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NEWSLETTER

10 September 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In May of this year all children in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all Australian schools sat for the NAP tests. The results of these tests should be available next week and we will send them home with your child.

These tests will show you where your child performed compared to national standards and to the national average. It should be remembered that the tests are a snapshot and some children don't perform well in these kinds of tests so we also need to take into account the school's assessment records.

There will an explanation with the report and we are available at school to assist as needed. For parents who do not have children in these classes there is still an interest value as there will be a report sent that will give an overall picture of how our school performed though this may not be available until early 2009. The school also gets an item bank that shows any areas of weakness or strength and this helps us to plan for our future improvements. For example it may point to a weakness in measuring using centimetre and metre units of measurement. This is great data for us and we look forward to seeing this information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – Monday, 6th October, 2008

As you will be aware, the first day of term four will be a very important professional development day for teachers. The school will therefore re open for students on Tuesday, 7th October.

The school can supply day care to students if necessary. If you wish your child to be in day care for the Monday please fill in the form on the back of this newsletter.

YOUR CAR

I was sent an interesting website where you can check your car's greenhouse impact. It was a bit worrying for me but you might be interested.

www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

On Thursday of this week we will send home a letter from each class to let you know when parent teacher interviews will be held. Due to 'work to rule' restrictions which are part of the Australian Education Union's actions in support of their claims, many classes are arranging different times from the usual evening interviews.

Please fill in the form with the letter and return it as soon as possible to ensure you get a suitable time. Also, remember that our aim is to make a time that works for the teacher and parent so please contact the school if you certainly can't make any of the times offered.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK.

On Wednesday last week, the Early Childhood children, including the Preschool, participated in a range of “hands on maths” activities in the assembly area.

The children had a wonderful time reading numbers, counting, measuring in the sandpit, stamping with money stamps, building with blocks and sorting to name but a few of the activities. We were joined by the preschool children and many parents from our school community. A great morning was had by all!

After recess, the children went back to their classes and wrote about their experiences. It was a wonderful morning to use as an inspiration to write.

The Middle and Upper Primary students had a fantastic morning with students rotating around a number of literacy based activities. A big thank you goes out to all who participated and helped out to make the activities run smoothly.

YEAR 6 CAMP

On the 27, 28, 29th August, Year 6 students went to Jabiru Peaks for a 3 day camp. We camped in tents and participated in a lot of outdoor education activities such as ropes courses and the flying fox. We had a wonderful time with the highlight being when the students water bombed Mr Bree on the flying fox.

Thanks to all of the parent helpers - Leonie Warburton, Michelle Spinks, Sam Cotton, Paul Connell, Ian Hinchcliffe and Pauline Ripp. Without their assistance and support the camp would not have taken place.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS

At this weeks Assembly Calista Yuem and Chloe Hetman each received a Principals award for earning 5 merit Certificates. Well done.

CALENDAR

Date	Day	Event
12 th and 13 th September	Friday and Saturday	The Beat (Friday night is our performance)
13 th September	Saturday	Tournament of the Minds (+ Bledisloe Cup)
15 th September	Monday	School Council Meeting
18 th – 19 th September	Thursday and Friday	Year 3 camp at Lakes Resort
26 th September	Friday	Last day of term 3
6 th October	Monday	Teacher Professional Development Day
7 th October	Tuesday	First day Term 4 for students.
12 th December	Friday	Last day of school year

School website: www.schools.nt.edu.au/stuartpk/

YEAR SIX TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Information packs will come to our school towards the end of October and we will send them home for parents to fill in and return. Our students will be visited by teachers from Darwin Middle School during term 4 and the students will then spend a day in various classes at the Middle School so that they get to know some teachers and how to find their way around. More information will be sent as we work this program out.

MUSIC NEWS

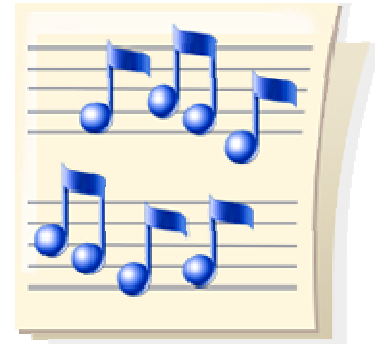
INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Due to some music teachers commitments to The Beat practices and performances the following teachers were not available for lessons:

Helene Sweatman (Brass)

Tim Hall (Guitar and percussion).

This Friday some of our woodwind and brass students will begin weekly practise for the Darwin City Cluster Band. This will be held regularly on Fridays.

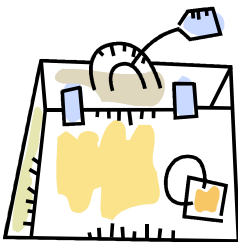


We realise that the time has passed for these music students who missed out their lessons, but thought it is good to keep parents informed.

Welcome to Teacher Sarena Wegener who has taken over woodwind lessons from Mrs JulieAnne Watson. Mrs Watson has commenced Materinty Leave and we wish her all the best for the future.

DEFENCE NEWS

I have a list of American websites (too many to list here) that may be suitable for students and families when a family member is deployed. They may need 'Australianising' but they could prove a useful source of ideas. If anyone is interested please let myself or the office know and I can send a copy home with your child.



I'd like to remind families of the importance of letting us know if a family member is deployed or away from home for an extended period of time. We will then be aware that your child may need a little extra support and be ready to offer assistance if the need arises. Thank-you to those families who have already done this in light of the recent overseas deployments.

Phillipa Cosgrove. DSTA

FAMILY PHOTOS

Please remember next Wednesday 17th September is Collection Day for your precious portraits.

Dig out that appointment card and don't forget. Viewing will be in the Early Childhood Building.

The following advertisements are not necessarily endorsed by the school

THE GOLDFISHBOWL SWIM SCHOOLS

Intensive block over the September/October school holidays.

Monday 29th September – Friday 3rd October

There will be **Junior squad training** at both venues in the afternoons Mon – Fri and

Senior squad training at Palmerston only from 3.00 – 5.00 pm Mon – Fri

A great way to learn and advance skills in a fun filled, safe environment!!

Bookings are now being taken for Term 4, 2008, commencing 6th October. All ages catered for – 6 months to Adults. Give your child a gift for life – enrol today!

Palmerston 89 311000 or Coconut Grove 89 481000. Our pool is temperature controlled (31-32 degrees), indoors and offers protection from the sun & wind!!

KIDS'BAZAAR and SHED CLEANOUT

A marketplace for

- second-hand kids' gear - Toys, games, books, bikes, baby, kids & teens clothes, Maternity wear, Baby gear & nursery furniture
- second-hand handyman gear

When? Saturday, 27th September 2008

Time? 8am – 12 noon

Where? Darwin Baptist Church

Ross Smith Ave, Parap

(cnr Stuart Highway, opposite Beaufort)

There will be entertainment for the kids, a sausage sizzle and coffee and cake.

How does it work?

- Sellers set up their own stall and sell their own items for profit.
- Stall fee is \$10, doors open at 7 am to set up.
- Buyers may come and peruse from 8am.

All proceeds will go to Support An Orphan – S.A.O. –(An international Christian aid organisation taking care of orphans and their communities in poor countries)

For more details please contact Anja on 89420506 or Lincoln on 0417410755

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TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – MONDAY, 6TH OCTOBER

I will require child care for my child on the teacher professional development day and understand that this care is offered from 8:00am to 2:30pm.

Children who are enrolled in After School Care can then attend that facility as per their usual arrangements.

Child name:

Time required (e.g. 8am-2:30pm)
