Two Wells Primary School Newsletter

General Information

From the Principal

Book Week was well celebrated last week with many wonderful activities for students and staff to participate in. The highlight was obviously the Book Week Parade last Friday. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, as all school and preschool leaders had a compulsory meeting with the DECD CEO, Tony Harrison. I made it back to school by 2 pm to visit the classes and see the wonderful costumes worn by students and staff. Well done to Elaine Richardson and Jenny Atterton for all their hard work related to Book Week. Tony, as well as other DECD executives, shared with leadership the proposed restructure of DECD, which now include Families SA. Part of the restructure includes the amalgamation of duplicate services and the clarification of roles and responsibilities for central office, sites and partnerships. The information received so far about the restructure certainly seems positive. There is a 28 day consultation process currently underway.

During Science Week Mr. Hawkey held an open night where families were invited to visit the Science Room and explore a range of activities related to the Science Week theme ‘the science of light’. The open night was very well attended, particularly by Junior Primary students and their parents. It was wonderful to watch the students enthusiastically share their science experiences with their parents as well as with Mr. Hawkey and other staff informally. The highlight of the evening was definitely the hydrogen balloon explosive!! Thanks to Mr Hawkey and all the students and parents who made the evening such a big success.

2015 NAPLAN results will be sent home next week. The results were very pleasing with students making positive growth from year 3-5 and then year 5-7. The students who did not meet the National Minimum Standard were those that have disabilities/learning difficulties. Well done to all the students who completed NAPLAN this year.

Our school choir will perform at the Primary Schools Festival of Music at the Festival Theatre on Wednesday 9th September. Tickets are available from Bass or online at www.bass.net.au if you would like to attend. Notes were sent home earlier this week with all choir students outlining the procedures for the day time rehearsal at the Festival Theatre and the evening concert. It is important that parents/caregivers read the notes and understand the strict dress code for the concert, and the time schedule dictated by concert organisers. Ms Ellis and Mrs Landherr will accompany the students to the day time rehearsal, with Ms Ellis and myself supervising the students at the evening concert. It should be a great night!

There appears to be a number of older students wearing an unnecessary amount of makeup and, in some cases, long false nails to school. The Uniform Policy indicates that makeup is not allowed including nail polish/varnish. Although we have not referred to false nails in the policy they are discouraged at school. We’ve had to deal with injuries from PE and Fitness because of long nails scratching other students or false nails catching on clothing/sports equipment and being ripped off. As for makeup, dark eyeliner and mascara is not acceptable at school. The focus should be on learning. Inappropriate makeup and jewellery is a distraction. If students appear at school wearing make-up, nail polish/varnish, or inappropriate jewellery, a staff member will ask the student to remove it.

A reminder that Monday is a School Closure Day so no students or staff will be on site. Tuesday is a Pupil Free Day. Staff will be attending Professional Development in Gawler and then back at the school. Students have another day off.

The last day of term is Sports Day and we plan to have a BBQ selling sausages and steak sandwiches. If you are able to volunteer some time on the day please speak to Belinda in the canteen ASAP.
Parents and Friends
Parents & Friends will be hosting a Father’s Day Stall on Friday September 4th. Students will visit the stall with their classroom teacher. Gifts will range in price from $1.00 - $5.00. Please bring a bag for your purchase.

Zumba at Two Wells
Ditch the work out, join the party! The Latin inspired, easy to follow, calorie burning dance fitness party.

All fitness levels welcome
Tuesday 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Angle Vale Primary School Gym, Heaslip Road, Angle Vale

Thursday 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Two Wells Primary School Gym, Gawler Road, Two Wells

Saturday 9:15 – 10:15 am
Two Wells Primary School Gym, Gawler Road, Two Wells

Expression of interest classes for mid-October, Monday & Wednesday morning at Two Wells Community Centre.

First Class $5
Contact Licensed Instructor: Natalie O’Shea – 0439 835 047

A reminder to students and adults that there is a pathway down one side of the driveway and it should be used when walking in and out of the school. The buses should not have to give way to pedestrians walking in the middle of the driveway.

I have just been informed by Gawler District College (GDC) that Year 7 students attending the transition day on Thursday 17th September may use their bus. A note went home this week about the transition visit. If you require your child to catch the GDC buses please pass this information on to your child’s class teacher ASAP so that GDC can inform bus drivers about additional students.

We have a new bus driver for the DECD large yellow bus, Mr Alan Green. I am sure the students will welcome him to his new role.

“Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.”
Chinese proverb
Lynda Fitzpatrick-Brown

From Ms Evans
VIPS FROM OUR WEEK 6 ASSEMBLY

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<td>Charlotte S</td>
<td>Room 6</td>
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<td>Lauren C</td>
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<td>Noah</td>
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<td>Ashley W</td>
<td>Room 11</td>
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<td>Cameron</td>
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<td>Ella C</td>
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<td>Harrison</td>
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<td>Deegan</td>
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<td>Brooke W</td>
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<td>Alicia A</td>
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<td>Jack T</td>
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<td>Daniella M</td>
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Thank you from the SAT...
A special thank you to the Two Wells Bakery for your donation towards our recent SAT casual clothes day! We raised over $250.00 that will go towards an interactive TV for the Library. The SAT will hold another fundraiser in term 4.

Illness and Absences...
Unfortunately we have had a terrible cold and flu season this year. We understand that with illness come student absences. If your child does see a doctor while they are absent from school, we ask that they bring in a sick certificate on returning to school so this can be recorded. If your child is away for a day or more we ask that you either call the school office or send a note when your child returns to school. It is our policy that after 3 days absent a medical certificate is required.
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absenteeists.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

**That’s not a reason to be away!**

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

**Being late is not okay either**

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.


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It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.
