Term 4, Week 4

Newsletter

30 October 2013

Principal’s Report

Amazing Young Musicians Award Finals

We had the privilege of being entertained last week with a fabulous Young Musicians Award final. We all enjoyed the amazing performances of students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 in a variety of categories including piano solo, instrumental solo, vocal solo and duet. Well done to all involved and thank you to Mrs Whiteman who worked so hard to make this happen.

2014 Organisation

My thanks go to parents for advising me of 2014 enrolment intentions for their child. As a NSW government primary school, we are staffed on the total number of students enrolled. Public schools in NSW are staffed on average class sizes of 20 in Kindergarten, 22 in Year 1, 24 in Year 2 and 30 in Years 3-6. With a confirmation of student numbers I am able to proceed with plans for how the school will be structured, how many classes will be formed and how many teachers will be required next year. It is when this planning has taken place that students are then allocated into classes for the next year.

In the development of classes for 2014 teachers will place student learning as their focus. The factors that teachers consider in their collaborative planning of classes are; each student’s academic achievement, social relationships, history of class placement, specific learning needs and special needs.

A great deal of time and thought are put into the organisation of classes and once formed I am reluctant to make changes due to the large impact that one move can make. As such I am requesting from parents before classes are formed, that if you have any information that may be relevant to where your child is placed in their 2014 class, please put this request in writing to me before Friday 15 November rather than in February. These requests will be considered as part of the larger jigsaw when forming classes.

Principal for the Day

Excitement is building for the 75th Birthday Cocktail Evening on the 9 November. On the evening, the opportunity for your child to be Principal for the Day will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The lucky child to win this prize will have the opportunity to spend the day with me making all the big decisions; such as ice block inspection in the canteen, handing out special certificates in assembly, writing the message for the school signboard and lots more. If you have more than one child at the school you are welcome to bid for siblings to be the Principals for the Day!
Look at me I'm going to BIG school – Kindergarten Orientation Commences
Kindergarten Orientation commences this week for our fifty new kindergarten children. These children will attend orientation sessions each Thursday for the next three weeks. Children attending orientation will meet in the Kindergarten classrooms at 9:30am. Parents are encouraged to settle their children in the classroom and then return to school by 10:45am. The purpose of our orientation program is to provide an opportunity for children entering Kindergarten to settle into the routines of school and become familiar with the school environment.

School Evaluation
Each year we are required to conduct an annual evaluation survey to gain feedback from students, parents and teachers about school programs. There are a number of mandatory areas which must be evaluated including school satisfaction. The information gained from these surveys is used to inform school planning for the following year and will appear in our Annual School Report. Tomorrow I will be sending home this year's annual school evaluation survey which should be returned to the school office. It should take around 15 minutes to complete. It would be great if we had over 100 families participating! Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding school evaluation.

Celebrating Student Success – Presentation Evening & K-2 Graduation Assembly
Presentation Evening will be held on Tuesday 10 December at Killara High School and will start at 6:30pm (students to arrive at Killara High at 6pm). Please note the early start time which is an attempt to have students home earlier. Feedback from last year’s evening from teachers, students and parents has been considered in the planning for this year’s Presentation Evening and I am looking forward to a wonderful evening celebrating the achievements of all students in Years 3-6. Our K-2 Graduation Assembly will be held on Friday 6 December at 9.30am in the school hall. Each class is busily preparing their class item for this special celebration.

Finally, good luck to our First Lego League team who will be competing at the regionals at Macquarie University this Saturday. This year the theme of the challenge is Nature’s Fury which will explore storms, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Unity Taylor-Hill
Principal

It’s Disco Time - Friday 15th November
Our annual school disco will be taking place on Friday 15th November. The theme of the disco is “My favourite........” Students can dress up as their favourite colour, book character, sportsperson, superhero, etc. All of the proceeds of the disco will be donated to Stewart House and the Salvation Army Bush Fire Appeal. Mark the date on your calendar and watch out for details of times and cost, coming soon.

Mrs Brunker and SRC
What’s Happening in ESL
It’s been a busy year for ESL, with many new children joining our program. During the week some children attend my small group sessions in the ESL room. Here are some comments from my students:-

Year 1 – In ESL we are practising phonics and reading. Miss Somerville encourages us to talk in English through playing games. We help each other learn (Lucy K/1M).

Year 2 – This term we have been learning about the book “Stick Man”. We are going to make a book trailer so we have been reading the story and writing about what happens to stick man. It is lots of fun! (Kian 2C).

Year 3 – In ESL I am learning English. We read, do worksheets and play talking games. We laugh a lot! (Jessica 3B)

Maree Somerville
ESL Teacher

Rememberance Day
All parents are invited to attend our Remembrance Day service which will take place at 10.30 am on Monday 11th November, in the school hall. Local community and family members who are also veterans of the armed services will be made especially welcome at our commemorative service. Please contact the school office if you would like to bring a veteran to our service and we will reserve a seat for them.

This year we would like each class to present a posie of fresh flowers at the service. We would be very grateful if families could donate a few fresh flowers suitable for inclusion in a posie on Monday 11th November. We would also need a few parents to assemble the flowers at 9:30am on the day. Please contact Mrs Brunker if you can help.

Mrs Brunker
Assistant Principal

News From HQ
Just a reminder that all school invoices for Term 4 have been sent out. We would appreciate payment by 18th November, as our end of financial year is the approaching.
If you are experiencing financial hardship please come and see us so we can organise a repayment plan.
Band News
We had a fantastic Band rehearsal today and impressed Mrs Whiteman and Mrs Taylor-Hill with our new pieces Power Rock and Bop. Excellent sight reading today! We also welcomed a new band member this week Sopie D, who joined our clarinet section. Students received a new piece called Bunyip Blues so students should have a play through their part before Band next week.
The Ms Wilson Star of the Week Award goes to:
Week 3 – Ben H for demonstrating how to play a new note to all the flute players. It’s great to see students teaching one another, well done Ben, and Juliet S for enthusiastic practicing and requesting extra music for her tutorial. Fantastic!
Heidi Wilson
Directions In Music

Young Musicians Award 2013
Congratulations to all our talented performers- I was very proud of your performances and also of your professional and mature attitude - well done!!

Presentation Night on Tuesday Dec 10 are Haruka S playing ‘Le Petit Negre’ by Debussy on piano and Ken K playing Vivaldi’s Concerto in A minor, movement 1 on his violin.

JUNIOR
Piano solo
Hannah L 1st
Yang Y 2nd
Simone W 2nd
Joshua L 2nd
Sarah C 3rd
Jack H HC
Zachary S HC
Joseph H HC

Instrumental Solo
Simone W 1st violin
Kian T 1st violin

Vocal
Zachary S 1st
Eloise K 2nd
Sofia K 3rd
Joe B 3rd
Aisling K HC

INTERMEDIATE
Piano solo
Haruka S 1st
Sophie S 2nd
Yashika B 2nd
Anton L 3rd
Finn T HC
Jennifer Y HC

Instrumental Solo
Alec L 1st violin
Alice J 2nd violin
Jake K 3rd clarinet
Yashika B HC clarinet
Benjamin H C flute
Ying C C clarinet

Duet
Ying C and Caitlin B HC voice

SENIOR
Piano solo
Huiju N 1st
Eileen Y 2nd
Momoko H 2nd
Billy Y 3rd
Cindy F HC
Maxime A HC
Ray W HC

Instrumental solo
Ken K 1st violin
Lewis H 2nd violin

Vocal Solo
Pika K 1st
Wendy C 2nd
Sarah G 2nd
Taylor B 3rd
Marcus F HC
Melanie M HC
Duet
Taylor B and Pika K
1st voice + guitar

Matthew B and Thomas M
1st guitar

Up And Coming Events

31 Oct - 2014 Kindergarten Orientation
4 Nov - Yr 6 Interrelate
5 Nov - Stage 3 Drama Assembly
7 Nov - 2014 Kindergarten Orientation
9 Nov - 75th Fundraiser Cocktail Party
11 Nov - Yr 6 Interrelate
11 Nov - Remembrance Day Assembly
12 Nov - KH Assembly
14 Nov - 2014 Kindergarten Orientation
18 Nov - Ryde School Spectacular 7pm
18 Nov - Yr 6 Interrelate
20 Nov - Year 5 & 6 Malaysian Lunch
20 Nov - P & C Meeting
25 Nov - Yr 3 & 4 Force & Movement
25 Nov - Yr 6 Interrelate
26 Nov - Yr 6 Leadership 2014 Elections

28 Nov - Mini Fete
2 Dec - Stage 2 to Powerhouse Museum
3 Dec - PSSA Summer Sports Assembly
3 Dec - Year 5 C.A.R.E.S Excursion
5 Dec - Year 6 C.A.R.E.S Excursion
6 Dec - Killara High School Gala Day
6 Dec - K-2 Graduation
9 Dec - K-2 Multicultural Day
10 Dec - Presentation Day
13 Dec - Year 6 Farewell
18 Dec - Students Last Day

29 Jan - First Day Of School (Yrs 1 to 6)
29 to 31 Jan - Kindy 2014 Best Start
3 Feb - First Day Of School Kindergarten