



Brewarrina Central School News

OUT
AND
ABOUT
AT
B.C.S.

Brewarrina Central School

6th April- Issue 4, 2009



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**Happy
Easter**



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We are rapidly approaching the end of term 1 which has been an extremely busy term. It was wonderful to see our K-12 assembly last week with a number of students who are achieving awards for outstanding work at school.

Just a reminder to parents about some important dates coming up, Tuesday of next term 28th April will be a normal school day our pupil free day for term 2 will be held on Friday 1st May of that week. Students will not be attending on that day Friday 1st May, however they are expected here on the first day of term 2 which is 28th April. If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact the school.

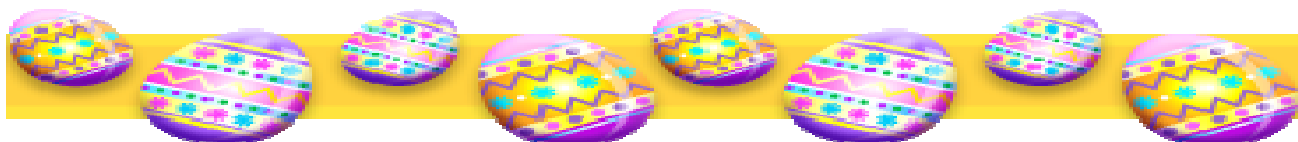
Also coming up next week will be letters to those families whose students will attend and participate in a Canberra Snowy mountains excursion later this year. Mr Beer has indicated a proposed schedule by which people can contribute to a payment plan of the fees involved in this excursion. We are sure that this will be an outstanding excursion providing our students with a wonderful experience and excellent opportunities to not only learn but enjoy themselves.

Thanks to Rick Black also, who organised our morning with Girri Girri Sports Academy young women and the coordinator of that program Doreen Conroy of Wednesday of last week. By all accounts it was a very successful get together and we are very happy with the way that that program is progressing in our school.

Thanks again to Rick.

Have a "Happy Easter" and we look forward to seeing every one back here on Tuesday 28th April

D J Harvey
Principal



PRIMARY NEWS

News from the Primary Department.

This is the last week of swimming as a sport on Fridays as the pool closes for the season. Children who participated have improved in confidence, swimming ability and enjoyed the activities.

The Primary department welcomes Ms Jane Hewetson who is the STLA for 2009. The STLA role supports children with their literacy and numeracy skills. Ms Hewetson will be working initially with children in Mr Warren's and Mrs Weatherby's classes specifically with reading skills.

We also welcome Mr Wayne Gower, who will be taking classes when teachers are on professional development, or unable to attend for the day. Mr Gower has already covered some classes and assisted teachers with various group lessons.

Many children are taking advantage of the Home Reading program. If you would like your child to participate in this program please let Mrs Rebecca Williams our school librarian know as she coordinates the program. Notes are available from the library.

The school canteen is now fully operational. Many families are taking advantage of this healthy, safe convenience at our school. However it is worrying that some children are still leaving the playground to purchase recess/lunch from other establishments and do not have a note to leave school grounds. The school gates are locked for safety. Under "Duty of Care" regulations, teachers can not open the gates to let children leave without written permission from parents. If you need your child to leave the school grounds a note is required stating where your child/ren will be going to purchase food.

The annual Easter Hat parade will be held on Thursday 9th April commencing after recess. Children will make hats for the parade in class. We are also holding a colouring competition and an Easter raffle to be drawn on the day. If you can, come along and watch the parade and Easter happenings on the day after recess.

Some children are continuing to wear open toed shoes to school. School shoes should be enclosed for safety especially as many children run at recess and lunch.

Cath Clark
DP Primary.



Supporting your Child in Learning to Read

Reading should be enjoyable for you and your child. If your child becomes distressed or loses interest when reading at home, take a break from reading and try again later.

All children, regardless of age, like to be read to. Make a special time whenever possible for reading with your child away from interruptions. You can help your child in reading when you:

show your child that you value reading by reading whenever you can
provide a variety of texts for your child to read to you, eg stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines, children's recipe-books

point out words on street signs, packets and labels

encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover and illustrations

reread favourite books

talk about the different purposes for reading a picture book, a novel, a TV guide, a newspaper, a telephone directory, a recipe book, an encyclopedia

point out the different size and shape of words

point out the first sound of a word and encourage your child to think of other words that begin with the same sound

encourage your child to read books for enjoyment as well as for information

praise your child when they are reading, eg 'well done - that was a difficult word'

encourage a positive attitude to books

encourage your child to talk about characters and events in texts

encourage your child to make sound effects for the characters and events

ask your child to think of possible beginnings and endings for stories read and heard

praise your child when they are reading

'sound out' difficult words and/or give clues to the meaning of difficult words

encourage your child to have a go at reading words that are unfamiliar

ask your child to read on past the unknown word to gain clues from the rest of the sentence

show your child how to find the meanings of unfamiliar words in dictionaries

encourage your child to watch films and videos of books they have read

talk about the ways in which a film version of a book compares with the print version

encourage your child to borrow books from the library.

If your child is having difficulty with reading, or not enjoying reading, ask your child's teacher for help.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2009

Letter to Parents

In May 2009 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This program, which has the support of all state and territory Education Ministers, will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

In New South Wales the NAPLAN tests have replaced the Basic Skills Tests (BST), English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP).

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

Tuesday 12 May – Language Conventions test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a separate Writing test.

Wednesday 13 May – Reading test

Thursday 14 May – Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, Chance and data; and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 15 May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a particular day.

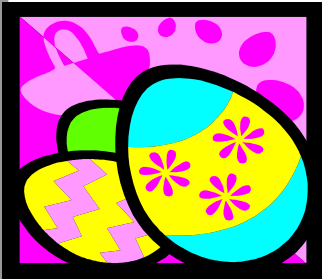
Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or if they have significant intellectual and/or functional disability.

Students with confirmed disabilities or difficulties in learning are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom will be provided for students by the school. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school's learning support team and the school Principal, and a parent/carer consent form must be signed. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from the tests. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like further information about your child's participation in the National Assessment Program.

Additional information can be found at:<http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html>



Brewarrina Central School would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter holidays and we look forward to seeing both staff and students back on Tuesday the 28th April 2009.

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