



Avoca Beach Public School Newsletter



Term 1

2009

Week 9

23rd March, 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

THE SCHOOL FAIR - Sunday 29 March from 11.00 - 4.00

It has been all systems go for many weeks now. The level of participation by parents in the organisation and preparation for the school fair this year has been outstanding. With fine weather everything is pointing to a fantastic day.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION within an organisation is underpinned by recognition of responsibilities by all members. As a school community we are currently identifying the responsibility teachers have re communication with parents and the responsibility parents have re communication with teachers. Included in this newsletter is a draft outline of these responsibilities which were tabled at the last P&C meeting. If you would like to make any further suggestions please use the space on the tear-off slip provided.

A number of issues raised at the meeting include:

- The use of student diaries as a daily form of communication. Diaries (sometimes referred to as communication books) are used to promote communication between the school and home when a student is experiencing emotional or behavioural difficulties. They are usually used on a short term basis while the teacher and parent work together to address an issue. These diaries can be initiated by teachers or parents.
- Time will be allocated for each classroom teacher to conduct teacher/parent interviews towards the end of term two to discuss student progress and achievement.
- Parents can contact teachers via a letter/note, in person or by a phone call to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. Teachers email addresses will not be supplied to parents by the school until necessary protocols are established by the DET.
- We are currently looking into emailing weekly newsletters home to families and carers. Hard copies will still be available.
- A presentation is being planned for interested parents to see first hand the use of Reading Lexia and interactive whiteboards.
- Head lice are a continual problem. Please check your children's hair each night and treat according to doctor's advice.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING - BUILDING THE EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION

Applications closed last Monday 16 March. As a result of consultation with our school community the following projects have been submitted for consideration:-

- Covered walkway from the bottom school gate to the basketball courts
- Shade covering for the two sets of fixed playground equipment
- An upgrade of all K-2 classrooms.
- Cola over basketball courts
- A Cola in the Stage 2 area
- Interactive whiteboards for all classrooms
- Replacement of the two demountables with a permanent building.
- Extension of Block B for additional storage
- Disabled and stroller access to the front office from the front of the school.
- Security fence around the perimeter of the school grounds.

I'm led to believe we will be notified of the outcome of these submissions before the end of this term.

Peter Whelan,
Principal.

REMINDERS

- School Costs—\$38 per student, maximum of \$80 for 3 or more students payable at school office.
- Year 6 T-Shirts \$25.
- Year 4 Camp Toukley 6.4.09—7.4.09 \$105.
- School Fair 29.3.09.

HELP!

We need donations of ice cream containers to be used for counting money at the school fair. Please send to the school office.

HEY KIDS! It's your last big chance to perform at the fair! Our exciting program kicks off with:

11.00am	School Jazz Rock Band
11.30am	Violin Group
12.00pm	Josie Griffiths—singer
12.30pm	Tom Hutchin—guitarist
1.00pm—2.30pm	Lunch time band
2.30pm	"The Mystery Musicians"

Spots free from 3pm—4pm.

Contact Leann on 4382 6615 or 0421 820 316.

COLONIAL SHOW

Last Monday, Stage 2 had a Colonial Day. It was fun, spectacular and overwhelming. We all came to school dressed in clothes worn by convicts, soldiers and free settlers.

There was a show with three actors. The characters were James Murphy, Anne Fowles and Sergeant John Kennedy.

When we first arrived at the hall we met the actors and participated in three activities.

Firstly, we were with Anne Fowles who taught us about life in the first settlement and how there were few tools and little food.

Secondly, we met with James, who talked to us about life for the convicts on the ships to Australia. We found out that ten convicts were locked into an area the size of a dinner table, with a roof so low they could not stand up. There were no lights and two buckets. One bucket contained water and the other was used as a toilet. The convicts needed to be very careful to use the right bucket when it was dark. Many died from diseases such as scurvy and smallpox on their trip to Australia.

Next we were with Sergeant Kennedy who taught us about muskets and how the first convicts and soldiers adapted to life in the new colony.

The rest of the day involved role playing life on the ships as convicts, soldiers and being part of a court case where a thief was convicted to lashes and transportation to the new colony.

We also ate sausage sandwiches for lunch and joined in singing songs.

It was the most fun day ever!

Thank you to the many parents who helped cook our sausages for lunch.

Meg Matuschka, Lucy Kemp, Lauren Tobin.

