



Stratford Public School

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I would like to say a big welcome to Miss Steele, who has commenced her four week practicum with us. Miss Steele is currently studying at Newcastle University and is in her third year of study. She will spend most of her time here on the Infants class, except on Thursdays and Fridays, which is very handy for Mrs Robinson and I. Please make her feel welcomed if the opportunity should arise.

This week the annual swimming scheme commenced. I would like to say thank you to the parents who have donated their time to transport the students to and from the school.

All students have now been assessed for their swimming capabilities and have been placed in the appropriate classes. This year the Dolphin/Marlin group (what I call the *lappers*) is the largest, as a number of students have moved up from the Seahorse (middle) group. This is a good indicator that the annual swimming scheme is a very effective program and students are retaining and practicing the skills learnt throughout the year. The remaining two groups (beginner and intermediate are quite small so this will ensure that they receive the optimum tuition and attention they need).

I do however have a request to parents who transport their children, could you please refrain from purchasing food and drink from the canteen while swimming lessons are conducted. We only have an hour for lessons and it can be quite distracting for children to see their family members eating food which they (the students) know is not allowed. ***The school rule is “no canteen” during the swimming scheme except on the last day.*** It would be appreciated if parents could respect this rule as well.

School reports are currently underway and final reading assessments will be conducted in the primary class over the next two weeks.

Last week the 2012-2014 Management Plan was completed, along with the Low SES evaluation for 2011 and the Resource Planning Tool (allocation of Low SES funds) for 2012, these will be discussed at the next P&C meeting that will be held on 22 November 6.30pm.

The end of year is looming fast and presentation night will soon be upon us. Some students are gathering their costumes quite quickly, but some are still struggling, could you please have a discussion with your child about the type of costume they may require. I do know we still need some wigs that need to be turned into cave-man style hairdos.

The “Hands of Friendship” nominations box is in the foyer at the school. I have noticed a few students putting their nominations into the box. Please take some time to think about nominating a student or have a discussion with your child about whom they think might deserve the “Hands of Friendship” Trophy this year. Remember you can nominate an Infants and/or Primary student.

Also in the foyer is the laundry basket awaiting to be filled up with items for the Christmas Hamper raffle. If you have any items to donate please bring them in ASAP and if you need extra raffle tickets please contact the P&C to arrange tickets to be sent home.

Have a good weekend

Jo Boland

Principal

Infants News

A big warm welcome to Miss Hayley Steele who will be spending the next four weeks with us. Hayley is a third year practicum student from Newcastle University. We hope she enjoys her time at Stratford Public School.

We started our swimming lessons this week. It is great to see all the children participating and enjoying themselves.

I have noticed that some of the children are extra hungry after their lessons and are eating their sandwiches at morning tea time. It might be a good idea to pack them something extra to help fill their tummies and give them the energy they need to get through the day.

Last week I sent home a list of their costumes each child will need for their part/parts in the end of year performance. I would like these in ASAP so that we can start dress rehearsals.

That is all for now.

Mrs Hughes

Primary News

Over the next two weeks our classroom lessons will be quite affected by the swimming scheme. However we are still managing to squeeze in the important lessons, spelling, writing (explanations), maths and science.

Last Friday Years 2-6 started their project on a selected dinosaur. Some students have indicated that they want to do a diorama as part of their project. These students understand that they are required to bring in their own cardboard box, a small fruit box would be ideal. If your child is one of these students could you please assist them in finding one.

Ms Boland

Library Day - Thursday

Congratulations to those very proud students who received their Premier's Reading Challenge Certificates on Tuesday. 285 000 students in the state signed up for the challenge and 219 299 were successful.

The students have discovered how versatile Microsoft Excel can be, by completing a street plan of Stratford Village, this was a challenge to some but all students have done an excellent job.

We are now into designing Christmas cards.

Teacher/Librarian

Tina Robinson

Have a lovely weekend see you Thursday

Assembly—Week 5

Assembly Leaders: Claire and Vanessa.

Awards Presented

Student of the Week: Jakara for Basketball.

Infants: Maddison for trying hard with reading.

Primary: Candice for her mature approach in all aspects of school life.

Assembly - Week 6

Assembly Leaders: Jakara & Christine.

Awards Presented

Student of the week: Shayne for playing well with Maddison.

Infants: Connor for trying super hard in swimming.

Premier's Reading Challenge Awards: All students who participated.



Office News

Thank you everybody for your speedy return of swimming permission notes and accompanying money. The first week of swimming is already completed with another 5 days next week. It is a very busy and hectic 2 weeks that is for sure, with most children being rather tired and needing more sleep than usual.

Thank you again to all the parents/carers who have provided transport to and from the pool each day. It is a huge commitment and greatly appreciated, without this support the students would have had to go by bus each day making the cost of swimming much greater. Well done and thank you!

Please remember to bring hats, water and swimming gear each day. School always has a supply of sunscreen for all students use.

Attached to this weeks newsletter:

Rotary Wool Awards Night in Gloucester

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Waters

Week 7

Monday 21 November

- Swimming School
- Last AASC Dance 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Tuesday 22 November

- Swimming School

Wednesday 23 November

- Swimming School

Thursday 24 November

- Swimming School

Friday 25 November

- Swimming School
- AASC Netball 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Week 8

Monday 28 November

- Music
- Canteen

Tuesday 29 November

Wednesday 30 November

- Kindergarten Orientation

Thursday 1 December

Friday 2 December

- Last AASC Netball 2.30pm to 3.30pm

P&C Notice

Next Meeting: Tuesday 22 November 6.30pm. We will be deciding the **Hands of Friendship** award so don't forget to enter your nominations.

Next Canteen: Monday 28 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.

Toy recycling

With Christmas fast approaching, have you considered donating your youngest child's unwanted toys to charity? Many families feel the pinch over this time and donations to all charities are much appreciated. A new resource for quality used goods is Second Chance Toys (www.secondchancetoys.com.au), an Australia-wide community initiative to rescue and recycle gently used plastic toys by donating them to children in need. Check out the website for more information, or donate at your local op shop, charity or drop off bin.

What's on the School A to Z website

Getting organised

On the School A to Z website, listen to Shannon Lush's advice about how to organise your household in a way that will leave you with more time to enjoy your family.

Go to: www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/web/dec-schools-a-z/homework-and-study/homework-tips/organising-the-home-for-a-smooth-school-run

Ten ideas to get your kids active at home or indoors

1. Set the example by getting outside and getting active too. If you're sitting around watching TV as a way to relax, then your kids will see that as normal.
2. Inside, or outside, try keeping a balloon off the floor using a fly swat (or your hand). You can make up some basic passing and catching games to go with it.
3. Set up a pyramid of plastic cups, then bowl any type of ball (tennis, large soft ball, mini bean bag) at the pyramid and take great delight in the cups crashing everywhere.
4. When friends come over, play war games in the backyard with light sabres or toy swords. It involves running around, hiding, strategy, teamwork – all things to get your child huffing and puffing and ready for a good night's sleep.
5. Play sport in the backyard. Get out there with your kids and bowl so they can bat, or play tackle rugby with them (but remind them to go easy on you).
6. Rumble with the kids on the carpet; if you have floorboards rumble on the bed, or outside on the grass.
7. Get the kids to help out with gardening, mowing the lawn and household maintenance. It could be helping to weed, bringing top soil in a wheelbarrow to where it's needed, collecting the sticks from the lawn before mowing, or planting flowers and vegies.
8. For younger kids blow bubbles in the backyard or at the park – they love to chase them.
9. You can even get active during the kids' birthday parties. Backyard party games include bull rush, three-legged relays, egg and spoon races, jumping over a rope, limbo, What's the Time Mr Wolf?, musical cushions and a treasure hunt.
10. Play hide and seek either inside or outside; build a cubbyhouse/shelter using ropes, sticks or cardboard; or using chalk draw a hopscotch game on the driveway, paving or footpath.