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8 October 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Welcome back to term four.

This is a hot and humid time of year and children (and adults) can struggle with sleep patterns and therefore become cranky and lose their enthusiasm for learning. A good night's sleep which starts at a reasonable hour is usually the answer to this.

Another focus to assist children to achieve their very best is to make sure they get a good breakfast and have sufficient recess and lunch.

We look forward to a term full of learning and fun.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Monday of this week was a very productive day for our staff. We started by working with Aly de Groot who will be with us this term after we won a grant for an 'Artist in Schools' program.

We then worked on our school 'Writing' curriculum and spent time going over the document that we have developed throughout term three in response to our focus on improvement in this area. Next we all worked towards setting our goals for school improvement which will be incorporated into our School Improvement Plan.

While I am aware of the disruption such days can cause to families I hope that you can understand the great benefit they can bring to our staff knowledge and skills and therefore to your child's learning.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

As promised, over the page are some results from our recent Year 3 and 5 NAP tests that were conducted in May of this year. These tests help us to compare our success as compared to national expectations. They should be taken as a snapshot and used with other school assessments.

We have found that some children performed below and sometimes well below their expected level and this could be for various reasons such as health or mood on the day, stress caused by testing, application to doing their best in tests.

While the table following needs quite a bit of explanation and needs to be read with the understanding that our small cohort can be the cause of large percentage swings, I think it gives a picture of a school performing at about national expectations but with room for improvement.

	Top 20% of all Australian children	Middle 60% of all Australian children	Lowest 20% of all Australian children
Year 3	Stuart Park Primary children in top, middle, lowest levels		
Reading	12	58	31
Writing	19	60	31
Spelling	21	50	29
Grammar and Punctuation	10	59	31
Numeracy	9	64	28
Year 5	Stuart Park Primary children in top, middle, lowest levels		
Reading	23	55	22
Writing	18	57	25
Spelling	13	61	26
Grammar and Punctuation	23	56	21
Numeracy	17	62	22

Explanation:

In year 3 Reading, 12% of Stuart Park Primary children tested at the level achieved by the top 20% of Australian children, 58% were at the level of the middle 60% of Australian children and 31% were at the level of the lowest 20% of Australian children.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2009

We are keen to work out our enrolment numbers for 2009 and so I am asking for your help in two ways please.

Firstly, if you are intending to enrol another child, or you know someone else who is intending, then we do need to know now. The preschool is filling fast and early knowledge of our school enrolments helps us to cater.

Secondly, we ask that **every** family fills in the attached form to let us know your intentions for next year. We recognise that all children in year 6 will be leaving us so if you only have children in this year level then there is no need for a return.

DEFENCE NEWS

Welcome back! The first morning tea for the term will be held this Friday 10th October in the After School Care room. It starts at 8.20am and everyone is welcome including friends of defence families. If you've thought about coming along but haven't done so we'd love to see you for a chat and a cuppa. Bring the littlies too.

A reminder that DCO have organised the first "Facing the Challenge of Deployment / Separation" afternoon. This is an informal afternoon for those interested in meeting others in a similar situation. It will be held at Driver Primary School Tuesday 14th October at 3pm and children will be looked after. Come along and share your experiences, it's a great way to support each other. If you would like a copy of the flyer, let the office know and I will send one out to you.

Phillipa Cosgrove

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EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSEMBLY

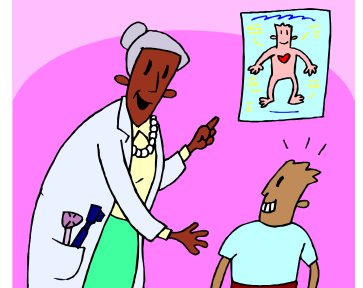
This Friday the T /1 Jeffery class will be presenting the Assembly. All are welcome to join us at 8.30 am.

TRANSITION AND YEAR ONE HEALTH CHECK – 9 and 10 OCTOBER

The School Health Nursing Team of the Department of Health and Families will be holding a series of health checks on all Transition and Year one students tomorrow and Friday.

These checks are an important step in assisting both home and school to ensure that children have the very best opportunity to access learning and health.

Parents are welcome to attend the school to be with their children while this is being done, if they wish.



The following advertisements are not necessarily endorsed by the school

PUCKAPUNYAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Is your family moving to Puckapunyal, Victoria in 2009?
If so, come and meet Kevin Warne, the Principal of the Puckapunyal Primary School at an Information Session at Bakewell Primary School **TONIGHT** at 7pm

We know that families can be apprehensive about another interstate move. All states are different and so are their educational systems. We are looking forward to meeting your family.



6 WEEK TEE BALL COMPETITION

Softball NT is running a 6 week Tee Ball clinic. Aimed at children aged 5 – 11 it will consist of 3-4 weeks of skill development activities in a station rotation format. The last 2-3 weeks the kids will be displaying the skills they have learnt playing an actual game of Tee Ball, these games will be instructional with the emphasis being on learning and improving rather than winning.

Where: Tracy Village Ovals, Tambling Tce, LYONS.

When: Friday afternoons 5.30pm – 6.30pm
17th Oct thru to 21st Nov 2008

Who: Girls and boys aged 5 – 11

Cost: \$25 includes 6 weeks of training, a backpack, hat, t-shirt, stress ball, ruler & stickers.

Danielle at Softball NT on 8927 3333 or Email developmentsoftballnt@bigpond.com

DANCING CLASSES

Dancing develops confidence and self esteem as well as coordination and fine motor skills. Bayside Dance Centre offers Ballet (RAD), Jazz, Tap and BOP classes for children of all ages. Hip Hop and Breakdance classes are also available as well as ballroom dancing classes for social dancers, medallists and competition dancers. Please call 89811190 to enrol now.

DARWIN TRIATHLON CLUB INC.

Juniors Race Series 2008/09

Are you interested in giving Triathlon a go?

Our Junior series (7-15 years old) starts on the 19th October. Come along, wear your swimmers, rashie top, bring your swimming goggles, bike, helmet, running gear, sun screen, water bottle and a parent.

Sunday 19 October at Lake Alexander (sign on / skills day) 7 am registration opens 8 am start (registration closes at 7.45am sharp) Club Membership – \$35 (you receive goodies worth over \$30) Race entry fee – \$3 .

For more information contact Shaye Hatty on 0409956055 or John Thyne on 0423797401

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Please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

YEAR 2009 ATTENDANCE SLIP

My child/ren WILL or WILL NOT (please circle one)

be attending Stuart Park Primary School next year.

Student's name.....current class.....

Student's name.....current class

Student's name.....current class

Parents signature.....Date

If your child will not be returning to us in 2009 what will they be doing? (This is optional)
