A Letter to the Community

"Thought for the Week"

SCHOOL NEWS

No.25 19 August 2016

Year 4-6 School Camp

26 August – 1 September

Our triennial Year 4-6 school camp to Sydney, Canberra, the snow and the Blue Mountains is fast approaching, now only one week away!! More detailed information about camp is again contained in this week’s newsletter. Last minute information will be sent home to the students concerned next week. All venues and accommodation have now been booked with our final numbers. Please note there has been a change of accommodation for our stay in Canberra. We will now be staying at the Redleigh Hotel not the Greenleigh Hotel mentioned on the previous
Thank You for a GREAT Theatre Restaurant, 2016 !!!

Every three years the P&C and the school work together with community members to put on a series of Theatre Restaurant performances to raise funds for the P&C. The funds raised pay for the bus costs for both camps held in that same year. AT this time, the P&C still have some bills to left pay but current estimates indicate that the P&C made a profit of $8000 from the theatre restaurants this year!! Many, many sincere thanks go to all the wonderful people who have helped the school and the students by working at the Theatre Restaurant performances. We couldn’t have done it without you!!

Gifted and Talented Day of Excellence in Science

Selected students from our school have been invited to attend a day of excellence in science on Wednesday, 24 August. Three students from Prep to Year 2 will be invited to attend the science day at Flagstone State School. Our three Year 5, 6 students will be attending a science day at Flagstone Community College (high school-opposite the primary school) and 2 students from Year 3, 4 will be invited to attend the science day at Woodhill State School.

Parents of the students selected will be notified early next week and information, permission and medical forms will be sent home with the students for completion.

Expressions of Interest - P&C Treasurer

At this week’s P&C meeting Mrs Janine Reilly tabled her
resignation as this year’s P&C treasurer. The P&C is now calling for expressions of interest for this position. Should you be interested in fulfilling this role for the remainder of the school year, please contact the P&C President, Mrs Kaylene Wright (0407 631 850) or phone the school office (Ph 5540 4333)

P-2 News

This week has been a busy one preparing our entries for the Beaudesert Show. We have finally finished all of our artwork that is going to be entered. Now we are working on our handwriting.

In Maths this week the Prep children have been working with 2D shapes and exploring their properties, as well as working with numbers to 30. The Year 1 students have been revising concepts that we learned this term. The Year 2s have been working on numbers patterns and basic multiplication.

In Art we made kites and cats on mats. These will be entered into the show. They look absolutely stunning. Some photos are included below.

In English we have been practicing our spelling words and the 'ar' sound. We have also been finding information for our projects on dinosaurs.

In History the Preps and Year 1s have been continuing on with our family unit while the Year 2s have been exploring the natural world and changing environment.

More from us next week.

Kasey, Kay, Colleen and Ellen
Walkathon Money
Parents please make sure that any money collected for the Walkathon is returned to school immediately. Prizes will be ordered on Monday 22nd August. If you child hasn’t returned their form by then they will miss out on their prize!

Chalk and Parent Direct Catalogues
Fundraising Catalogues from Chalk and parent Direct were sent home with each family this week. If you are placing an order, the order forms and money need to be returned to the school no later than Thursday September 15.

Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting
16.08.16

Staff and Students
Presently, Mrs Wieland is on extended sick leave and has been replaced by Mrs Benstead on Fridays and Ms Ellen Masen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and Mrs Todd on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We wish Mrs Wieland all the best with her recovery and we hope that she’ll soon be back at school fit and healthy.

We received a new Prep enrolment which now means that we have 10 Preps in our Prep class. Another new family has advised us that they will be moving into our area from the Gold Coast after the next school vacation. They have a boy for Year 4. We hope that all our new families soon feel welcomed and settled in our Rathdowney community.

Student Council
Healthy Friday lunches will continue to be served at school on Fridays for each remaining week of this term. All lunches are prepared by the Student Council with help from Chappy Rob and Mrs Baker. The cost is $4. The

Tuesday 30th August
7:00pm Breakfast
9:00am Canberra National Exhibition Centre
12noon Packed lunch
1:00pm Parliament House PEO
2:00pm Parliament House Tour
3:00pm Hospitality
4:00pm AIS
6:00pm Redleigh Central Motel Canberra
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Black Mountain Tower

Wednesday 31st August
7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Snow day Perisher Blue Clothes and toboggans from The Shed Jindabyne
7:00pm Dinner

Thursday 1st September
7:15am Breakfast
8:30am Walk around The Rocks
10:00am Hyde Park Barracks Convict Life
11:30am Walk to Darling Harbour Packed lunch
12:30pm Chinese Gardens
2:00pm Depart for Canberra
5:30pm Arrive Redleigh
6:30pm Dinner at accommodation

Friday 2nd September
7:00am Breakfast
8:00am Depart for Jenolan Caves
9:30am Lucas Cave Tour
11:30am Depart for Katoomba
1:00pm Packed lunch at Three Sisters Lookout
2:30pm Depart Three Sisters
4:30pm Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre Swim & Showers
6:30pm Depart Aquatic Centre Dinner at McDonald along the way

Saturday 3rd September
5:30am Breakfast McDonalds Casino
8:00am Arrive Rathdowney

Attched is a list of the clothing required for the students attending camp.
discussing our developing performance plans. Part of that plan is to review our schools’ pedagogical framework and to develop the school’s signature pedagogy. In weekly staff meetings, we are discussing the school’s present pedagogical framework and looking at various options based on current research into best practice in teaching. By the end of the year we will have a new framework and a ‘signature’ Rathdowney pedagogy in place in our school.

Rathdowney State School Sydney Canberra Excursion 2016

Please note the bus will be at the Post Office Carpark on Friday 26th August at 5PM!

Friday 26th August
5:30pm Travel through the night with a dinner stop en route

Saturday 27th August
6:00am Breakfast McDonalds
65 Pacific Hwy, West Gosford
7:00am Arrive Gosford Olympic Pool for swim and showers
9:30am Taronga Zoo Cable car ride
4:30pm Arrive Elanora
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Evening activities at Conference Centre

Sunday 28th August
7:00am Breakfast
8:15am Walk across Harbour Bridge from north to south
9:30am Captain Cook Harbour Cruise
11:15am Sydney Opera House Tour
12:30pm Packed lunch Botanic Gardens
2:30pm Sydney Tower Eye
4:00pm Walk to Queen Victoria Building
5:30pm Arrive Elanora Conference Centre
6:00pm Dinner
7:30pm Evening Activity at Conference Centre

Monday 29th August
7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Depart Elanora

School Band
After a busy first semester and with no future performance dates on the calendar, the school band is enjoying a well-earned break for the rest of this year.

School Events
This term we will be highlighting the third of our 3 school rules, “Be Respectful” with the students on weekly parades. We will also continue with the Hi-5 response to teasing and bullying as part of our school’s behaviour management plan for the year and with our year’s focus on “being kind to others” both in words and deeds. The students have really taken these strategies on board and they have been used very effectively in the school playground.

Our regular Wednesday playgroup sessions are continuing with a number of families using our facilities each week. Playgroup operates on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30am in the old preschool building.

We have now finished a marathon effort providing our triennial theatre restaurants. Unfortunately the first of our performance dates, 29 July had to be cancelled due to insufficient bookings. However each of the ingredients so far have been donated, so each of the lunches is providing a profit for the Student Council.

The Student Council is continuing to sell show bags and lucky dips to any students who would like to purchase them from our left over Easter stock. We have no chocolates left to sell. The Council would sincerely like to thank all those who have supported them in selling chocolates this year. While all boxes have now been distributed there are still a number of people who have been given boxes of chocolates for sale who are yet to return the money raised to the school. The Student Council would like this money to be sent to school as a matter of urgency as the funds are needed to help pay for the students’ entries into all their venues for both the junior and senior camps this year. The student Council is also undertaking its usual fundraising efforts for the Queensland Cancer Fund. Moneys raised from the Easter lunch and the walkathon help to provide a donation to the Cancer fund from the Student Council each year. We are still expecting some of the students to return sponsorship money before sending away for their incentive prizes.
remaining dates saw great audiences with a full house on Friday and Saturday nights of the long weekend. There are so many people to thank for their contributions to our TRs. “Thank You” so, so much everyone for your help and patronage over the two weekends.

There have been so many people who have contacted the school or spoken to staff commenting and giving praise for both the wonderful catering and the show!!

Final arrangements are being made for the senior camp to Sydney, Canberra and the snow at the end of next week. All but one of our Year 4-6 students will be attending this camp. We are getting very excited about the camp and doing work in class leading up to it. All bookings for accommodation and venues have been made. Camp is now just a few days away.

Our school attended NAIDOC day at Hillview on Friday, 29 July. The school paid for a bus to take the students to Hillview for the day. As they did last year, Hillview State School together with members of the local Aboriginal community hosted a wonderful day for the local schools. We had a great day working with students from other small schools and learned a great deal about our own Indigenous culture.

High school teachers visited the year 6 students on Monday to prepare them for the transition to high school next year. The girls were given information packs with forms to be completed and returned. There will be an information night at the high school in September for parents and prospective students to learn more about the transition into high school for this year’s grade 6s. Towards the end of the year, our girls will be invited to spend a day at the high school as a bit of an orientation before arriving there on the first day of school next year. Both of our year 6 girls are excited about going to high school in 2017.

Next week, the local network of gifted and talented teachers have organised a Science Day of Excellence for all Beaudesert district schools on Wednesday, 24 August. All our year 6 and 5 students have been invited to a science day at Flagstone Community College (High School) and the two year 3-4 students have been invited to attend the science day at Woodhill State School. Three students from Prep to year 2 have been invited to attend the science day at Flagstone State School. Letters will be sent home this week with each of the students who have been selected with more information and permission/medical forms.

Next week, students will submit their entries for the Beaudesert Show. The Prep to year 3 students will be attending the show on Friday, 2 September, the day before the senior students return from camp. Next week’s newsletter will provide more information with regards to transport to the show, etc.

On Sunday, 11 September, our Year 3-6 students will be going to Chandler for the dance fever interschool challenge. We are expecting a visit from our Dance Fever teachers at some time before the Challenge as a refresher lesson.

The school has received a new server for the school’s computers which is now fully connected up. Hopefully once a few of the glitches are ironed out the new server will help to speed up our internet functions school-wide. We are also receiving necessary upgrades to our wireless network before the end of the term. This will improve internet reception for our iPads, which our junior class uses a great deal for classwork.

As the school pool is now some 26 years old, some much needed repair work will begin there within the next couple of weeks. Hopefully the work will be completed before the next swim season.

Thanks to some sharp eyes of one of our dads who spotted some cracks in the trunks of some of the trees in our playground, an arborist will be assessing the risk posed by the trees and recommending the work that needs to be done to make our playground safe.

Staff Professional Development

Our Assistant Regional Director, Terry Comish met with all the small school principals last Thursday in Beaudesert. Some of the day was spent discussing finance issues within a small school setting and the expectations of finance branch principals’ responsibilities in this area. We also had a session on “fierce conversations”. After lunch each of the principals spent time with Terry