STAFFING NEWS

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter Lorraine Griffin is working in the front office Monday-Thursdays while Pauleen is on leave. Judith Millington has been on sick leave for the last few weeks and is due to start back at work from Monday Week 8, 18th March. Bern Geddes has been covering Judith’s hours so student support programs have continued to run. Josie Smallacombe will be on Long Service Leave from 18th March until the end of the term. While she is on leave Leonie Thomas will cover Josie’s teaching responsibilities from Wednesday to Friday and Morgan Slattery will teach the Year 5/6/7 full time.

RESPONSIBILITY

Our school value for Term 1 is Responsibility – (be responsible for yourself and others). Teachers have been working on this in class along with the Student Code of Conduct.

GARAGE SALE

Items still available for sale include a chest freezer, electric organ, 4m blackboard, various school chairs. Approx. $470 has been raised from the sale so far.

STUDENT ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is going to be absent from school for more than 3 days because of family reasons (e.g. family holiday) it is important to seek exemption from attendance from the Principal before hand. Forms are available from the office. It is important for students to attend school whenever possible. Our aim this year is to achieve at least 95% or higher average attendance over the year. Last year our average fell just short at 93.7%.
We understand that student absence due to sickness is unavoidable as is also time when some families are able to take holidays. As important, are students being on time for school. Even 5 mins late on a regular basis adds up to a lot of important time being missed.

Kathy Arthur
Principal

Calendar Dates

- Thurs. 28th Feb, Friday 1st March – Leaders Days
- Tues. March 5th – SAPSASA Tennis Trials Jamestown, Girls 8.30am, Boys 11.00am start.
- Tues. 12th March – RE Seminars.
- Mon. 18th March – Governing Council Meeting.

For Sale by Tender
John Deere LT 155 with a 36ins cut. School purchased this mower new in 2000 and is in very good working order. If you would like to inspect the mower please contact the school (86632543) to arrange a time.
Tenders close on Friday 1st March 4pm. Tenders to be addressed to the Principal, Laura Primary School, and marked “Confidential tender”. Please include your name and contact details on the tender. No tender necessarily accepted.

Student of the Week
Week 3
Presented to
TATE NETTLE
For a hardworking approach and excellent storywriting.

Student of the Week
Week 4
Presented to
NOAH ZWAR
For outstanding leadership skills and for being a positive role model to all students.
Our school values 2013 - Responsibility - Honesty

As I move around the classrooms I will be recognising the work that the teachers and students are putting into re-emphasising the values we teach in our school. It begins in the classrooms and the teachers have been finding new ways to talk about these important skills that the students need to learn. In the R/1 class this week I took photos of students and some of the new year’s resolutions they made which were divided into the areas of health, friends, school and home. Here are some of their comments; Play with people that are alone, Letting me play your game, Feed my dog, make my bed, swap my reading book, practise neat writing, letting others join in. The value for this term is that of responsibility. I see students learning this skill by taking responsibility in packing up and taking turns, and being reminded of taking responsibility for their actions. The students already know a lot of the concepts but in partnership with the home environment we can help them to develop the skills of putting them into practise. Next week the BUZZ award goes out to acknowledge a student who is actively being a responsible student in our school.

CPSW – Helen Wurst.
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

5. Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes. Life is not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away, illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others. Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties. Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities. There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience. Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school. Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.
Rangers Soccer Trials
and Registrations 2013
Under 8 / Under 10 / Primary school / High School
Monday 4th March
Gladstone High School Oval 4.30pm start
please bring Shin pads, old soccer boots as they may be able to be swapped with other players for a different size
If unable to attend on the night, but are wanting to play please email me with your name to be included
lisa.reynolds2@bigpond.com

CRYSTAL BROOK HOCKEY CLUB
Registration day: Tuesday, 5th March at 4.00pm at The Crystal Brook Hockey Fields
Come up for a FREE sausage sizzle and register to play hockey for 2013. Seniors and U18’s can register during their training later that night at 6.00pm.
If you are unable to make it please email Helen Cairns at narvaro@yahoo.com for a registration form or call Ali Gulin on 0407 362 694 to express your interest.

Teams we are looking to fill are:
U9’s MIXED
U12 Girls/Boys
U15 Girls/Boys
U18 Boys
Div 3 Men
Div 2 or 3 Women