**Principal’s Message**

**Stranger Danger**

Parents want to protect their children at all times, but they cannot be with them every minute of every day. Children need to learn how to stay safe, be smart, and protect themselves from strangers and abduction when on their own, at school, at play, and even at home. Parents can teach children what to do when in an uncomfortable or unsafe situation. The following tips may help parents and children feel safer:

Parents should discuss the issues of strangers and their associated danger with a calm tone of voice; children will be better able to listen and learn because they will be more receptive. Parents must monitor their own fear and be careful not to alarm their children. Consider the child’s age. Deliver information in a way appropriate to their age. Younger children will benefit from role play and repeated conversations. Parents of older children can discuss current events or real situations. Be aware of specific ploys used by strangers. Teach children not to help strangers look for lost puppies, accept gifts or lollies, or get in a car with someone they do not know. The following may be helpful:

**Talk:** Have a discussion with your children about safety and strangers. It can be useful to find out how a child defines a “stranger”. Parents are often surprised to hear that only ugly creatures in story books are considered dangerous.

**Ask:** After talking to children, it is important to ask them what they heard. This allows parents to correct misinformation and determine what needs to be reviewed or discussed differently.

**Show:** It can be helpful for parents to practise with children what they have learnt. This can mean going to a shopping centre and having your child ask for help from a shop assistant, or walking through the neighbourhood and watch as your child goes to a neighbour’s house.

**Know:** Make sure children know who, when, where and how to get help. For example, they should know their name, address, and phone number; how to phone the police, dial 000; who will pick them up from school each day and what after school activities are planned.

A useful website designed to assist children when using emergency services is kids.triplezero.gov.au. This site provides safety tips and encourages parents to talk with their children about keeping safe.

**Weekly Scheduling**

Learning how to make time for homework, study, chores, part-time jobs and so on is a vital skill for all children, but it’s one that we need to teach them by example. It’s just a Word document, but you can now create your own weekly schedules to whip your family into shape. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/weekly-schedule-template

**Snow Sports Camps**

Looking for an affordable family holiday to the snow? Sport and Recreation run holiday snow packages from July – September. Take a break, improve your health and well-being, and breathe the fresh mountain air. Find out more: http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/jindabyne/

**Making School Easier**

Teacher and mum Katherine Bricknell has already helped several of her children navigate primary, high school and tertiary education, and has some great, practical advice for other parents. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/tips-to-make-high-school-easier

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**COMING EVENTS**

- **Tuesday 28 May**
  - Open Day/National Storytime 9:15 am – 12:00
- **Friday 31 May**
  - Gala Day
- **Thursday 6 June**
  - Student Banking

**DISCLAIMER:** The RTPS School Council wishes all readers to be aware that the inclusion of an advertisement in this newsletter in NO WAY signifies the school’s endorsement of any particular product or service.
The Sum of Us


Linda Green - Principal

Woolworths Earn and Learn

Shop at Woolworths and help our school receive resources. Please place your stickers on the card and don’t forget to fill in your name at the bottom and return to the Woolworths Earn and Learn box in the office foyer.

Wayne Osborne – Deputy Principal

PBIS

Our PBIS focus areas for Week 5 is:

- Remain quiet during and between speakers when at assembly.
- Sit appropriately in the hall – legs are crossed and hands are still in your lap.

Canberra 2013

Our trip to Canberra, our Nation’s Capital City, was memorable, exciting and a wonderful educational experience for Stage 3. The students had the opportunity to experience people, places and differing environments first hand. The excursion to Canberra was able to give enrichment and depth to a number of areas of study, both formally and informally.

Our HSIE Discovering Democracy unit was complemented beautifully with our trip to Parliament House to see firsthand how our country is governed. The Parliamentary Educational Program was a most rewarding and engaging activity for the students. The role play was excellent, in that they participated in the passing of a bill, which helped the understanding of all the processes involved. They also gained great insight into the duties and roles of the different House members.

Arriving at the War Memorial and hearing about Jim Martin, perhaps our youngest ANZAC, in our introductory talk and being able to see the displays, models and paintings served as a great visual tool for the students. They were amazed by the conditions in the trenches, the state of the clothing and the meagre rations that the soldiers had to survive on, which were reflected in the life-like displays. This was later translated back at school into oral/written responses.

The National Electoral Education Centre (NEEC) was a fun and interactive way to learn about Australia’s electoral system. The students experienced an interesting multimedia presentation on the history of democracy and elections in Australia and enjoyed the hands-on activities in the Discovery Zone. They also experienced firsthand the electoral process and allocation of preferences.

All the students loved the CSIRO, AIS and Questacon which is always popular.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributes funding of $20 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution was used to reduce the cost of the excursion to parents.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Overall the visit to Canberra has benefited our students in many different ways. It has been a vehicle to enhance our students’ learning and provided opportunities which we can build on at school to support learning in all Key Learning Areas.

Sue Hasler – Assistant Principal

K-2 Fun Run and 3-6 Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who took part in our school cross country and fun run carnival last term. The first places in each age group are as follows:

Kindergarten boys    Nathan Williams
Kindergarten girls   Shylah Noonan
Year 1 boys   Mia Redding
Year 1 girls    Rowan Gowdy
Year 2 boys   Indianna Weastell
Year 2 girls   Andrew Salian
8/9 year old boys  Calab Cahill
8/9 year old girls    Capri Noonan
10 year old boys   Trent Marsh
10 year old girls    Kristy Keating
11 year old boys   Jarrod Taylor
11 year old girls    Jordyn Denham
12/13 year old boys   Hayden Williams
12/13 year old girls  Caitlin McGing

Thanks also to all the parents, staff and students who expertly assisted on the day. The fundraiser was also a huge success and the raffle will be drawn in assembly later this term.

Karlene Feher - School Cross Country Convener

From the P&C

School Banking

The next school banking day is Thursday 6 June 2013. Children are to hand in their bank books to their class teacher on the day.

Christine Wright – P&C President