**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11 May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Fun Run at the Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18 May</td>
<td>School Cross Country at the Country Club PP – Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 May</td>
<td>Interschool Cross Country in Manjimup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Good Evening Everyone,

Welcome back to a busy Term 2; I trust you had an enjoyable mid-Semester break with your children.

**ANZAC DAY CEREMONY**

This is an important day on the Australian calendar. Special thanks to Ms Walker and the Senior Students for their organisation and presentation of our Anzac Day Service last Friday. On behalf of the School community I also thank Anthony Thompson for his presentation on the meaning of Anzac Day.

Thank you also to Mrs Kendrick and the students who participated in the Community Celebration on Anzac Day.

**UR WALPOLE**

A wide variety of activities inside and outside the School will be taking place during this term. Where necessary (WOW excursions and where transport is required) a permission note will be sent home prior to the activity taking place. Some classes have already begun their journey and students appear to be relishing the opportunity to participate in the activities.

Thank you to the teachers and to Gary Muir and other helpers who make this such a valuable learning experience.

**NAPLAN TESTING**

Tests will be conducted during the week commencing 14 May in Literacy (Reading, Writing and Language Conventions) and Numeracy. It will be appreciated if you can make sure that as far as possible students attend School each day of this week.

These tests are a point in time assessment of where students ‘are at’ in their learning journey and provide important data for teachers to include in their range of assessments that contribute to students’ Semester 1 reports.

Keep your expectations high but realistic. Accept that most students are average yet still manage to lead happy, productive lives as adults. Good behaviour and manners, a positive attitude, a willingness to try their hardest, and conscientious work habits will help most children do well at school and in life.

Reassure your children that they can’t be good at everything. Then give them the space to discover and develop their own strengths. Admire the achievements of other people’s children without trying to make your children emulate them – or feel inadequate if they can’t.

Unofficial marking of tests by teachers will begin immediately following tests and preliminary results with analysis should be available by early June. Testing of Years 4 and 6 is being done to assist identification of learning that has occurred since they were tested in Years 3 and 5 – this data is unofficial but is important in supporting teachers in their planning of learning activities.

Teachers will communicate with parents before the end of term with regards to arranging times to discuss overall student performance including NAPLAN results.
CROSS COUNTRY

Over the next few weeks students will be in training for the Championships which will take place again at the Country Club on Friday 18 May followed by Interschool Championships on Friday 25 May. ALL students participating in the Interschool Championships will be required to travel to Manjimup by bus with the team. Further information to follow in due course.

This year the P&C is conducting a Fun Run which will also be used as a chance to practise running the course; this will take place at the Country Club on Friday 11 May.

Please return sponsorship forms and money to the office by Friday 18 May.

NATIONAL SOLAR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

We now have a 250 000L water tank installed behind the hall collecting the water that its roof captures. This water will be used to reticulate the vegetable garden and orchard and if necessary some water may be pumped to the tank outside the toilets to maintain necessary supply for toilet flushing.

NONE of this water can be used for drinking purposes.

The next stage is the installation of solar panels that will provide the School with its power source for many years to come. Following further investigation we have been able to access further grant funds and we will receive a much larger output system than previously planned.

The company contracted to complete this work has been taken over by another company and accordingly works have stalled. We are hopeful that this development will be completed this term.

CANBERRA CAMP 2014

Staff will shortly be calling a meeting of parents to discuss our next trip and to determine levels of fundraising, transport and other matters. The camp for Senior students (Years 5-7) is booked to take place during the period August 9-16 inclusive.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Prior to students returning to School staff spent two days investigating Australia Curriculum changes as we move towards a National Curriculum.

Whilst some changes are not dramatic there is a significant upwards shift in the expectations of what students at ALL levels (from Kindergarten upwards) are expected to achieve across all learning areas. If your child comes home and indicates that their work seems harder, it probably is and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is fundamental to your child’s learning. Consistent attendance and participation are essential for your child’s social and academic learning.

As parents or legal guardians of an enrolled child, you are responsible under the School Education Act 1999 to ensure the attendance of your child at school every day. It is important to assist your child’s achievement and learning by making regular school attendance a priority in your child’s life.

The Department of Education’s Student Attendance policy requires parents/guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the school principal for any absence of their children.

Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as ‘authorised’ by the principal.

As the parent/guardian you must obtain the principal’s approval for any planned absence.

BRINGING TOYS/EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOL

Our school has a policy that no toys, games, collector cards, electronic gadgets (Ipods, mobile phones) and other personal items are brought to school unless under agreement with the class teacher and they are here for educational purposes. They should not be played with during school time or recesses but may be used in the classroom as directed by the teacher. Bus students who use electronic equipment travelling to/from School MUST place apparatus in box on Registrar’s desk when they arrive at School and collect it before departing after school.
We do this as past experience tells us that items may be damaged, stolen, misused, lost or misplaced. They are also used by some as a way to create in-crowd / outcrowd behaviour.

We are very mindful in particular of the role that mobile phones and the internet play in cyber bullying which is a real threat to our students. Please make sure that mobile phones are not brought to school.

We ask that you support us in this policy and ensure that students remain within it. Thanks. This is to everyone’s benefit.

**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORT**

This term’s community activities include soccer, hockey, gymnastics, karate and Australian Football. Information will be sent home shortly for Soccer and hockey. Australian Football is conducted on Tuesday afternoons; Gymnastics (for Years K-3) will commence on Wednesday 10 May and Karate is held on Thursdays.

ALL students participating in these activities are to gather on the Kindergarten side of the front entry pathway where the roll will be called. They will then be escorted across the road to the oval. Students who do not follow this procedure may be excluded from the day’s activities. **This procedure is necessary to avoid possible accidents; students have been observed crossing the road between buses without taking the necessary safety precautions.**

Parents may, if they wish, sign out students and arrange individual transport to sports sessions.

Yachting students are currently participating in Sunday morning sessions with great enthusiasm. Thanks to the many community volunteers who are supporting this activity.

If you have any matter that you wish to discuss please telephone the office to make a mutually convenient appointment.

Have a great fortnight!

*Richard Walker*

---

**This Fortnight’s thoughts**

"It's choice -- not chance -- that determines your destiny."

Jean Nidetch

"You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space."

Johnny Cash
EDUCATION TAX REFUND

How to claim the education tax refund

Annette Sampson, Sydney Morning Herald, 3 February 2010

What refund is that? If you don’t know, you could be among the taxpayers entitled to about $500 million in unclaimed tax breaks.

Recent figures from the Australian Tax Office show only half of all eligible families have lodged claims for education expenses in their recent tax returns.

Treasurer Wayne Swan says many families were unaware of the education tax refund and could be missing out on a break worth up to $750 if their child is in high school and $375 for students in primary school.

With most parents having to dip into their pockets to send their kids back to school, it’s important to remember to keep those receipts and claim your tax refund when tax time comes.

How does the refund work?

Read entire article for information on eligibility and how to claim for 2011-2012:


THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE ACSSO (National Parent Body) NEWSLETTER

THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE – Live it at HOME

In June-July 2012 students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months.

Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia.

This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

Step Parenting

Sessions Include:

- Anxiety and Expectations: The Couple in the Stepfamily
- The Future: See the Future, Parents in the Stepfamily
- Birth Issues in Stepfamilies
- The Stepfamily Journey

Where: St John’s Centre
44 Collie St, Albany
Date: Six sessions
Starting: Friday 11 May 2012
Time: 1:00pm - 2:45pm
Cost: $20 for entire course
Bookings are essential
Phone Marion on 98266614

A Cushion Concert for Kids

.....comes to Denmark!

This interactive concert will capture the imaginations of 3-8 year old children.

From Playschool to Mozart:

A Cushion Concert for Kids will engage, entertain and educate young music lovers as they march with wooden soldiers, drive Tujana taxis, and play percussion with William Tell.

Does your child have what it takes to play a trumpet?

The really big question is..... How does a 50-piece Concert band cope with a 5 year old conductor?

SUNDAY 6th May
2pm
Denmark Civic Centre
Tickets $10
On sale now at Spot Newsagency

After sell-out performances in Albany