Principal’s News

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
This term, our school, like many others in the state has signed up for a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used this survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14th March and 8th April. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 4th March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Assembly Appreciation Presentation

At next week’s assembly I will be taking the opportunity to acknowledge the amazing effort and dedication of Ruth Lawrence and Robyn March to the running of the school canteen over the last 18 years. Ruth and Robyn have stepped aside this year, as their children are in their last year of school, thereby allowing others to step forward and learn ‘the ropes’ before the ladies move into high school settings. I hope you can attend this assembly.

PLP Meetings

I look forward to seeing families attend the school next week to participate in the PLP meetings which are an important part of your child’s learning journey here at the school. I hope you enjoy the process.

Warm regards
Meredith Lindsay

KT Possums

Well, what an interesting week. Through Science and History we have had some wonderful conversations. In Science we discussed, What do tadpoles need in order to stay alive? KT responses included – “food, air, water, clean water, fresh air.” “Well done, KT!” An activity in History was to ask students historical questions based on photos.
Who is in the photo? What are they doing? Why are they doing it? What is their story?

“Ok boys and girls who do you think the people are in this photo" “Mrs Lindsay!” “Life guards!” Primary and secondary sources, including photos, are a great way for students to learn about historical events. The above photo was taken on Bondi beach in 1936. The people are performing the popular entertainment called ‘Beach-o-batics’. The gymnastics on the sand were performed by members of the local Men's Gymnastic Club.

Mrs Turner

Ms Skehan’s Super Stars

This week in Year 1 the children have been learning about ants with Ms Brady. Ants are arthropods. Ants work and live together in a colony. Some species have little coordination between their members, whereas others are highly coordinated colonies. This week the children went into the playground to search for ants. They learnt about which ants were to be avoided in the playground and which ones they could collect. Back in the classroom the children studied the ants. The class constructed an ant farm so they could look at how the ants create tunnels. This has been such a rich learning experience. I would like to thank Ms Brady who has encouraged the children to draw the ants and write an informative text.

Ms Skehan

Positive Behaviour for learning (PBL)

The PBL focus this week is linked to the statement "I can follow instructions". The children have participated in lots of activities which involve following instructions. After the activities, the classes have discussed how important it is to follow instructions and what might happen if we don’t. We also focused on packing away our lunch boxes and placing rubbish in the bin at the end of lunch and recess.

Ms Skehan

Mrs Cunningham's Class 2/3

This week 2/3 has been learning about fractions. We learnt that a half is when a whole is broken into two equal parts and a quarter is when the whole is broken into four equal parts. We experimented with seeing what would happen if the parts were not even. The whole still went back together but we could not say parts were a half or a quarter of the whole. They need to be even. We learnt to write the fractions, ½, ¼ and ¾. We also learnt that 2/2 or 4/4 would mean one whole. Students had a go at making halves and quarters by themselves with different sized paper. Some students even worked with thirds, fifths, sixths, sevenths and eighths.

We have started using our Maths Mentals books this week. We are challenging ourselves every day to beat our previous days score. We have also been learning Maths games that help us to learn to count on or back from the highest number when adding and subtracting.

Mrs Cunningham
Mrs Durie’s Dynamic Dynamos
This week we have been started using our new spelling text books. These books are being used to supplement the SSP program. Students have been learning to identify and count the number of sounds or graphemes they hear in different words. We have also been learning about dependent and independent clauses.

In maths we have been revising fractions and have been learning about place value up to five digits. We have also been using our new mentals textbooks. Students have demonstrated improvements in their mentals every day.

In science we have been learning about classifying animals. We have been looking at molluscs and annelids this week.

Notes
We are trialling a colour scheme to the notes we send home. Any note sent home on blue paper means a response (permission etc) is required from home. So, remember blue stands for “boomerang it back to school”. I would love your feedback on this new initiative.

Toni Coburn

5/6 Report
This term our class are working as biologists in our Science unit called Desert Survivors. So far we have talked about what we already know about desert environments and the plants and animals that live there. We have begun to learn about leaves and the adaptations that leaves of desert plants have. The class are keen biologists and I look forward to seeing them make discoveries in Science.

This week we have begun reading a text by the Australian author Gary Crew called The Watertower. The old abandoned watertower in the town of Preston is a mysterious thing. The illustrations of the book give curious clues as to what happens to Bubba and Spike on one hot day in Preston.

We look forward to starting gymnastics for sport this week. Don’t forget your sports shoes on Fridays.
Congratulations to this Week’s Award Winners

**AWARDS**

**Bronze**
Paige
Gypsy

**1S**
Taylor
Emmanuel

**2/3C**
Charles

**5/6DL**
Edward
Georgia

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**Good for Kids good for life**

**START THE DAY RIGHT WITH BREAKFAST**

We’ve all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and it’s true! Research has shown that children who eat breakfast before school have higher levels of concentration and are less likely to feel lethargic.

Below are some ideas for a nutritious breakfast:

- Wholegrain cereals such as Weetbix, Cheerios and Sultana Bran
- Untoasted muesli topped with low fat yoghurt
- Wholegrain toast topped with avocado, tomato or low fat cheese
- Raisin toast
- Fruit & vegetable smoothies

If you’re short on time, some quick ideas to send to school with your child includes a tub of low fat yoghurt, cereal to munch such as fruity bites, breakfast drinks such as Up & Go or some fruit.

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**Good for Kids good for life**

**SCREEN FREE QUIET TIME**

Some families have a daily quiet time where everyone takes a break. Do your children watch movies during their quiet time?

Why not try some of these activities instead to reduce the amount of screen time they are exposed to during the day and to keep their minds active!

- Reading books
- Arts and crafts
- Puzzles
- Card games
- Listening to some relaxing music
- Spending time in the garden

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Adapted from: Murrumbidgee Local Health District Quick Bites