Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Friday June 17th is Parent/Teacher/Student Conference day. Classes will not operate but students are expected to attend the parent teacher conference with their parents if they have a Friday timeslot or alternatively if they have a timeslot on Thursday after school. Monday June 20th is a Public Holiday for the Queen’s birthday. There is no school operating on this day.

Compass and semester one reports

For all families who have logged onto COMPASS you will be able to read and/or download your child’s semester one report on Friday June 10th. Teachers have put in considerable time out of hours to compile these reports and students have also participated by providing a student comment on their learning. I hope parents will thoroughly read these reports and discuss them with their children. Everyone should be able to provide their children with some positive feedback around their efforts during semester one. A new feature of the format this year is a rating given to students for their adherence to our school expectations of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner.

Appointment times for Parent Teacher Interviews have been open on COMPASS for a couple of weeks and parents are reminded to book their timeslot by Monday June 13th. After this no more online bookings will be accepted and teachers will provide a note with a designated remaining timeslot to students to take home prior to Thursday evening.

Parent/teacher/student conferences

This year each student will be leading part of the conference which occurs between parents and teachers to discuss their achievements for semester one and their goals for semester 2. We ask parents to please adhere to the timeslot provided for their interview so that Thursday evening and Friday can operate smoothly. It is an expectation that all families attend this conference as it sends a powerful message to your child that you value what they do in school and are engaged with the school in supporting their learning. If a parent wants to meet with one of our specialist staff, Mrs MacDonald (PE), Ms Simboras (Visual and performing arts) and Mrs Watson (Science) you will need to contact that staff member to organise an alternative time as these staff members work part time and are unavailable on the designated days.

Sausage Sizzle Thursday June 16th

Our dedicated group of parents in our PFF are planning a sausage sizzle for Thursday June 16th. Notes and envelopes for money have been sent home to place orders and are due back tomorrow on Friday June 10.

Please note that as this is a fundraising activity by this group to reach their target of $2000 for the year. There will be NO lunches available from the canteen on that day. Please come in and let Pete know if you could be a helper on that day either cooking or serving drinks and sausages. Many hands make light work!
Maths Concept Garden

This week I received news that an exciting concept I had applied for had been funded by a philanthropic organisation. The Brockhoff Foundation (the biscuit company for those old enough to remember) has agreed to provide nearly $30,000 to fund this project. This has come just at the right time as we are designing the new landscaping areas when Block A is demolished in the latter part of this year. We are very excited about what this will look like and have lots of great ideas already. It will be an extra special and unique feature of our new school and I will keep you informed as it develops.

New Fence

Over the holidays we will have a new 2.1m high black security fence and gate installed from west of the Gym around the bottom ovals of the school. I know many parents will agree with me that this fence has been a long time coming especially when so many other schools in town have them. Fortunately our building project came in a little under budget and therefore we had some funds to pay for this fence which costs in the vicinity of $100,000. We have received no funding from the Department of Education to pay for this. The new gate at the bottom of the stairs will be permanently locked to discourage walkthrough access and students who leave that way will need to leave the school through the front exits and walk down the hill via the footpath to meet their guardians. Unfortunately our funds do not extend to having this fence replace the chain mesh one in existence on the east side of the gym.

Building update:

The learning centres at the far end of the construction area are developing fast with external walls completed and plastering occurring inside throughout the whole complex. You can now clearly see the outside covered area as well as indoor walkways and designated learning spots. Staff are working on ordering new classroom furnishings to go in the spaces to complement the innovative carpets throughout. We have temporarily had some additional areas out of bounds from this week as our contractors provide services (such as utilities) from the front of the school block to the back. These areas should be back in action by term 3.

Student Learning awards:

Our final assembly for term 2 will be held on Monday June 20th. At this assembly we will be presenting learning awards from each teacher to students across the school including specialist subjects. Do come and join us as we celebrate these students’ successes.

Regards,

Jocelyn Owen

Science Update

Many thanks to those parents, grandparents and friends who braved the cold and wet weather last Friday to support the Wodonga West Primary School Science show held at the Wodonga Plaza. The Students performed fabulously and really looked the part in our new Science Lab coats purchased as part of the fundraising money from the 2016 walkathon. The Science room is also soon to be home to a new digital microscope and various other updated and replaced items thanks to the brilliant efforts of our 2016 walkathon. These items will be something that all students across the school will be able to use and enjoy.

During term 3 I will be introducing a creature of one kind or another (dead or alive) every Science session. Students will talk about and learn facts about the chosen creature. If you have any interesting science items at home that you would be willing to loan or show please let us know. We would love to see them. As we approach the last weeks of term, students will be exposed to a variety of new and interesting Science experiments that I am sure you are likely to hear about. Classes this week have been looking at red cabbage, acid and bases. Take a look at this interesting science clip using red cabbage.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrOUdoS2BtQ

Melissa Watson
Science

Student Wellbeing Report

House Captains

House captains were voted on at our last house meeting and the following people have been chosen.
Water house – Kayla Smith and Kate Webb
Fire house – Rory Smith and Merrick Tadeo
Earth house – Vince Marcuzzi & Kirra Shepherdson

Congratulations to all these students. They will be presented with their captain badges at the next assembly.

Melissa Potter
Wellbeing