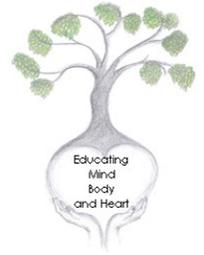


## IMPORTANT DATES T O REMEMBER:

- **TUESDAY 5TH JUNE:**  
Whole school inclusive games with Robbie and Jason.
- **THURSDAY 7TH JUNE :**  
Science trip to Casuarina: Bus Fee to be announced when this is finalised.
- **THURSDAY 14TH JUNE:**  
**AGM**  
*This will not be a long meeting as the sole purpose of this meeting is for Association Members to pass the Auditors Report, to vote in the Board every two years (we are in an off year, having voted the Board in last year) and to observe the agenda of Governance business.*
- **FRIDAY 22ND JUNE:**  
CLOSED DAY FOR REPORT WRITING; Reports posted 29 June
- **TUESDAY 26TH JUNE:**  
Life Education Van K-6
- **THURSDAY 28TH JUNE:**  
**WINTER FESTIVAL**
- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 29TH JUNE**

Term 2 Week 5

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

This week marks our halfway point through Term 2. The classes will begin to discuss designs for our Winter Lanterns and the Festival Program, complete with music, songs and poems for our Solstice Festival Celebration. The term **solstice** is used to describe the exact moment when the sun reaches its northernmost point (around June 21) or southernmost point (around December 22) from the earth's equator. The Winter Solstice marks the passing of the lowest point of light and sun, each year. After the Solstice event, on 21st June in our Southern seasonal cycle, the gradual and incremental return of the light and the sun begins. Of course, this dates marks the event of the Summer Solstice for our Northern countries.

We will be blessed to have the beautiful voices of both Cathy and Kirsten, leading the singing at the Festival.

### ILLNESS:

Thank you for your support and understanding as we weather ill health and staff absences. It has been a very difficult time with no relief staff to cover us. Thanks to Geoff for filling in all the gaps as he so quietly and ably always does!

### POLICE VISIT:

Last Tuesday we were treated to what has become our Annual visit by Steve Jefferies, from the Kempsey Police Unit. Steve works with school Leaders, teachers, students and parents. His mandate is to assist schools in leading our young people to a sense of personal responsibilities for their actions and the effects of their actions and behaviours on both themselves and society. He also works with students and parents

on issues concerning Cyber Safety and how we, as adults, mitigate the ever increasing risks that a Virtual world poses to our young people.

Steve's presentation was really engaging for both the 4-6 students and the staff. Having myself spent 6 months working in the Juvenile Detention Centre in Adelaide (teaching in the school there), I know first hand what the results are for young people who grow up without a clearly defined sense of personal responsibility and accountability for their actions. This experience had a profound effect on me as a parent and a teacher: it formed my high level of commitment to upholding student discipline and behaviour practices, policies and procedures. I am dedicated to ensuring that the Personal Development aspect of our PDHPE program is given as much importance as our Maths and English programs. Our Virtues Program bookends our explicit structures of developing a Culture of Character across the school, in age appropriate ways in the different class groups. Our discipline and behaviour management policies and procedures are non-negotiable. This is our Duty of Care. Of course, consistency in maintaining this requires commitment and self-discipline from all staff, in the same way parenting requires parents to be responsible for the moral and behavioural development of their children.

In the upper class, weekly Class Meetings are targeted to a culture of transparency and self-responsibility. Here, specific and general (whole class) incidents are discussed and each child is given the opportunity to speak about behaviours they have that may impact on other students or their own learning. Everyone has a chance to speak. This builds transparency and honesty, resilience and character. By our staff reliably striving to ensure that our Student Codes of Conduct are abided by, we maintain a whole school, consistent approach. Expected and accepted behaviours, and attitudes to learning and the impact of our actions on the learning of others, in a shared classroom environment, are necessary points of awareness that children need support with and an explicit teaching method to understand. Our zero tolerance of harm and bullying are upheld. We are growing capacity in our students towards each one's increasing ability to take self-responsibility.

Knowing the consequences of our actions and attitudes, and having significant adults support and ensuring that these values are upheld and that appropriate consequences for anti-social behaviours are consistent, is a vital part of our Duty of Care to our students and our duty to educate them for society.

When a child has a computer and internet access, they literally have access to the whole world from their rooms. Steve's presentation linked our individual behaviours online with Codes of Conduct, laws and responsibilities governing this, to student and parental responsibility.

Some aspects covered were:

- Cyberbullying: what this looks like and how to report this as soon as it arises
- The important use of Net Nanny or other parental control tools.
- The dangers of posting on FB, without personal privacy settings in order
- The dangers of publicly sharing personal information such as names, school, age etc.
- The dangers of children accessing Gaming Sites (the average age of users is 32 year-old males; the stated age is usually early teens!) Steve sensitively and expertly brought to the students the difficult subject of 'online grooming'. The most important aspect is parent/child communication and parental control and understanding of exactly what children are engaging in online. The recommended age, as with social media, is 13 years old before accessing and then with strict parental controls.
- Steve discussed the types of photos that are appropriate to post on Instagram and Facebook, and why this is so.
- Respectful and responsible comments: why online bullying is unethical and illegal.

I am more than happy to arrange a parent evening with Steve, if enough people are interested. If you think this would benefit you and your family, please ring the office and register your interest with Jen.