Mr Mark Ireland  -  Principal

From the Principal’s Desk…

Our staff are looking forward to the Far North Partnership day that is planned for Friday 20 March. This is the chance for all staff from the partnership schools coming together and sharing some high quality training and development based around the development of the concept of “Powerful Learners.” This is looking at what skills students need to take control of their learning and to enable them to become self motivated in relation to their learning. This means that we have a Student Free Day on Friday. Students are not required at school on that day.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Our Governing Council for 2015 held their first meeting on Monday night. The Executive Office bearers were elected and congratulations to the following people on their respective roles. Our Chairperson this year is Sarah Gountounas, our Deputy Chairperson is Lisa McClure, our secretary is Vi Mance and our treasurer is Kyle Hay. We are now setting up the various Governing Council sub committees for this year. There is an opportunity for parents to join a sub committee and be part of us working towards a better school. The following sub committees are being set up now and it would be terrific if you wanted to be part of one of them.

The sub committees are Finance, Grounds and Facilities, Out of School Hours Care, Pool, Community Library, just let the front office know of your interest and someone will contact you about the sub committee involvement.

HARMONY DAY

This week on Wednesday we celebrated Harmony Day. Our Assembly this week has been based around the theme of ‘everybody belongs’ and this is a message that we want to push here at the school. We all share the space here at the school and we believe it is really important to have everyone feel that they belong here. Our focus on the school value of RESPECT is part of that belonging. When you belong to a group, you share the values and you make sure that you live up to the expectations of that group. This is very much the type of feeling that we would like all of our students to have here. It means that people need to live our school values and be respectful of the school and the people here. This fits clearly with our non negotiable view that physical violence or threats of physical violence, will not be tolerated at the school and will result in a rapid and severe consequence. Clearly there are no excuses for this type of behaviour in our school.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We have parent teacher interviews next week on Monday and Tuesday. Notices have been sent home to book an interview time. Parent teacher interviews are a great time to share information about your child. The teachers have some information and you have a lot more as parents and by sharing this information, we can work together to support your child and their learning. Please make every effort to have an interview with your child’s teacher/s. If Monday or Tuesday don’t suit you then please contact your child’s teacher and set up a different interview time.

Whilst this is formal interview time, please remember that you can make arrangements to speak with your child’s teacher at any time in the year. Working together to support your child is really important and we encourage you to do that right across the year.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

We have some older students who are leaving the school grounds at various times without permission. This is a major safety concern and we are looking at ways to track and manage this. Please reinforce with your children that they are expected to be in the school grounds during the school day and require permission to leave the school grounds at any time. Some students have lunch passes which gives them parent permission and they sign in and out of the front office. This is a safety measure so that we know and can account for everyone. We have a duty of care for each child and we need to know that they are here at school and are safe.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Parent/teacher interviews

Monday and Tuesday next week
This term we have been focussing on settling into school, learning the structure and rules of school life and learning how to be successful learners.

We have been using Jolly Phonics in our classroom to learn the sounds that letters make and using these to begin reading. We love having books read to us! We have also been learning about numbers and shapes in maths, and growing plants in Science. You should see our cucumbers!

There are so many things that we are learning about, you wouldn’t believe how hard we work. We are really looking forward to the rest of the year and hope you are learning just as much as we are.