NEWSLETTER

Term 4, WK 3, 21st Oct 2015

22nd October 2015
Grandparents Day Assembly

26th October 2015
P&C Meeting 7:00pm

28th October 2015
Kindergarten orientation for 2016

2nd November 2015
Years 6 Excursion to Canberra

11th November 2015
Sports photos

30th November 2015
P&C AGM 7:00pm

1st December 2015
Preschool Orientation
Year 5 Nomination Speeches
School Council AGM

2nd December 2015
Parent/Teacher Interviews (Yrs 3-6)

3rd December 2015
Parent/Teacher Interviews (Yrs K-2)

4th December 2015
Last PSSA sport day

7th December 2015
Preschool Graduation (Day 1)
Year 6 Farewell Dinner

8th December 2015
Presentation Day

9th December 2015
Years K-6 Picnic Day

10th December 2015
Last day of scripture (Yrs K-6)
Thank You Morning Tea
Carols 5:30pm

11th December 2015
Preschool Graduation (Day 2)

14th December 2015
Year 6 Farewell Dinner & Luna Park

15th December 2015
Talent Quest

16th December 2015
Last school day of Term 4

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

With our end-of-year events fast approaching, I would encourage you to keep an eye on the newsletter, the school’s website and notes that are sent home with your children so that you are fully aware of what is happening. Can I also strongly encourage you to make payments by the nominated due dates as we often need to make payments prior to events occurring? This greatly assists us in our organisation at school level as well.

Today, we held the second of our orientation days for our 2016 Kindergarten students. These days are important because they help children make a smooth transition into a new setting with new expectations, structures and routines. It also helps to ensure that children’s development and learning is not interrupted. In addition, evidence suggests that children who have a positive start to school are likely to engage well and to experience academic and social success. If you know of anyone who is yet to enrol in our school for next year, please encourage them to do so as a matter of urgency as our orientation days finish next Wednesday. If they do not enrol by next week however it will not hinder their enrolment but it would be beneficial if the children could attend at least one of these orientation days.

This year, we have an opportunity to present a Community Service Award at our annual presentation day. This award is sponsored by our federal member of parliament and goes to a student who has offered community service above and beyond the general expectation. If you know of anyone who fits this criterion, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can nominate him or her for this award.

Finally, if you or anyone you know is not returning to our school next year please let me know as soon as possible. This assists in our planning of classes for next year, a process that begins now.

Have a great week.

Helen Empacher
Principal

If you have news of achievements by any of our students outside of school, please let us know so that we can tell our community about it. Please send any articles of photos to our school email mascot -p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or drop them into the office and we’ll include it in our newsletters.
Information for all Year 6 parents or carers
VALID Science and Technology 6

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

The Validation of Assessment 4 Learning & Individual Development (VALID) test for Year 6 students will be held between Monday 26 October and Friday 6 November 2015. The test takes approximately 60 minutes. The VALID Science and Technology 6 test is an interactive, multimedia test completed entirely on a computer.

VALID Science and Technology 6 contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks that are grouped around real-world issues, including scientific investigations. This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 3 outcomes and essential content in the NSW Science Years 7–10 Syllabus. Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation and design processes
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

Students also complete a survey about their opinions, attitudes and values.

Since students complete VALID Science and Technology 6 on a computer, each student needs to bring headphones or earbuds that plug into a school computer. Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.

If your child has a disability that needs special consideration or has been educated in English for less than one year, please contact your child’s school to discuss special provisions or possible exemption from the test.

Results of the test will be available during Term 1 2016. Information about each student is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that the right to privacy of all students is maintained. A personal report for each student will be sent to parents/carers to describe the science knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test. There will also be information about how your child’s results compare with overall performance of all students in the test. You will be invited to complete a parent survey about the test and science learning.

The principal of your child’s school is able to provide you with more details about the VALID Science and Technology program if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry McLoughan
Director, School Performance & Improvement
Department of Education
Selective High School Entry to Year 7 in 2017

Applications to apply for a Selective High School for Year 7 in 2017 are now open. Applications will close on 16 November 2015 and can only be made online through this website www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. Please note the Selective High School Placement Unit DOES NOT accept any late applications.

Selective high schools cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with others gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for selective high school placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Selective High School Placement Test results. The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on Thursday 10 March 2016.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 7 selective high school entry in 2017 you will need to apply on the internet using a valid email address. Detailed instructions on how to apply are provided on the website and the school has a few information booklets.

For any further information or an instruction booklet please see Ms Andreu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 October 2015</td>
<td>Application opens, online only, for 2017 entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 November 2015</td>
<td>Applications close. No late applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 February 2016</td>
<td>Test authority letters sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 March 2016</td>
<td>Selective High School Placement Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by 25 March 2016</td>
<td>Illness/misadventure claims submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by 29 April 2016</td>
<td>Change of school choice requested</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early July 2016</td>
<td>Placement outcome advice sent</td>
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Key Dates for entry to Year 7 in 2017

Breakfast Club Registration

I would like my child .......................................................... in class ................... to attend the Breakfast Club on:

☐ Monday  ☐ Tuesday  ☐ Wednesday  ☐ Thursday  ☐ Friday

* Please tick which days you would like your child to attend.

I understand that my child will be served only cereal (with milk if required), toast, fruit and non-nut spreads. Special needs of my child of which you should be aware (eg allergies, medication):

.................................................................................................................................

Signed: ............................................................................................................. Date: ........................................

(Parent or Caregiver)