



In this week's issue

- ▶ Principal's Message- Cross Country
- ▶ NAPLAN
- ▶ Coles Sports Vouchers
- ▶ Child Protection Workshops
- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Parent Teacher Interviews & Reports
- ▶ Cross Country Photos

Upcoming Events

22 nd -23 rd May	Child Protection Workshops K-6
21 st -22 nd May	Mrs Wilson attending Conference in Albury
24 th May	Yr 6 Swan Hill College Transition Day
25 th May	District Cross Country



Principal Message

Last Friday, our Cross Country was held at the football oval and it was a fantastic day! Thank you to Mrs Mertz for organising this event, supported by Colleen, Miss Fay and Miss Midson. Even though it was a bit chilly, the kids all participated and had a great day.

The P & C did an outstanding job catering and thank you to all parents who donated time and food. It definitely was a day for soup and hot coffee!

Students who gained a place in cross - country do not automatically qualify for District. It is based on time and students will receive a note if they are to participate this Friday along with Barham, Wakool, Clare and Tooleybuc. We wish our competitors the best of luck!

YEAR 6 SHIRTS

Another shout out to the P & C for the lovely Year 6 shirts! The students could not wait to put them on when they arrived Thursday. This is the first school I have worked at where the P & C generously donate one to each student. You may even see the teachers wearing them for Friday sport! Thank you to Colleen and Rebecca Gray for organising them. This gesture is very much appreciated by the students, staff and parents.



MAGNETS

All parents should now have a school fridge magnet with up and coming events. Due to the survey responses, we are trialling new ways to keep you informed on events throughout the year other than through notes and newsletters. We hope you like these magnets that were in small gift bag we provided to families a few weeks ago. We also gave students a money box from the 150th memorabilia. Thank you to Colleen for organising these magnets, as I am sure that you appreciate them.

NAPLAN

Students completed their NAPLAN tests last week. Those students who missed the tests will not be able to catch up this week. Tests are returned to Sydney for marking. It is important to remember that these tests are just one form of assessment. In classes, students have the opportunity to show their understanding and knowledge in a variety of ways. Students do not have this opportunity in NAPLAN. As a teacher, I often wish students could respond orally instead of answering all questions in a written form. This is especially relevant for mathematics. In NAPLAN, questions are often written in a very complex way and can confuse students. All mathematics questions are within problems and not written in simple form. This is just one of the reasons why NAPLAN is very controversial. At our school, the students completed their tests without pressure or feeling anxious. They were simply asked to do their best.

CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOPS

This week we have specialised teachers coming into the school to deliver Child protection lessons. It is a legal requirement that we provided lessons each year to students K-6. The Y-PEP program has been designed by a team of professionals from YWCA NSW in collaboration with the program steering committee, consisting of members from Department of Education. The program is aligned to the NESA PDHPE Syllabus and complements units taught at school. The experienced and professional Y-

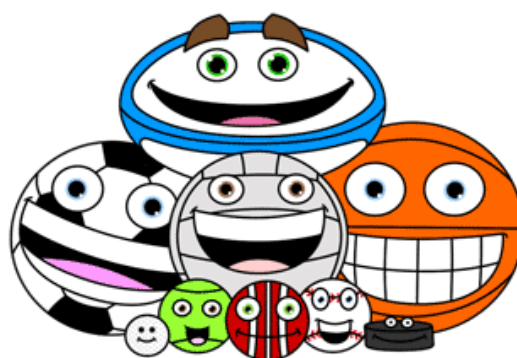
PEP facilitators deliver highly interactive workshops suitable for varying levels of skills and learning styles. The program has been created with engaging and age appropriate content for all students.

By the end of the program, students will;

- have an increased awareness of what safe and respectful relationships are
- have an increased knowledge and understanding about rights and responsibilities for relationships
- have better skills to recognise and respond to unsafe situations

COLES SPORTS VOUCHERS

Coles Sports for Schools Thank you to parents who have collected Coles vouchers for our school and placed them in the bin at the Swan Hill store. We have now finished collecting them and have sent our vouchers off to be counted. We will keep you informed of what sporting equipment we will be able to purchase. I am hoping to purchase some new sports equipment to support the implementation of the Blue Earth program.



ATTENDANCE

We are aiming for our students to average a weekly attendance rate of 93%, which is the state average. In Term 1, our average was very close to this figure which was a vast improvement on any term in 2017. Fantastic job everyone! From an educational perspective, our school has poor attendance rates and it has been my aim to try and improve this in the best interest of your children. Please ensure your child is at school every day to maximise their

learning opportunities. We understand that there can be isolated important family events and we are not near specialists doctors. If you do attend a doctor's appointment it is ideal to get a certificate as proof for the Department of Education. Attendance figures are collected and analysed by the department. If you know your child's teacher is going to be away please do not assume that they will be doing nothing important. At our school, we continue our teaching program and your child's teacher plans and leaves work for the casual teacher.

assessing your students against the expected stage outcomes and commenting on progress across the curriculum.

Jennie Wilson- Principal

Cross Country Photos

Celebrate Attendance

Hints and Tips No 1: Responsibilities



Parent/s or caregivers are required – by law – to provide a written or verbal explanation to the Principal within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school.

It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

- (1) It is a parent's legal obligation to explain their child's absence within seven days
- (2) It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences
- (3) It avoids the school and the School Attendance Officer from making unnecessary investigations
- (4) It is the way the school knows that your child was legitimately absent and not truanting from school

If you have any difficulties in providing a written explanation for your child's absence, please contact your school principal.



Missing school leaves gaps in your education

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS & REPORTS

Parent Teacher Interviews are a great way to discuss student progress, strengths and areas of improvement. It is also a way to meet your child's teacher too! We will soon advertise when these will be. Appointments will be made with the classroom teacher within a 5 day period at various times. Each teacher will send home a timetable for these in a few weeks. Interviews will take place before the reports are handed out in Week 10 this term. We will also be using a new report format and teachers will be



