Principal’s Report

Dear Parents/Care Givers,

Welcome back to school for a very busy Term 2. It is wonderful to have all our children back smiling and settled to start the term learning.

This term we had an ANZAC Ceremony organised by Mr Easton. The school counsellors in Year 6 did a fantastic job of presenting the Ceremony. We had a special visitor, Warden Officer Avaient from the Dundas Army Barracks, who shared his thoughts on the importance of ANZAC Day and answered the children’s questions about his experience in the army. It was also encouraging to see parents attending our ANZAC Ceremony to commemorate the special day and to support our school.

This week we held our Mother’s Day stall to raise money for the P & C. Thank you to all families who donated gifts. Thanks to Ms Stuart and Mrs Oughton for their organisation. We wish all mothers a wonderful day on Sunday.

The school held its annual School Cross Country this Friday. Thank you, Mrs Judge, for organising the event and well done to all the students who participated. Students who made the time trials will attend the Zone Cross Country in Week 4, Friday 23rd May.

This term has also seen a few changes to the whole school timetable to ensure our prime learning time between 9:00am and 11:00am is uninterrupted.

Library and Scripture will now be held on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00pm. Champions will need to come to school prepared for PE on Wednesdays.

Over the school holidays we were extremely fortunate to have the school foyer and admin office spaces re-painted courtesy of Department. These areas now look fresh and inviting.
Last week in our assembly we celebrated the social and academic achievements of our students. It was wonderful to see some parents attend our assembly. Assemblies will be held every second Friday in the school library at 2:30pm. All parents and carers are welcome.

In Science Champions and Heroes have been doing self-assessment.

As the weather is starting to become cool especially in the mornings, it is important that your child comes to school with a school jumper. Please ensure all clothing is labelled. If there is an issue and your child is unable to wear a school jumper please send in a note to inform the teachers.

Ms Vicky Wallace
Relieving Principal

Book Packs
Thank you to the parents who have paid for their book packs. Our book packs make a great difference to the effectiveness of our teaching of your child. Cost of the pack is $35 or $30 for each of your children after the first.
Update of Family Information
In order to have the most up-to-date information for your child we are in the process of sending home forms to update the information held on file.

If you have not yet returned the ‘Permission to Publish’ forms sent home towards the end of last term, can you please return these as soon as possible.

Another area that we are required to update is the parental education and occupation information. This information determines our school’s funding loading for social-economic backgrounds and incomplete or incorrect information can impact our funding. These forms will be sent out to families over the coming weeks with further information.

Stewart House Appeals
Stewart House Donation Drive envelopes need to be returned by next Tuesday or earlier. Donations of $2 will give you a chance to win a $4000 family holiday and support the 1 800 children who attend Stewart House each year.

Advance notice for the Stewart Housing Clothing Appeal. In mid-June the clothing appeal bags will be sent home and it is a good opportunity to clear out cupboards and drawers of unwanted items such as clothing, blankets and quilts. Bags will be collected from school on Tuesday 24th June.

If you would like to know more about the work that Stewart House does please visit their website www.stewarthouse.org.au.

Printable planners for homework and study
School A to Z has printable monthly planners which include school holidays and the numbered weeks of each Term (for example Monday 19th May is the start of Week 4, in Term 2). Print one for each child to stick on the fridge or on their noticeboards. It’s a great way to teach them how scheduling their time means they’ll to fit in the fun activities as well as their other commitments and responsibilities. Download May 2014 at http://bit.ly/UbmQz8

Children, social media and privacy
Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- A quarter of Australian children 8 - 12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years.
- More than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram
- Young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

2014 Privacy Awareness Week, 4 - 10 May 2014, is a good time to review your family’s privacy settings and discuss online security. You’ll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

Grammar Tips
The NSW Department of Education and Training provides a range of online resources that may be of assistance to you and your child. Included within these resources are a range of Tips on Grammar which can be found at www.SchoolAtoZ.com.au/homework-and-study/english.