DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2011
Governing Council AGM 7:30pm  Tuesday 22nd
MARCH
Regional Leaders’ Days  Thurs 3rd & Fri 4th
Clean Up Australia Day  Friday 4th
Aquatics 9:30-12:30  Monday 7th
Stansbury/Edinburgh Sports Day @ Edinburgh  Wednesday 9th
Impact Leadership  Thursday 10th
Student Free Day  Friday 11th
Adelaide Cup  Monday 14th
Aquatics 9:30-3  Tuesday 15th
SYP Interschool Sports Day  Thursday 18th

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thanks to those parents who made the time to come to our information sessions last night. We hope you found the sessions useful. The information sheets are attached if you were unable to attend.

All students appear to have settled into the routines of their classrooms after the first two weeks. Our theme has been positivity and I’m pleased to say I’ve been impressed by the positive sounds and actions I’ve witnessed this year. I have also been extremely impressed by the way the year 7s have taken on leadership roles across the school.

Our Governing Council AGM will be held next week on the 22nd February at 7:30pm. Please consider nominating for this very important role. We have a few committee members from last year retiring as their children have left SPS so we will be looking for new members.

We are concerned by the number of students using Facebook. Last year we registered with SuperClubsPlus which is a safe online learning environment. Those people who signed permission forms last year are still valid but we have attached new forms for those who are yet to sign them. We would like to get students using this safe online environment rather than Facebook and will support students during school time. More information about SuperClubsPlus is included in this newsletter.

This year we continue our 100 nights of reading awards. We hope you encourage your children to read every night so they improve their reading. Reading is the basis of all learning.

Attachments:

• OSHC Invoices for some
• Governing Council Nomination form (white)
• Class information sheets
• Permission forms for SuperClubsPlus (white) for some
• Parent survey for some
• CPSW Consent form (blue)
• Koorong Kids Order form

FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

This week we have been trying out a number of different ways of using paint: we tried watercolour painting, roller painting, printing and stamping. This gave our children the opportunity to explore the different properties of the various paint and painting tools (brushes, rollers, paper). They did paintings and shared them with each other as gifts. We also reviewed the video we took of our trip to the playground last week and talked about the sorts of things we could do there and what was our favourite piece of equipment. We will try and build our own model playground equipment using junk materials.

The new Early Years Framework describes this learning:

EYLF LEARNING OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

By expressing wonder and interest in their environments children are drawn to explore and use play to investigate, imagine and explore ideas and become curious and involved participants in their learning. Exploratory experiences encourage them to follow and extend their own interests and extend their concentration. Hopefully the satisfaction they get from their achievement feeds into the growth of perseverance and persistence even when they find a task difficult.

We are enjoying having our occasional care children on Tuesday morning, they add an extra dimension to the morning session. Our kindy kids like having them with us and love telling them what to do.

The kindergarten runs occasional care sessions usually on Tuesday mornings from 8.45am to 11.45am. Children under 5 who are toilet trained are welcome to attend. Cost is $5 per session.

Next Monday we will be having our Kindergarten Annual General Meeting, the first Governing Council Meeting for the year. It is an important meeting for the kindy this year, with our low enrolment numbers. The 2010 Governing Council is dissolved and a new one elected at this meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Reminders:

• please remember to return your child’s library book by Tuesday morning as we go to the library every Tuesday afternoon
• Please return your child’s profile book to the kindy please so we can start adding to it for this term.

SUPERCLUBSPLUS

Launched in Australia in 2008, SuperClubsPLUS is the only safe social networking site for kids. SuperClubsPLUS is an online community for primary school aged children that acts as a training ground as they learn how to be responsible, keep safe and have fun online. It’s a protected site where only real children have access, and where all activity is mediated by highly trained staff.

SuperClubsPLUS is a safe social learning network where children experience first-hand how to keep themselves safe online. In particular, they learn the safe online strategies and behaviours required to better protect themselves on the wider Internet.

The SuperClubsPLUS community provides young children with an environment where they can meet friends and express themselves by creating their own personalised content, homepages and clubs. Whilst online they can connect with other children in monitored
forums, join clubs and participate in challenges and competitions. Most importantly, they can do all these things knowing that they are safe with the support from highly trained mediators. Students learn basic ICT skills through a Star Awards program, such as how to upload media, publish articles, build personalised web pages, join discussion forums and communicate with friends. It teaches them how to be safe and responsible so when they do join other, potentially unsafe, networks they will take the lessons learned in SuperClubsPLUS and apply them to these other sites. All students that have brought permission forms back in 2010 have been issued with passwords. They can be reissued if lost or forgotten. We will be working as a class through different aspects of the site and are encouraging all students to use this program rather than Facebook.

**PARENT SURVEY**
Enclosed for some families are the Parent Survey please fill out and return by Friday 18th February.

**ICAS**
Just a reminder if you would like your child to participate in ICAS Schools Competitions for 2011 (Years 3-7) please complete the orange form with money by Friday 18th February. If you have misplaced your form see office staff for another one.

**AASC**
Our plans to begin AASC last night were foiled but Di will begin her Athletic sessions after school tonight from 3:15 – 4:15pm. Next week the sessions will return to Monday. We hope to see a large number of students participating. If you would like your child to participate and haven’t filled out a consent form please see office staff.

**CSPW NEWS**
Welcome back to the new school year. I can’t believe how quickly Christmas and the holidays came and went! They say that time flies when you’re having fun…I just say time flies regardless! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and found some extra special time to spend with your children. For most of us, the devastating floods and cyclone in Queensland have had some sort of impact. Whether you have personal connections to someone who has been affected or whether you have just been flayed by the gravity and intensity of the effects of these disasters, I think each and every one of us has been touched and humbled in some way. The graphic pictures, the visions of such devastation and the sheer enormity of lives that have been affected, help us all to put things into perspective and appreciate the things around us. Family, friends and loved ones are such special treasures in our lives…never take them for granted!

*Overwhelming events can be opportunities for change and for unfolding new levels of strength and love. Anon*

Over the last 2 weeks I have spent time doing some Peer Mediation training skills with our Year 7s and also working with the whole school, re-visiting and refreshing our bullying program. This has been a time for students to think about and describe different types of bullying behaviour, associated feelings, identify reasons why this behaviour may occur and developing a definition of bullying. We also looked at ways to deal with bullying, steps to take and strategies to use in different situations. These sessions aim to not only help students be aware of the signs of bullying and how to deal with them, but also focus on the promotion, reinforcement and continued development of healthy, positive behaviours and relationships amongst the students.

Please find attached to the newsletter –
- Koorong Kids Bookclub – please return by the 4th March
- Consent form for students to work with the CPS Worker and be involved in activities with the CPS Worker
- Parent letter

Have a great week!  Di

**GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM**
The 2011 AGM is scheduled for February 22nd at 7.30pm. (Next Week) A nomination form is attached to this newsletter in case you lost the last one. We hope you seriously consider nominating for a position on this important decision making body and return the nomination form attached. The following councillors have a year of their term left: Di Nankiveil, Wendy Ault, Sarah Peckover, Wendy Rushbrook and Iain McQueen. Lisa Stephenson, Michelle Varricchio and Fabienne Dee have completed their term but are eligible for re-election. Linda Goody and Andrew Modra are retiring from Governing Council.

**NEWSLETTER ENVELOPES**
I would like to thank everyone for returning their plastic envelopes this week, it makes life so much easier for sending the newsletter and any important notes home. It would be great to see this every week.

Julie

**LIBRARY NEWS**
It is great to be in our fantastic new Library which is nearly complete. We are organising a few more shelves, tables and chairs to complete the makeover. If you haven’t come in for a look you are most welcome to do so. I was very pleased to receive lots of books that have turned up over the holidays buried in students’ bedrooms etc. However we are still missing some overdue books and would appreciate you all helping your kids look at home for the following titles. We would be only too pleased to have them back no questions asked even if they have been AWOL for a long time and not even on our list below.

*Just shocking!*
How to handle a bully.
The 27th annual African hippopotamus race
The Penguin rhyming dictionary
501 Spanish verbs
There’s a mouse about the house
Action maths
The summer ball
Music Mad!
The Kingfisher treasury of stories for five year olds
Magic mess!
Puppies and dogs
Staying alive in Yr 5
Stinky shorts
Rowan of Rin
Alternative energy: wind, water and solar power

Some of these books are quite new and expensive. We are reluctant to recover costs of lost books from parents but will need to look at this if students continually lose books.