K-2 Sports Carnival

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Have you seen our new promotional video on facebook?
Many years ago in England there was a small boy who talked with a lisp. While growing up, he was never a scholar. When war came along, they rejected him because “we need men.” He once rose to address the English parliament called the House of Commons, and all the politicians walked out. He often spoke to empty chairs and echoes. One day he became prime minister of England and led his country to victory in a worldwide conflict. That man was Sir Winston Churchill, whose iron will to persevere rallied all of his countrymen to defend their land and eventually win the war.

A story the children love is about two frogs who fell into a can of cream, or so I’ve heard it told. The sides of the can were shiny and steep, the cream was deep and cold. “Oh, what’s the use?” croaked frog number one. “Tis fate, no help’s around. Good-bye, my friend! Good-bye, sad world!” and weeping still, he drowned.

But frog number two, of sterner stuff, dog-paddled in surprise. The while he wiped his creamy face and dried his creamy eyes. “I’ll swim awhile at least,” he said, or so I’ve heard he said; “it really wouldn’t help the world, if one more frog were dead.” An hour or two he kicked and swam, not once he stopped to mutter, but kicked and kicked and swam and kicked, then hopped out, via butter!

School Teacher: “Johnny, can you tell me the difference between perseverance and obstinacy?”

Johnny: “One is a strong will and the other is a strong won’t.”

Nothing in the world, including talent, genius and education, can take the place of persistence ie perseverance.

The man who removed the mountain began by carrying away small stones. **Chinese proverb**

Dr D Faull
Principal

**Fees**
The prompt payment of school fees is appreciated. Please note that the School depends on your payments to pay its bills for wages and school improvements. If you have an outstanding balance on school fees, please settle your account promptly.

**Fundraising**
A BIG thank you to our parents and friends for supporting our Thompson’s Pies fundraising project. If you have placed an order then please come and collect your vanilla slices and lamingtons on Wednesday 21 September from the Office. Please know that your support is much appreciated!

**Great Campus**
We are already starting to plan for 2017 and that means we need to get the word out that there are spaces for students in our great little school.

We have a NEW brochure and we would love to get these out into the community. Our data shows that our best ambassadors for the school are our parents who can tell the story so well. Please drop in and see Mrs Allan in the Office and collect a brochure or two to share with families you know. If every family encouraged one student enrolment then just imagine our school with waiting lists.

To encourage you to be our best promoters, if a new student enrols and says your family recommended them we will give you a $250 discount off your fees for K-6 enrolments. Now that’s an offer worth considering!!

Let’s build our great school for 2017!!

**Mufti Day**
The end of the term is almost here and mufti day will be held on Thursday 22 September. Students are asked to bring along a $2 donation for the privilege of wearing mufti and the funds are to go towards supporting a child we sponsor through Asian Aid.

Toronto Campus has been supporting Muru for some years now and it is just great to know that we have been able to make a difference in the life of a child. We recently received a report on how Muru is doing as well as a letter from him. Muru is now 13 years old and doing well. He is planning to become an engineer when he grows up. Muru is very grateful for your support. Thank you, Toronto Campus!

**Pre-Kindy**
We have been pleased to share with you that all positions are now filled for our Pre-Kindy classes. Therefore we are calling for expressions of interest in opening for another day - Friday. Should there be sufficient interest we could present a case to the Avondale School Principal for opening an extra day. We already have a number of expressions of interest registered and this is great. Let’s see if we can continue to promote our great Pre-Kindy program so that we can make this goal a reality. Please share this information with family and friends and register your interest with Mrs Allan in the Office. Thank you!

**Last Day of Term 3 - Friday 23 September**
Happy Holidays!!
Pre-Kindy

This week Mrs Thompson has been away so Mrs Greensill has been teaching the Pre-Kindy class. We have been learning the letters b, n and k. We made balloon paintings and glued on shapes to make a boat. We have been learning a finger rhyme called “Here is the Beehive” and we love saying it.

In Science we have making nutty noises with a nut in a balloon. When you swirl the nut in the balloon it vibrates and makes a shrill sound. It was lots of fun! Mrs Greensill loved telling us a story about Jesus in the boat. She made a paper boat to tell us the story. Thank you, Mrs Greensill, for teaching us this week!
We have had such a busy time since we last put out our newsletter. The Infant Sports Day was fantastic. I was very proud of the way our students conducted themselves and participated in all the events with enthusiasm. There was one very precious event that I did not know about until one of the students wrote about it in her story. Georgia wrote “but then I fell over and Daniel and Isobel stopped to help me up.” This small statement represents the teamwork and caring nature of our whole class, we work together, encourage and support and help each other when we fall down. It makes our hearts sing with joy when we see this demonstrated.

In the 60m race Darius came first and Kayden second.

Congratulations to the following students:
- Star of the Week – Tyler
- Value of the Week Award – Eden
- Speedy Maths – Mikayla, Katie, Eden, Peter and Isaac
- Super Improver - Peter

There was a high participation rate from our students in the art competition that was show cased on Saturday night at the Avondale Campus. Congratulations to Grady from our class who won first prize with his photograph.

During Maths this week our focus has been volume and capacity.

The theme for show and tell for this week was: Bring something you have made. Tell us how you made it.

Next week the topic for show and tell is: Tell us about your favourite healthy foods.

- Group 1 Garden – we planted, tomatoes and cucumbers and did some weeding.
- Group 2 Garden hunt
- Group 3 and 4 Science experiment

We were so very excited when we wrote about the bean plants we could hardly contain ourselves. Grady had the tallest plant with two leaves.

Only one more week to go! This term has just gone by so fast and we have been working so well all term. Well done!
We put lots of effort into our work this week. We are proud of the artworks we have been creating about our amazing country. We had a great time taking photos around the school, printing them off and using them to form part of our collages.

Congratulations to those students who participated in the Art Show. It was just great to see all of the wonderful artworks.

We have really enjoyed our writing activities this week. We especially enjoyed writing a procedure for pressing flowers. Today we followed the instructions we wrote about earlier in the week and we placed flowers in some presses. At the end of next week we will be able to see how well the flowers have been pressed. We can’t wait to see what they will look like at the end of this process!

We have had amazing discussions in Bible this week. We are learning all about how we can be ready for the second coming of Jesus and also how we can share the good news of Jesus’ soon return with others. A great job, everyone!
Need some activity ideas for the holidays?

Program for September October School Holidays 2016

Tuesday 27 September – no bookings required
Sand Art Fun – Any age $5.00 (plus $2 entry)
Drop in between 10am-12 noon and create a colourful sand picture

Wednesday 28 September – Booking Essential P 49516466
Bush Skills (8 – 12 years) $20 9.30am-12.30pm
Make (and eat) a damper and build a bush shelter. Take a guided walk and learn basic survival skills. Get up close and personal with some of our resident reptiles.

Wednesday 28 September – no bookings required
Plaster Model Fun – Any age $5.00 (plus $2 entry)
Drop in between 10am-12 noon and paint a plaster model

Tuesday 4 October – Bookings Essential P 49516466
Dinosaur Ducks (4 – 8 years) $20 10am-12.30pm
Meet our resident endangered Freckled Ducks also known as dinosaur ducks. Make a bird caller and see if they call back. Includes reptile encounter, craft and duck tales.

Bush Skills (8 – 12 years) $20 9.30am-12.30pm
Make (and eat) a damper and build a bush shelter. Take a guided walk and learn basic survival skills. Get up close and personal with some of our resident reptiles.

Visit the Hunter Wetlands Centre
Fun for all the family, walking trails, dip netting, children’s playground, climb the egret tower canoeing, reptile encounter. Bring your bike or hire one and ride around the site. Enjoy a picnic or BBQ or eat at Spoonbill Cafe (open 10am-2.30). 9am – 4pm general entry $5 children 3 to 12 years $2 (in school holidays) under 3 free

Please wear closed in shoes, shirt with sleeves, hat, sunscreen & insect repellent. Bring a bottle of water.
For more information www.wetlands.org.au

How about a bike ride?

The Lake Macquarie City Council website has a downloadable brochure on the local bike tracks - why not take a look?
Chaplain’s Message

Seeing is Believing...

Belief is an interesting thing, isn’t it? From a young age, many of us believed in all sorts of things - the tooth fairy, the Easter bunny and Santa. However, something happens when we get older. We seem to lose our naivety and basic trust of others and move to a point where we need more evidence to believe.

In the 20th chapter of the book of John, the author tells the story of what happens after Jesus’ death and how His followers respond. The author of John writes of how two of the twelve disciples and Mary Magdalene, go to Jesus’ tomb. What they find is something they didn’t expect - the tomb was empty. It’s interesting how Jesus had spent so much of His life preparing the disciples for what would soon take place - His death. Yet, the disciples hadn’t understood what Jesus was talking about (namely that He would die and come back to life) until they saw evidence that He had risen - the empty tomb.

The followers of Jesus were unable to see what was right in front of them because they had very clear preconceived ideas. Jesus had been clear about the intent and reality of His ministry, yet the disciples still missed the point. We see apparent contradictions and confusion throughout the Bible stories. For example, someone cannot die and then come back to life. Yet with God it is possible and it happened. The thing is, faith makes a fool of what makes sense.

Yet, in saying all this, doubt can be helpful in a journey of faith. It can draw us to seeking after the Divine more. The truth is, we don’t understand everything about God. Some things are mysteries and that’s ok. Doubt is ok. What Jesus calls us to, however, is not to let our doubt block our view of what’s in front of it. Doubt can be both destructive and can draw us to Jesus. It all depends on the way we approach it.

The disciples, Mary Magdalene and especially Thomas needed to see before they believed. And even then, they were unable to see what was directly in front of them. What’s beautiful about the book of John however, is that it is written from the perspective of those who hadn’t seen Jesus face-to-face. We are included in this category - we have not seen Him. The good news is, we don’t need to see Him in order to believe in Him. In the words of John: “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” - John 20:31

Jesus makes Himself known to us, in part, by the words of the Bible. The Bible was written by real people who had real experiences with the Divine. The question is, will you believe?

Pr Brock

Campus Information

Prayer Requests
We would like to encourage our school community to come together in prayer.

If you have any prayer requests, please feel free to let the staff know, so that we can include your request in our prayers.

Office Hours
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am - 01:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Uniform Shop Hours (Cooranbong Campus)
Monday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Calendar - Term 3
End of Term 3...................................................Sept 23
Commencement of Term 4................................Oct 10

School Term Dates 2016
Term 1 Wednesday January 27 - Friday April 8
Term 2 Tuesday April 26 - Friday July 1
Term 3 Monday July 25 - Friday September 23
Term 4 Monday October 10 - Tuesday December 13