Leader’s Report

Successful Student Free Day

Last week saw staff visit Hackam East PS and Flagstaff Hill PS to observe literacy practices by other well accomplished teachers. Staff always welcomes the chance to observe and share ideas and our teachers returned with some excellent ideas to implement in their classroom. Three staff also attended a Geography conference and again gained a lot of useful ideas and information.

Canteen

A canteen survey will be coming home with this newsletter and I ask that you take the time to complete it and return it before the end of next week. Our canteen is having financial difficulty and we may need to reduce the opening times drastically. This is certainly not desirable as it is a good service we offer you the parents. One way you can help is to offer some volunteer time if able. Please ring school if you are able to assist.

School Crossing

At the beginning of each year we find it hard to ‘man’ our school crossings until students have been trained by SAPOL. This is happening on Tuesday March 11th. Unfortunately a number of motorists fail to understand the law is 25km/hour near school zones and continue to speed. We have alerted police about this and they will have a presence. I have 1 parent willing to ‘man’ a crossing in the mornings and I would appreciate others to help. This parent is also willing to do the crossing training and I encourage other to also consider this.

Governing Council

We still welcome parents to join our Governing Council and have a say in the operation of our school. Our next meeting is Tuesday, 8th April at 7pm in our staff room. We meet twice per term in weeks 3 & 8 on a Tuesday evening. Meetings are very informal but so important to ensure our students are receiving the best we can give! If you wish to have more information please feel free to ring Greg Cox on 82763055.
Congratulations

School Captains in 2014
Kazimir Barnett
Paige Bowers
Grace Popplestone

House Captains
Hall
Addy Dhingra & Michaela Torr
Beckwith
Kazimir Barnett & Shana Pearce
Stoyel
Travis Williams, Maddy Payne & Abbey Molina
Bakker
Nick Matthews, Ronan Murphy-O’Neil & Banin Ghazi

Garden Club – Heather Smith
Garden club meets at recess time every Monday. It is a loose association of whom-ever wants to be in the garden at that time and we can have between 5-10 or more students weeding, watering, looking, tasting, socializing or seed collecting. (Mint is still our favourite tasting plant.)
We have collected seeds from our marigolds, dill and parsley.
Students have decided to divide the harvest so that half goes back to the garden and half is sold to earn money for new seeds, compost or mulch.

Last Monday we planted carrots and radishes because the carrots we harvested last year were delicious raw and the radishes, although not delicious were so pretty we ate them anyway. That was a new experience for lots of students.

We have flowers on our pumpkins, chillies, watermelons, nasturtiums, yarrow, oregano and marigolds. Lots of little seedlings came up after the rain but they are not yet big enough to identify. (Will they be weeds or not?) Our potatoes are certainly growing like weeds.
We also have a new tomato plant thanks to Maddie Payne.

CPS CORNER

Hasn’t the weather been exciting lately?!! We have gone through record-breaking heatwaves, tree-uprooting winds and flooding rains. This pattern of life in Australia is well-known by those whose home it is and could not be better described than by the iconic poem written in 1904 by Dorothea Mackellar. Here is the second verse:

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror –
The wide brown land for me!

In her use of the word ‘terror’ (second last line) we find her acknowledging the tragedies that can occur because of wind, fire and water – tragedies wherein lie the terror of the experience and the fear of its recurrence. This terror is all too real. But note how this word is only one word of the forty words of the verse. The rest of the verse is governed by the word ‘love’ and expresses the magnificence of the natural environment which is always there despite tragedy.
The poem teaches us that the power of love is far greater than that of tragedy.

You have already seen the hot cross buns on the shelves even though the season for them does not really start until next week. This season is called Lent and is the period of preparation leading up to the celebration of Easter in mid-April. Lent starts next Wednesday - called Ash Wednesday and is noted for people’s commitment to “fasting” or doing without something. In the Middle Ages people went without milk, fats and eggs during Lent. In order not to waste these items the last day before Lent was used to use up all these ingredients in the making of pancakes. This day became the day of great fun and festivity known as Shrove/Pancake Tuesday.

All the best until next time
Karen

CPSW
CANTEEN SURVEY FOR PARENTS / CARERS

Ascot Park Primary School has been lucky to maintain a five-day a week canteen but with increasing losses made by the canteen we can’t see how to continue this. The loss made by the canteen comes directly out of resources for our students and affects their education.

The Governing Council is in the process of reviewing our canteen’s opening hours, policies and menu items and we would like your views on our canteen.

1. How many children do you have enrolled in our school? ____________

2. Do you give your child/children money to spend at the canteen?
   - Daily
   - Once a week
   - Once or twice a term
   - Once or twice a year
   - Never

3. Do you know what food items are sold in the canteen?
   - Yes
   - No

4. How do you rate the school canteen?
   - Excellent
   - O.K.
   - Poor

5. Are you happy with the variety of food currently available?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not sure
What changes would you like to see?
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________ 
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

6. If your children do not use the canteen very often, can you tell us why? (Please tick all that apply)
   - Range of foods offered
   - Religious/cultural food restrictions
   - Allergies / intolerances
   - Don’t know what’s available
   - Canteen opening times
   - Other (please specify)

8. If we were to only have the canteen open two days per week, what days would you prefer?
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________

9. Would you like to say anything else about our school canteen?
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________

7. Would you be willing to volunteer in? □ Yes □ No
   If “No”, why not?
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________
   __________________________________

Thank you for completing this survey. Once the surveys have been compiled we will let you know the results in the newsletter.
TERM 1 CANTEEN SPECIALS

Pizza and Garlic bread
$4.50

Hot Dog and Choc Milk
$5.00

4x Chicken Nuggets and Hashbrown
$3.00

Nachos and Spring Water
$4.50

Chicken Burger and Icy Pole
$4.50