PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

This is the final newsletter for term one 2013. Last weekend a number of parents attended the working bee to commence work on the covered area at the back of the school. A big thank you to those parents that were able to come.

Last Friday we enjoyed a day at Kingstown to participate in the Small Schools Cross Country. Congratulations goes to Abby Endacott and Harrison Miller for gaining first place in their age group. Second place went to Toby Endacott and Lily Burke and third place went to Jesse Cross.

The school will be participating in the Uralla ANZAC Day March on Thursday 25th April. All students are encouraged to march. We will meet at 9.45am outside the Anglican Church. Students should wear full school uniform including hats.

I am delighted to congratulate Samantha and Omphile on the impending birth of their first child. Samantha will be taking leave from late term 3. Mrs Margaret Beal will be taking charge of lower division from this time.

Uniforms

Tyreena has received the long sleeve school shirts and these can be picked up from her house through the holidays. All shirts must be paid for before they are picked up. Please ring Tyreena on 0413 503 452.

Working Bee

The P&C will be holding another working bee during the holidays to work on the extension of the back covered area. This will be held on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April commencing at 8.30am. Any assistance will be appreciated.

Street Stall

The P&C are looking for donations for the street stall to be held 13-18th May. They also need volunteers to man the stall that week. If you can help out please see Megan Page.

Police Visit

The police were called to the school this week after a suspect attempt to break into the school. Please be vigilant when passing the school and report any suspicious activities. Police will be increasing their surveillance both at night and through the day including weekends and holidays.
**Regular School Attendance**

Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary they will have missed over a year of education?

Schools play a vital role in the social and emotional development of children. Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. Confident children are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour.

If students miss out on basic skills in the early years of school, they may experience learning problems in later years.

Regular roll checks are carried out by officers from the Department of Education. Principals are required to report any students with less than 85% attendance. This includes whole days as well as partial absences.

Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minding younger siblings and other children
- Minor family events such as birthdays
- Hair cuts

If your child is absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- Send a note to school, or contact the school via electronic means such as fax or email, or
- Telephone the school, or
- Visit the school

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school.

**Arrival on Time**

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures students don't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
- Reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption