and what they need to learn.

**Attendance, Engagement and Transition**
- Increase attendance rate;
- Develop relationships with stakeholder groups from the school community;
- Increase the positive profile of the school in the community.

**School Discipline**
- Continue implementation of SWPBS across the school;
- Provide social and emotional support for identified students.

**High Performing Teaching Team**
- Implement the Instructional Coaching model for the teaching of Reading and Numeracy;
- Refine Explicit Instruction as the signature pedagogy for teaching new knowledge and skills;
- Ensure authentic differentiation is occurring in all classrooms;
- Establish a culture of feedback across the school.

Each week in the newsletter I will be focussing on our actions for one of these areas.

At times, members of our teaching team are unwell and in need of time away from school. When this occurs we make every effort to minimise the disruption to learning, but if you have any concerns, please make an appointment to speak with me.

My favourite part of every day is when students bring their wonderful work to show me. Last week 3/4A were making very special gifts for Valentine’s Day and I had a very proud visitor showing me his mobile.

**Microsoft Office Software For Students**

Student advantage —— free Microsoft Office software for students' personal computers

All Queensland state school students are now able to download multiple copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite onto their personal computers. This suite provides students with the latest versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and more.

https://mishelp.eq.edu.au/studentadvantage/Pages/default.aspx

**Head Lice**

Several cases of head lice have been reported to the school. It is extremely important that you check your child’s hair regularly.

If you do find head lice, commence treatment immediately and be sure to complete the process of treatment. This will help prevent the head lice from spreading.


Your local pharmacist can provide advice regarding head lice treatment options and head lice combs.

If for any reason you are having difficulties treating the head lice on your child effectively, please contact the school on 3714 0222.

**P & C News & Meeting Date**

Our next P & C Meeting is on Monday 16th March at 9am in the Parent Room, all parents are welcome to attend. Thank you to those parents who attended the last meeting.

**School Banking**

All monies received by students for their banking have been banked into the bank and data entered; however, we have recently experienced some technical issues with School Banking. We have been assured by the School Banking Representative from the CBA that they are working on resolving this issue as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

**Canteen News**

Our school Canteen is open 5 days a week and some afternoons after school. Canteen menus can be collected from the Canteen. Volunteers are desperately needed during our peak period (9am-11am) in order to keep our school canteen functioning. Without our volunteers we will have to close the Canteen. We are doing everything we can to have to do that, so if you can help even one day a week we would be very appreciative and your child will love seeing you.

**Goodbye Teena Zeitsch**

Teena, our Uniform Shop Convenor will be finishing this Friday. We will be sad to see Teena go as she has been involved in the P & C for more than 8 years, serving as President for 7 years. On behalf of the P & C we say “Thank you Teena” for your investment to Serviceton South, you have been a valued member of our school and P & C and we wish you all the best for the future.

**Uniform Shop News**

The uniform shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.15am – 9.15am. The Uniform Shop is looking for volunteers so if you’d like to assist please see Amy in the Canteen.