Our second group headed off to Lightning Ridge on Monday morning. A chilly 10 degrees but a pleasant 30 degrees when they reached The Ridge.

Next week we have the P&C discos and Welcome to School BBQ for parents and students. I look forward to seeing many of you at the BBQ.

Last week we received a large order of goods as a result of the school’s participation in the Woolworth promotion in 2012. There is now a wide range of new visual arts equipment being delivered to all classrooms – art racks, pastels, paints, water colour pencils and the like. Thank you to everyone who supported the program in such a generous manner.

Accurate hearing is an important tool in helping children to learn. Research indicates the need to ensure ALL students can hear EVERYTHING the teacher is saying in the classroom. Unfortunately, data indicates more and more students do not have this opportunity due to a variety of reasons.

To assist in this process the school recently took delivery of 5 new sound systems to be installed in the Block A classrooms – KW, KS, K/1L, 1DG and 1SK. The sound systems enable the teacher to wear a microphone system so all children can clearly hear what is going on in the classroom.

Sue Belford  
Principal

Attendance
Regular attendance is a critical part of the success students can achieve at school.

Over the seven years children spend from Kindergarten to Year 6 they are at school for approximately 200 days per year for a total of about 1400 days over the seven years. This seems a huge number until you break it down into years, terms and weeks.

A child who misses 20 days of school (1 day each fortnight) each year will lose 140 days over the time at primary school. That is almost a full year of school over the seven years.

The school has a target of 95% attendance for students. This equates to 10 days away from school for absences due to illness.

Lately we have seen a surge in the number of absences from school for activities such as a haircut, “too tired”, stayed home to help Dad, wanted to stay home.

Such absences are not justified under the rules for school attendance. If parents have a valid reason for an absence such as a medical appointment with a specialist they are able to apply for an exemption so the absence is not actually counted against the child’s record. Please contact the office for the necessary paperwork.

If a student is absent for three days or more with illness then a doctor’s certificate is required by the school.

We are very happy with the

Upcoming Events

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<th>Weeks 8, 9 &amp; 10</th>
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<td>Life Education Van</td>
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Monday 18th - Wednesday 20th March
Lightning Ridge Excursion  
Stage 3  
Group B

Tuesday 26th March
Term 1 Discos  
Kinder - Year 2  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
Year 3 - Year 4  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
P&C BBQ  
5:30 - 7:00pm

Wednesday 27th March
Term 1 Discos  
Stage 3  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
P&C BBQ  
6:00 - 7:00pm

Celtic Festival  
Combined School’s Concert  
Wednesday 1st May 1:00pm  
(Dress Rehearsal)  
Wednesday 1st May 7:00pm  
Thursday 2nd May 1:00pm  
Thursday 2nd May 7:00pm

Tuesday 7th May  
Student Leadership Conference  
Tamworth
I have met other parents through the meetings and activities like Discos and fundraisers. I would encourage other parents to come to the meetings, see what happens and you will be more than welcome by us all.

Christine Webel Parent

Congratulations to the new executive team:
President: Tracy Wallbridge
Vice Presidents: Joanne Moffitt and Kirrily Hahn
Secretary: Gigha Goldman
Treasurer: Annette Eastwood

At this stage we still do not have a Lunch Centre Treasurer and are very keen to talk to anyone who would be interested in taking on the position.

Easter Raffle

Tickets are $1.00 each and need to be returned to school by Monday 25th March. Additional tickets are available at the office. Please consider your child’s safety when selling tickets. We do not recommend door to door selling.

The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 26th March 2013

Term 1 “Welcome Back to School Discos & BBQ

The Term 1 discos will take place in Week 9 as a chance for families to meet, the P&C will be running a BBQ to coincide with the discos, at the following times:

- Kinder - Year 4 families
  Tuesday 26th March
  5:30pm - 7:00pm

- Stage 3 families
  Wednesday 27th March
  6:00pm - 7:00pm

The BBQ will replace the usual offer of pizza being available for sale during the discos. Sausage sandwiches: $2.00
Salad & drinks will also be available during the evening.

Please note Year 2 students in 2/3TC can go to either Disco. Kinder - Yr 2 OR Yr 3 - Yr 4

Gigha Goldman  
Secretary

Community News

AUSTSWIM Instructor Training
If you would like to qualify to be an AUSTSWIM Instructor, please contact the school office for more information.

Call for Tenders

Interested persons are invited to tender to construct a concrete path from the playground towards the existing walkway at Taylor Street.

For more information please call at the school office.

Tenders close this Friday
22nd March 2013

Notes Accompanying This Week’s Newsletter:
- Cross Country: Yr3 - Yr6 and 8 year old students in Yr2
- P&C Ice-cream Sundae Fundraiser: All students
- Discos: All students
- Year 6 Shirt Survey: Yr4 - Yr6 students

LUNCH CENTRE NEWS (6732 2893)

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<tr>
<th>Next Week’s Roster — 25th - 28th March</th>
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Recess Specials

This Week
1/2 Toasted Sandwiches
$1.50
Easter Buns -.80c

Next Week
Easter buns -.80c
Hot Dogs $3.00
1/2 Hot Dogs $1.50