Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Principal News

Dear Parents,

I trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Queens Birthday weekend. It is hard to believe that after this week we have only 2 weeks left in Term 2. School finishes for Term 2 on Friday 27th June and resumes for Term 3 on Monday 14th July. Our teachers have been extremely busy finalising assessment pieces and writing report cards. This is a very demanding time, consuming and emotionally exhaustive process for our teachers. They are endeavouring to capture 2 terms of work and record both the positive and challenging aspects of your child’s academic, social/emotional, physical and behavioural progress. Our teacher’s intent is to inform both you as parents, and your child of his/her developmental growth in the areas outlined above. Our teachers take this task extremely seriously and professionally to ensure you get a good ‘snap shot’ of progress. It is a mentally and emotionally draining job writing one report card and is multiplied exponentially when you have to write 30 report cards. Our teachers do this in their own time, outside the demands of their daily teaching schedule. Credit and admiration must go to these teachers. Report cards are written across the Curriculum Areas of English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, The Arts(Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Instrumental Music, Drama, Media)and Technology. They also include an achievement and effort rating that is defined on an A to E scale. To obtain a C in achievement students will be meeting age appropriate benchmarks and this is defined as ‘where they should be’. To obtain a A in achievement the students need to be 18 months or more above age appropriate achievement. To obtain a D in achievement students need to be 12-18 months below age appropriate achievement and to obtain a E students need to be 18 months or more below age appropriate expectations.

Our teachers have developed Individual Learning Plans for students who are either 2 years above or 2 years below age appropriate expectations. They devise strategies and learning goals that meet the unique individual needs of students. They then report against these goals. Reports will be distributed during the last week of Term.

I have just been informed that on Thursday afternoon this week we will have only 1 crossing supervisor on the front street crossing. I will be on duty at the front of the school to help supervise the students. Don’t forget the P&C dance on Friday 20 June. Students have been practicing individual class dances with Mrs Gray. Should be a great night filled with great food, fantastic music and ‘fun filled’ dancing. See you there.

Thanks Pam for making so many delicious purple cupcakes for Thursday’s ‘Purple Day’ Fundraiser!

Merit Award

1/2/3-Mason for showing a huge improvement in his spelling. Fantastic!
2/3-Lesley Port for being responsible, organised and ready to learn. And always working quietly.
3/4-Jack for being a great classmate and showing respect and consideration towards others.

Principals award-Beau for demonstrating great reading progress and improved sight word knowledge.

Uniform Shop
Uniform shop is open Wednesday and Friday mornings only.
On Wednesday 18th of June our school will be getting into the spirit for State of Origin. We will be dressing in our favourite team’s colours and making a gold coin donation. Money raised will be going towards a whole school vegetable garden. So join in the fun... dye your hair, paint your face or wear your team colours proudly.

Indigenous leaders of the future

Last Thursday, 29th May 2014, we went to the Cairns Regional Council for the Indigenous leaders of the future (ILF) workshop. There were about 80 students from schools all over Cairns and the Tablelands. We introduced ourselves to students from different schools and participated in several activities. We talked about what makes a good leader. We listened to our mentor’s life stories. In one activity we had to dress Janaya up using glad wrap Alfoil, ribbons, and garbage bags. Then Janaya and the other students had to model down the catwalk. Mason introduced Janaya and listed what we thought were important to reconciliation: trust, acknowledgement, working together, talking together, and respect. We had a lot of fun and made some new friends the food was superb!!

Bronson Ryan,
Shania HUSKIC, Janaya Port, Mason Young

Trust acknowledgement working together talking together respect.
This year, help us send 320,000 shoeboxes to kids in South-east Asia and the South Pacific. Every year, people of all ages, families, churches, schools and businesses pack shoeboxes with gifts for children in need. Globally, more than 100 million shoeboxes have been given to kids in need in more than 130 countries since 1993. An Operation Christmas Child shoebox is more than a gift...it opens up a world of life-changing opportunities for the child, their family and their community. No matter how old or young you are pack a shoebox this year for a child who has nothing. Thanks for being a part of Operation Christmas Child!

If you would like to contribute to this cause there will be a donation box in each classroom.

**Gift Ideas**

Fill your shoebox with one or more items from each "something":

- **Something to Love**
  - Tissues, pen, pencil, etc.
- **Something for School**
  - Exercise book, pencil case, pens, pencils, containing pencils, Sharpie, eraser, chalk, etc.
- **Something to Wear**
  - T-shirts, shorts, underwear, cast, bandages, socks, etc.
- **Something to Play With**
  - Tennis balls, jump rope, toy cars, musical instrument, yo-yo, slinky, Legos, popsicle sticks, etc.
- **Something for Personal hygiene**
  - Toothbrush, shampoo, etc.
- **Something Special**
  - Carrying bag, sunglasses, bracelets, necklaces, craft sticks, stickers, note or photo of yourself.

**What not to include**

It is very important that the conditions below are followed to comply with various overseas government and customs constraints and to protect the content of the shoe boxes. We reserve the right to remove any inadmissible items.

- **Items that leak or melt** (these can split boxes):
  - Including toothpaste, shampoo bottles, plastic, matches, toothbrushes, etc.
- **Food or Lollies**
  - Any type due to shipping regulations including medicines and vitamins.
- **Used or Damaged Items**
  - (Due to customs regulations) including clothing and toys.
- **Breakable Items**
  - Glass, porcelain, mirrors.
- **Items that can scare or harm a child**
  - Including knives, live animals, toy guns.
- **Gaming Related Items**
  - Including play money, playing cards, dominoes.
- **Anything of a religious, racial, or political nature**

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**Businesses that support our school**

- **Kuranda Koala Garden**
- **Sunbird House**
- **Sunbird House**
- **CAIRNS COCONUT RESORT**
- **CAIRNS TROPICAL LUXURY**
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- **Half Moon Bay Golf Club**
- **Serendipity**
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