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FOR YOUR DIARY

- Literacy Numeracy week 29 August—4 September
- Parent/Teacher Interviews Week 8 Tuesday 13 September
- Alawa School's 40th Birthday Celebrations (Bush Dance) week 9, 22 September

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Staff survey Results | 2 |
| Library Chatter | 2 |
| Council News | 3 |
| Canteen News | 3 |
| Swimming Term 4 | 4 |
| Census | 4 |

Alawa Primary School Learning Caring and Sharing

Issue: 23

Tuesday 16 August 2011

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

In the last few newsletters, I informed parents that we have received the results from the Parent Opinion Survey conducted by National School Surveys. Again, many thanks to those parents who completed the survey as this information will assist in our strategic planning later this year. Staff, parents and our older students completed the survey. In the last few weeks we have shared the results from the student and parent survey. This week, we are sharing the overall results from the staff survey. The staff survey report provided staff perceptions of the nine key areas for Alawa Primary and these were measured against the National School Surveys benchmarks, which were obtained from a diverse range of schools nationwide.

1. Guidance and Support

This area measures whether staff feel that they have access to support services within their school. It assesses whether staff feel that they are being supported through the transition from each school year. In addition, this area assesses staff members' opinions of well-being support and whether there are accessible and helpful services.

2. School Environment

This area measures whether staff feel that the school environment is comfortable and inviting to themselves and students. It assesses staff members' perceptions of school cleanliness, safety, equality, and students' pride and enjoyment with their school.

3. Morale

This area measures staff members' perceptions of the school atmosphere. It assesses whether staff believe that there is a level of respect between teachers and non-teachers, whether there are high levels of energy within the school, and whether there is a sense of school spirit.

4. School Curriculum

This area measures whether staff members feel that the curriculum is innovative and caters to individual needs of children. It assesses staff members' opinions of the variety of subjects offered, the standard of schoolwork expected, the appropriateness of class activities and homework.

5. Learning Environment

This area measures staff members' perceptions of the learning opportunities offered within the school. It assesses whether staff members believe that the school environment is conducive to students' learning, whether special interests are developed and whether students are motivated and encouraged to achieve high results.

6. Personal Development

This area measures whether staff feel that the school focuses on their personal development. It assesses whether staff believe that they have enough opportunities to participate in personal development activities, and whether the activities are enriching and worthwhile.

7. School Communication

This area measures staff members' perceptions of the school's communications. It assesses whether staff members are informed about school matters, whether

concerns are taken seriously, and whether there are opportunities for staff to become involved in decision-making processes.

8. Technology and Resources

This area measures staff members' perceptions of the technology and resources offered in the school. It assesses whether staff members believe that the school is keeping up-to-date with advancements in technology, whether the resources are accessible and of high quality, and whether there are effective policies in place regarding students' use of computers.

9. Leadership and Management

This area measures staff members' perceptions of the school leadership and management. It assesses whether staff members believe that there is openness between school administrators and staff members, whether there is effective leadership and direction, and whether issues are dealt with properly. It also considers the moral, ethical and civic values of the school

Staff Survey Results

As is evident, staff have identified Technology & Resources as an area for school improvement which is consistent with the responses from students and parents. This is important data for our strategic planning this year.

If any parent would like to see the survey results in more detail, please have a read of the hard copy in the front office – it is quite comprehensive.

This week's Assembly is hosted by 5/6 Haywood. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Fathma Mauer
Principal

Alawa Primary School's Results (N=15) compared with Overall Sample (N=2,963)

Your school's results are compared with the overall benchmarks from the National Sample.

Red percentage scores indicate that your school is lower than the National Sample.

| Key Area | National Benchmark Mean | Alawa Primary School Mean Score | Difference in benchmark |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Guidance and Support | 67.5% | 81.8% | +14.3% |
| 2. School Environment | 62.3% | 84.6% | +22.3% |
| 3. Morale | 66.9% | 82.2% | +15.3% |
| 4. School Curriculum | 69.4% | 79.4% | +10.0% |
| 5. Goal Congruence | 71.2% | 83.0% | +11.8% |
| 6. Personal Development | 63.4% | 76.9% | +13.5% |
| 7. School Communication | 62.1% | 80.2% | +18.1% |
| 8. Technology and Resources | 55.3% | 54.6% | -0.7% |
| 9. Leadership and Management | 64.7% | 84.6% | +19.9% |
| OVERALL | 64.8% | 78.6% | +13.8% |

Library Chatter

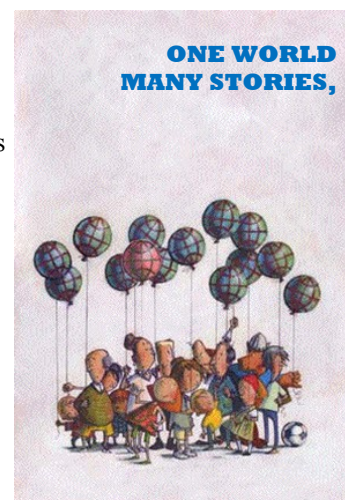
Next week (20 – 27 August) is Book Week and each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. The theme in 2011 is... **One World, Many Stories**. The Children's Book Council of Australia celebrates and supports Australian authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults, primarily through the Children's Book of the Year Awards. Our school is a member of this organisation. If you would like to visit their website, go to <http://cbca.org.au>. We will be looking at some of these books throughout the week and reviewing them. The following week (29 – 2 September), will be Scholastic BookFair. Once again students will be able to view books in the library, take a wish list home and you can purchase books for your child/ren. The students are getting excited when I let them know. We receive a commission from our sales and from that we purchase books for the library. I will let you know more about this event next newsletter.

If anyone has a stack of plastic shopping bags, could you please send them along with your child/ren to the library, as students need a bag to be able to take their book/s home.

QUOTE: "If you can read this, thank a teacher." – Anonymous teacher

Happy Reading

Mrs Price



Council News



Father's Day Raffle

Council would greatly appreciate donations from families for our Father's Day raffle as soon as possible please. (Generic items, No alcohol, etc.) Please donate by end of August.

Woolworths Earn and Learn points

Please keep your Woolworths shopping docket and bring them to school:

From July 18th to September 18th 2011, Woolworths will give shoppers 1 Earn & Learn point for every \$10 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards or purchases made through Woolworths online or at Caltex Woolworths co-branded fuel outlets). Points will automatically appear on your shopping docket, which you simply take to your school for collection. When the 9-week program ends, schools redeem points against a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources including library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more. Website for more information for parents: <http://www.earnandlearn.net.au/>

Coles Sports for Schools

Please collect and bring in your Coles Sports for Schools

Vouchers. Collecting vouchers is easy! Every member of your school's community will earn one voucher for every \$10 spent in a Coles, Coles Online, BI-LO or Pick 'n' Pay store from

August 11th thru to October 18th just for doing their regular shop! Plus throughout the program there will be opportunities to collect bonus vouchers with our special promotional offers on selected products. So keep an eye out in store, online and on TV!



Canteen

Canteen Specials for this week.

Friday 19/8/11

Recess: Homemade Pizzas \$2.50

Lunch: Spaghetti Bolognese and Garlic Bread—Small: \$4.50 Large: \$5.50

Monday 22/8/11

Recess: Homemade Chicken Pies \$2.50

Lunch: Special Fried Rice—Small: \$4.50 Large: \$5.50

Thank you from

Roula & Janet



Ice Cups

Ice cups will be sold on Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school by Year 6 students, as a fundraiser for their graduation. Ice cups will cost 50c



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD SWIMMING

Just a reminder that this will be Term 4 weeks 3 and 4.
Cost is \$50 per child



Number, numbers and more numbers. Students in Miss Bernardino's Maths group have been investigating large numbers. Last Tuesday, 9 August, students listened to and discussed with their teacher what CENSUS is all about, the importance of data collected and what the government does with the data which has been collected. Then students used information from the 2006 Census to label a map of Australia with population sizes.

