



Stratford Public School

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Well nearly another fortnight over and only a few more to go before the end of term. A bit scary I think!

Last Tuesday the evaluation committee met to collate the annual surveys. As you may remember these surveys were sent out to parents, staff and students at the end of last term. The areas that were surveyed were literacy and a combined community engagement and school culture. The overall feeling in the surveys was very positive and on many questions there was a high percentage of agreement from all parties.

Following are some results of the collated surveys, each newsletter we will insert a few of the findings for you to read.

Literacy: 100% of parents and staff and 93% of students felt that literacy was almost always an important subject to learn.

71% of parents/carers thought that almost always their child's literacy homework reflected what was taught at school. 51% of parents felt they could assist their child with completing their homework but only 14% usually thought this to be true and the remaining 28% feeling that only sometimes or rarely were they able to assist their child.

Community Engagement and School Culture: 100% of students, staff and parents thought that almost always or usually they were made to feel welcome at the school.

100% of students thought that almost always or usually the school would regularly praise and reward students when successful.

86% of parents/carers are almost always pleased that their child attends this school while the remaining 14% are usually pleased.

Areas of Strength: Majority of those surveyed felt that at the school there was a good working atmosphere where all members of the school community had excellent communication with each other.

Areas for Improvement: More parent participation in the school and the P&C was a high priority.

The P&C also met that night, although it was a very quick meeting. On the agenda was preparations for end of year presentation night and last day of school.

On the last day of school we will be holding a BBQ, please bring a salad to share, a chair to relax in under the shade of the large gum tree so we can watch the students race around the Billy Cart track (***each student needs to bring a helmet***) with their bikes and the carts and school bikes will be brought out of storage for the day as well. We will end the day off with a water fight (***no water bombs please***).

Attached to the newsletter will be the 'Hands of Friendship' nominations and raffle tickets.

The 'Hands of Friendship' award is given to a student from both the infants and primary class each year. These students have been consistently kind and helpful to others. All parents and students can nominate one student from each class that they feel deserves this award.

The raffle tickets are for the Christmas hamper draw. The P&C would appreciate any donations of goods to add to the hamper. There is a laundry basket at the school available to receive your donations.

Last week swimming notes were sent home, at present there are still a few outstanding notes, these notes will be attached again to the newsletter, please ensure you fill out the note ASAP as we need to organise transport for the fortnight.

Have a good weekend

Jo Boland

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Principal

A proud member of the Bucketts Way Community of Schools

Infants News– Term 4, Week 2

The infants classroom has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks.

The pre-school children have all settled in and have been busy learning about school life.

A play has been selected for the end of year performance and parts were given out last week. We will be practicing every Wednesday at school. It is also important that your child practices at home in order to be prepared for the performance. Please discuss with your child what costumes they may require for their part. If you have any black or brown stockings you would like to donate for props they would be greatly appreciated

In science and Technology we have been learning about the effects of too much sun exposure and how to protect ourselves when outdoors. With the weather warming up and the swimming season approaching this information is very important.

In regards to the warming weather, it is also important that your child brings a drink to school to have at both morning tea and lunch in order to keep them well hydrated throughout the day.

That is all for now.

Mrs Hughes

Primary News

Primary class have been working hard on their explanations ensuring that correct technical terminology is used and the structure of explanations is followed. They have also been learning about verb groups, adjectival and adverbial phrases in grammar, still need some work in this area.

In maths we have been working on writing specific processes to solve multi-step problems, this is especially valuable practice for the year six students for high school.

The class has enjoyed the company of the year two students each Wednesday and it certainly makes for a busier and more dynamic classroom.

The Friday sessions have been very busy also with students learning about a new dinosaur each week, over the next two sessions they will need to choose a dinosaur to complete a project on.

Ms Boland

Library Day - Thursday

It is so enjoyable to come to school on Thursdays and have so many students race in and tell me about the books they have read.

Candice; "I have read some of the 'My Story' books and they are really heart breaking at the end"

Josh; " I read 'The Diary of the Wimpy Kid' in 2 hours.

Claire just raced in and grabbed the last 'Grace' novel. "No one talk to me!"

Monique; "Can I re-borrow this book?".

Jakara; "Claire you must read 'The Butterfly Lion', it's really interesting and sad".

Each student brought home the Sun Herald on Thursday. It has the book list for the Premier's Reading Challenge 2012 which our school will again participate in. There are many excellent books in this list which could be used as ideas for Christmas presents.

Teacher/Librarian

Tina Robinson

Assembly—Week 3

Assembly Leaders: Maddie and Christine

Awards Presented

Student of the Week: Maddison for helping in the sandpit.

Infants: Montanna for settling into the classroom routine.

Primary: Maddie for being a great teacher's assistant.

Principal's: Josh, Monique and Montanna for settling in well and the PP6 Relay Team for great achievement.

Assembly - Week 4

Assembly Leaders: Candice and Connor

Awards Presented

Student of the week: Hayden for being nice.

Infants: Hayden for sounding out his words during writing.

Primary: Ben for improved attitude towards classroom tasks.

Principal's: Jack for quickly becoming a valued member of our school community.

Office News

Welcome to November everyone and to the beginning of the summer season. Please remember to send your children with water to drink and hats to wear, sunscreen is always available at school.

Hopefully everybody has received their Swimming Scheme Permission Note outlining travel arrangements, times and costs. If you have not received yours another copy will be attached to the newsletter.

AASC Dance and Netball have got off to a great start with lots of loud dance music echoing through the school each Monday and lots of teamwork and passing skills happening each Friday. There are always a lot of smiling faces on these afternoons.

We are almost half way through Term 4 already and I cannot believe how fast the time is flying. Term 4 is always very busy with many extra activities taking place and the weather becoming increasingly hotter, but with a little extra sleep and organisation all students can look forward to their end of year presentation and play and excursion.

Year 6 have some exciting times to look forward to also, their Year 6 Farewell excursion on the 1st December as well as High School Orientation on the 5th December, always an exciting time but also a little sad. Many of our Year 6's have been at Stratford Public School since Kindergarten and I am sure that they will be feeling a little sad to be leaving, as the teaching staff will be also to see them all go.

Attached to this weeks newsletter:

- Swimming permission notes
- NSW Foundation Style writing guide
- Field of Mars EEC KeepCup Fundraiser
- Parent Line information sheet
- School A to Z recipe of the week
- P&C Minutes 25 October
- P&C Canteen order form for Monday 7 November
- P&C *Hands of Friendship* nomination form
- P&C Christmas Hamper raffle tickets

Have a lovely weekend

<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>
Monday 7 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AASC Dance 2.30pm to 3.30pm• Canteen• Visit by Ian Northam (SED)	Monday 14 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming School• AASC Dance 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday 8 November	Tuesday 15 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming School
Wednesday 9 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindergarten Orientation	Wednesday 16 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NO Kindergarten Orientation• Swimming School
Thursday 10 November	Thursday 17 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming School
Friday 11 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AASC Netball 2.30pm to 3.30pm	Friday 18 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming School• AASC Netball 2.30pm to 3.30pm

P&C Notice

Next Meeting: Tuesday 22 November 6.30pm

Next Canteen: Monday 7 November. Menu attached.

Hands of Friendship Award: Please fill in a nomination form and return it to the ballot box by Friday 18 November.

Christmas Hamper Raffle: Donations of non perishable food and Christmas decorations etc are required for our annual Christmas raffle. Tickets are attached to this newsletter and the raffle will be drawn on Presentation Night.

Local schools, local decisions

You have until Friday 18 November to contribute to the online forum of the NSW government's 'local schools local decisions' planning process.

The NSW Government wants to hear from people about giving schools greater control over decision-making in order to improve teaching and learning, and achieve the best outcomes for students.

Everyone with an interest in public education is invited to contribute ideas on five areas of reform:

- making decisions
- managing resources
- staff in our schools
- working locally
- reducing red tape.

To have your say go to the online forum at: <http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/localschools>

World Diabetes Day

November 14 is World Diabetes Day.

The day aims to raise awareness of the disease and ways to prevent lifestyle-induced (Type 2) diabetes, which is increasing in our society.

Adopting a healthy diet, high in protein and low in sugar and simple carbohydrates, and incorporating regular exercise, is a good start.

For more information on preventing and living with diabetes, including help in different languages, go to the Australian Diabetes Council website: www.diabetesnsw.com.au/

What's on the School A to Z website

What parents can do at home to help their kids with reading

- Be confident that your child will learn to read. Give positive messages and involve them in everyday conversations and opportunities to read.
- Read aloud to your child. It helps them to learn about the language of books and will encourage them to enjoy books and reading.
- Read to your child in your home language if your first language is not English.
- Make reading enjoyable and talk about books, magazines and computer stories that you have read together.
- Try not to let television intrude on reading time. Make a special time for reading with your child, away from interruptions.
- Listen to your child read as often as you can, every day if possible, even if only for a short time. Give books in print or electronic form as treats and presents.

Hints for listening to your child read

- When reading together at home try to make the time relaxed, enjoyable and positive. Vary it. Read together, read to your child and take turns or have them read to you.
- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title and the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point and predict what might happen next. After you've finished reading with your child, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.

Useful reading tips

When your child is reading and encounters words that are difficult for them, use the Three Ps technique 'Pause, Prompt, Praise' to support them.

Pause: when your child comes to a word they don't know, try not to jump in straight away. Wait and give your child time to work out the word.

Prompt: if your child successfully works out the problem word, suggest they go back to the beginning of the sentence and re-read it (to recap meaning) before reading on.

If your child has not worked out the problem word, prompt them with some quick, low-key suggestions. Say things like:

- "Try reading on for a sentence or two, miss out the difficult word and see if that helps you to work it out."
- "Look at the sound the word begins with, use that clue, and think about what may make sense here? Look at the pictures."

If prompts like these are not working, simply tell your child the correct word.

Try not to spend too much time prompting, as your child will find it difficult to maintain the overall meaning of what they are reading.

Praise: praise your child's reading efforts and successes.

Things to remember about reading

- The goal of reading is always to make sense of what is read.
- Try to be interested, supportive and enjoy the time together.
- Read with your child anywhere and at any time; don't forget that many everyday experiences provide opportunities to put reading and writing into action.
- Visit and use a library near you. Borrow books for yourself as well as for your child.
- Talk to your child's classroom teacher or the principal for further help and advice.