



ETTALONG PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMENOTE

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Term 4 Week 7

26 November 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Tues 26 Nov	Student leaders 2020 speeches
Thurs 28 Nov	Kinder Orientation (final Headstart)
Fri 29 Nov	Stage Two excursion to Rumbalara
Mon 2 Dec	BWSC Science challenge
Tues 3 Dec	BWSC Maths challenge; NO student banking
Wed 4 Dec	Questacon visit Years 2 – 6 classes; School banking today
Thurs 5 Dec	House Captain speeches; Young, Black & Ready for School; Deadly Awards;
Fri 6 Dec	Year Six mini fete (donations for white elephant stall welcome)

Dear Parent and Carers

Congratulations to the students in our Support Unit classes who were presented with certificates and ribbons at last week's assembly, in recognition of completing the Riding for the Disabled program. The children were extremely proud of their efforts and it was delightful to see them on the stage, displaying their awards. We are very proud of them. Congratulations also go to Emma H who was recognised for her creativity in artwork for visually impaired children.

Our students have been very understanding when staying in classrooms due to smoky conditions recently. On days when children were able to play outside, the library was kept open for students who felt more comfortable staying inside. Last Friday we held a fundraiser for the NSW Rural Fire Service. Indy E and her helpers did a fantastic job organising this initiative, with the ice blocks selling like hot cakes! Thank you very much for supporting this worthwhile cause. We raised over \$700 which is a fantastic effort.

Stage Two students are looking forward to their excursion to two of the coast's most significant venues and meeting with staff from the educational environment centre at Rumbalara on Friday. The booking has now been finalised with permission notes and payment closing last Friday. I'm sure the children attending will have a fabulous day.

Stage Three children had a fantastic time participating in the Surf Awareness program at Umina Beach last week. It was extremely well organised and run, with the students enjoying every minute of it. It was also pleasing to hear how well behaved our children were on this excursion, conducting themselves sensibly and politely.

Today we heard speeches from twenty three students who are keen to become school leaders next year. Last Friday Cobey D gave his speech at the whole school assembly because he attended the Variety Club's function for students in Support Unit classes today. The speeches were informative and amusing so our school's future is in good hands! House Captains and Vice Captains will be voted for on Thursday 5 December.

Headstart for Kindergarten 2020 concludes on Thursday with Kindergarten Orientation Day. We've loved having our new students visit each Thursday morning and look forward to them starting at our wonderful school next year.

Permission notes will soon be sent home with students who are eligible to attend end of year Reward Days. These days are an extra treat for those children who consistently follow our school rules of Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn.

Lynn Balfour - Principal

3R's AWARDS

Class	Name	Class	Name
2/3R	Abi M	3M	James W
	Caden K		Lilly T
	Jack M		Indigo L
3W	Summer B	4T	Caleb M
	Sharnii H		Nicholas S
	Jay S		Hadil A
4J	Lily M	4S	Lexie F
	Mikaelee C		Sharman J
			Archie R
5B	Kevin W	5J	Lucia B
	Elle Word L		Tahli H
	Rhiannon D		Ebony F
5/6L	Emily H	6C	Riley VDN
	Kira M		Sienna M
	Hollie B		Hayden L
6H	Samuel S	K/6B	Phoenix G
	Jaidan H		
	Jai C	K/6S	Page N
			Kaden J
K/6P	Xavier S		Chloe B

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Congratulations to these students who consistently demonstrate the 3Rs

Respect, Responsibility, Ready to Learn.

Lillian M	4J	Riley	6C
Kayden F	5J	Emily H	5/6L
Alexis F	4S	Elle WL	5B
Indigo L	3M	Olivia LG	3W

PLAYGROUND POSITIVE WINNER

Jayden H 6C



GENERAL INFORMATION

Student banking



Just a friendly reminder that student banking will not be collected on Tuesday 3 December, it will be collected and processed Wednesday 4 December.

Banking coordinator

HEADSTART

Headstart- Orientation Assembly

On Thursday 28 November our last Headstart session will commence at 9:20a.m. The children will go into the classrooms near the silver seats for the first part of the morning and then come to the assembly hall. We will be celebrating our successful Headstart program with a special Kindergarten orientation assembly. Each child will be presented with a certificate for their participation in Headstart. Parents are invited to the hall for this last Kindergarten orientation session. This session will provide you with important information on the official enrolment of children for 2020 at Ettalong Public School.

A bag that contains information of many aspects of schooling and vital information about starting school will be given to you to support the transition to school. Please come along and join the celebration of the beginning of a life long journey in education and stay for morning tea at the conclusion of the assembly. Thank you for your support throughout our Headstart program in 2019. We are looking forward to working alongside you in our vibrant school community.

Anne Smith
Assistant Principal









COMMUNITY NEWS



Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
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-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.


Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.

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PARENTING TIPS

Acceptance for differences begins at home

It's often said that a civil society can be determined by the way it treats its most vulnerable members, including the young, the old and minority groups. Most Australians like to think that we do pretty well on these measures, but I suspect the imminent postal survey on same-sex marriage may challenge this comfortable view.

Thanks to saturation media coverage, virtually all Australians, kids included, are aware of the survey (aka plebiscite). We have all been exposed to the debate over the pros and cons of using a postal survey, and, of course, to the debate over its central question. Many, again including kids, will have heard some of the more vitriolic commentary that is part of the surrounding debate. You'd have to be living under a rock not to have noticed it. If it relates to you personally, you are likely deeply affected by it.

While the debate rages on, it's worth considering what place children and young people have amongst all this noise. As a parent, how are you approaching the issue with your children and/or young people at home?

There are many ways to approach this topic within your family, but perhaps it's most appropriate to view it through the lens of acceptance and respect for diversity.

The conversation starts at home

Kids learn acceptance from those around them. Children in primary school usually reflect the attitudes of their parents, and while adolescents are also strongly influenced by their peers, parental attitudes still have a significant impact on their acceptance, or otherwise, of people who are 'different'. In short, if you want your child to embrace differences – whether they relate to race, culture, behaviour, sexuality or anything else – then you need to work hard to make acceptance and respect a family trait.

Tackling tough issues head on

By looking at the same-sex marriage survey through the acceptance lens we may be able to steer conversations and discussions into relatively safe areas that kids can relate to. But that doesn't alter the fact that children and young people will have questions about human sexuality, which includes sexual orientation. Anecdotal evidence suggests that most parents struggle to talk to their children about human sexuality, with many happy leaving the topic to schools to tackle.

The current debate offers an opportunity for parents to have genuine discussions with their children about a broad palette of human sexuality topics that is truly reflective of the community in which we live. That means parents need to be informed and also feel comfortable with their own views and attitudes. The latter may call for an examination of your own attitudes toward sexual orientation to prevent conversations and discussions being flavoured by any insensitivity or insecurity you may have.

It's worth remembering that research shows that providing young people with a thorough knowledge about sex and sexuality does not lead to an increase in promiscuity or teen pregnancy. On the contrary, it's widely accepted that a better understanding of human sexuality amongst teens is associated with a lower incidence of teen pregnancy and less likelihood of first intercourse at a young age.

Similarly, informed, adult discussions of different sexual orientation do not increase the likelihood that a young person will identify as homosexual or lesbian. Explaining LGBTIQ does not influence a child's sexual identity, orientation or expression. Importantly, it does decrease shame and harm for young people who are LGBTIQ – including those who have not yet 'come out' – and it models how to be respectful to those who are.

Being matter-of-fact

Kids are naturally curious. Questions such as "Where do babies come from?" and "Why does he have two mums?" can be asked by both a five-year-old and a fifteen-year-old, albeit in very different ways. Your responses as a parent to questions like these need to differ in complexity and depth as your kids reach different developmental stages. Regardless of a child's age, it also helps to use language that is objective and factual such as, "Families come in many different shapes and sizes", "All families are equal", and "There are many ways to make a family, adoption and IVF being just two examples".

Challenge prejudice and narrow-minded views

Sometimes children and young people will say the cruellest things about others, particularly if those others are part of a minority group. As a parent, remind your child or young person about the impact that narrow views can have on others. We shouldn't underestimate the long-term impact that intolerance by the majority can have on the wellbeing and mental health of a minority.

Most Australians like to pride ourselves on the fact that we've embraced people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I hope that when the same-sex marriage survey is finished, regardless of the result, we can also say that we are a nation that is accepting of diversity in all forms and whose citizens are truly respectful of each other. That's the type of country that most reasonable-minded adults want our children to inherit.

Michael Grose Presentations.

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