



The Brief

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IMPORTANT DATES

Week 9

- 4/12 – Year 6 Funday

Week 10

- 8/12 – Parent Helper Morning Tea 11am-12 noon
- 8/12 – Whole School Assembly 2.20pm
- 9/12 – Year 3 & 4 Party Day
- 9/12 – Year 5 Party Day
- 9/12 – Year 6 Imax & Luna Park
- 9/12 – P&C Meeting 7pm
- 10/12 – Gold Day
- 10/12 – Infants Assembly 2.15pm
- 10/12 – Carols on the Green 5.30pm
- 11/12 – Presentation Day
- 12/12 – Infants Party Day
- 12/12 – Primary Assembly 12 noon

REMINDER OF MONEY DUE

- School Band Fees – NOW OVERDUE
- School Aerobics – Term 2 & Term 3 NOW OVERDUE
- School Aerobics – Term 4 now due
- Aboriginal Art Class Term 3 - \$36 NOW OVERDUE
- Aboriginal Art Class Term 4 now due
- Year 3 & 4 Party Day - \$18 due 4th Dec
- Infants Party Day - \$10 due 9th Dec
- Year 5 Party Day - \$23 due 5th Dec
- Year 6 Imax & Luna Park - \$60 due 4th Dec
- Year 6 Farewell - \$30 due 11th Dec
- Bookpacks can be paid from today
- Term 1 Primary Sport money due 30th January

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE WEEK 9 TERM 4

Dear Parents,

Enrichment Opportunities

At Floraville, we pride ourselves on providing a quality education for every child. We aim to cater for individual students' needs, whether that be through enrichment opportunities, withdrawal groups for learning assistance or adjusted programs in the classroom. As most of you will know, the enrichment class program has been a long running component of our school structure. The class/es have been designed to enrich the learning of students identified as high achieving or potentially gifted and talented.

We have seen some changes to the enrichment opportunities over recent years and these changes are continuing to evolve. Last year we sought feedback from parents as well as students and staff. After considering this feedback and in line with current DEC policy regarding a focus on meeting the individual learning needs of all students we are making further changes to enrichment opportunities at Floraville to help us cater for a wider range of students across all key learning areas.

From 2015 we will be replacing the enrichment classes with structures that will allow us to identify and cater more widely for students' strengths as well as areas of need. This will begin with the introduction of graded ability groupings across Years 3 to 6. The first subject area to see this will be Mathematics from Term 1. Students will be streamed and will undertake maths lessons in these groups with students of similar ability. The aim is to enable the teachers to more effectively target the learning to the needs of

the group and will mean that students are receiving instruction in a group working at their level of ability. This scenario promotes students' strengths and interests and accommodates for a more realistic view that many students may have a strength in one key learning area and not all key learning areas.

After the success of this initiative is reviewed other subject areas may be included.

In conjunction with the streamed groupings we are also introducing regular enrichment sessions across the school where students with a particular talent or area of expertise/interest will be invited to participate in learning experiences that will extend their understandings and enrich their learning in these areas, examples may include a technology group, a visual arts group, a creative writing group, etc.

We thank everyone for their valuable feedback and look forward to these exciting opportunities in 2015.

Water Catchers Video

Congratulations to the students and staff involved in the Hunter Water - Water Catchers short film competition. A group of students, staff and parents attended the official screening of the finalist's videos last Friday at the Tower Cinemas in Newcastle. It was great to see our video (written by Grace Ellis) on the big screen and we were thrilled to be announced as the overall winner. The prize included \$10 000 for the school which will be put to good use supporting some of our curriculum and environmental initiatives.

For the Love of Science

Science is a method of engaging with, and trying to understand, the world. Professor Tim Flannery says if a child is interested in pursuing science, encourage them to develop persistence and humility – the idea that they won't always be right.

Listen to the podcast: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/science/science-tips-for-the-love-of-science>

Pleasures of Free Play

Allowing free time for children to play on their own, making up games and activities, can help children to be comfortable in their own company, teach them how to cope with boredom and, importantly, foster their imagination.

Under scheduling your child:
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/benefits-of-underscheduling-your-child>

Thank you.

David Robson
Principal

Thought for the week:

The real person you are is revealed in the moments when you're certain no other person is watching. When no one is watching, you are driven by what you expect of yourself.

~Ralph S. Marston, Jr.

This week's virtue is **JOYFULNESS**:

Joyfulness is an inner sense of peace and happiness. You appreciate the gifts each day brings. Without joyfulness, when the fun stops, our happiness stops. Joy can carry us through the hard times even when we are feeling very sad. Joy gives us wings.

Assembly Class of the Week – 1R

PRESENTATION DAY AND AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Please refer to the Principal's Report in last week's newsletter for details about these special events. Parents of award recipients will be invited to attend the relevant presentation. Invitations were mailed on 3rd December.

New Presentation Day Format (Week 10 Thursday 11th December)

9:15- 10:15am: K-2 Presentation

- K-2 students present in the hall
- K-2 Class Awards presented
- Hosted by school leaders

10:15- 10:45am: 1st break

11:00- 12:00pm: Years 3-6 Presentation

- Years 3-6 students present in the hall
- Years 3-6 Class Awards presented
- Hosted by school leaders

12:30- 1:30pm: Major Awards Ceremony

- Yrs 3-6 students present in the hall along with special guests and invited parents
- Hosted by school leaders
- Major Awards include: Bandperson of the Year, Performing Arts Award, Literacy & Numeracy Award, Library Awards, Parliamentarian of the Year, Junior & Senior Landcare Award, Male & Female Sportsperson of the Year, Principal's Award, Leonie Weller Memorial Award, Citizenship Award, Dux and 2015 School Leaders.

1:30- 2:10pm: 2nd break

New Awards Assembly Format (Week 11 Monday 15th December 2:00pm)

Awards include:

- Zone PSSA representatives (who competed at Regional titles)
- Hunter PSSA representatives (who competed at State titles)
- State PSSA representatives (who competed at Nationals)
- Zone Public Speaking Awards
- Zone Debating Awards
- Zone Spelling Bee Awards
- Reading Recovery Awards
- Computers, Music, Art and Drama (RFF) Awards

SPORT NEWS

Term 1 2015 Primary Sport

Term 1 Primary Sport begins in Week 2 (6th February). The permission notes were sent home today and most positions in elective sports have been filled by next year's Year 5 and Year 6 students, as they get preference. Your payment will secure your child's place in their chosen sport which is due by Friday of Week 1 (30th January, 2015). **Students who do not get a place in an elective sport will participate in rotational sports and a note will be sent home for these students next week.**

Sports Awards for 2014

We will be holding an Awards Assembly on Monday 15th December from 2pm and parents of award recipients will be invited to attend along with anyone else who is interested. Details were in last week's newsletter. This assembly will recognise the following students:

- Zone PSSA representatives (who competed at Regional titles)
- Hunter PSSA representatives (who competed at State titles)
- State PSSA representatives (who competed at Nationals)
- The Male and Female Sportsperson of the Year (briefly acknowledged again after being officially announced at the Major Awards Presentation on the Thursday prior to this assembly)

We look forward to acknowledging and celebrating the sporting achievements at Floraville!

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

Water Catchers Competition

On Friday evening the winners of the Water Watchers competition was announced at the Towers Cinema in Newcastle. We waited anxiously as the runners up were announced and then there was great excitement as Floraville School was named as the winner. Grace Ellis of 6P created the script that featured DJ WW (DJ Water Wise.) The acting and singing talents of Grace Ellis, Billy Thomas, Eliza Norman, Travis Richmond, Madison Andrews, Mia Williams, Mikaela Jensen and Jessica Hanson impressed the judges. Congratulations on a well-deserved win.



Year 6 Funday

Just a reminder that the Year 6 Fun Day is on this Thursday 4th December.

All students at Floraville are invited to come along and join in the fun!

Time: 11:30am-1:15pm. Tokens will be sold in the classrooms on Thursday morning. The tokens are 20 cents each.

Students may come out of uniform on this day. Remember to wear sensible footwear and a hat (no singlets please.)

Carols on the Green

We hope you have Wednesday 10th December booked into your calendar! Floraville's 'Carols on the Green' gates will open at 5.30pm, with a BBQ and a variety of entertainment scheduled for throughout the night. All students have been busy practising their stage's carol to perform on the night, so....

Bring your chairs, picnic rugs and family and friends for a fun night of carolling!

Please note: This is a non-alcohol event.

Thank you for your support in advance ☺



Parliament Education Rebate

Year 6 students from Floraville have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital, Canberra. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards these costs.

This \$20 was already deducted from the cost to parents charged for the excursion.

LIBRARY NEWS

Stocktake and Return of Library Books

Stocktake is currently underway in the library. Library books were due to be returned by Friday 28th November although students using the Lexile program will be allowed to continue borrowing 1 Lexile book at a time.

If students are having difficulty finding missing/overdue books I have suggested they get an adult to help them have an 'adult look' at home. If they still have no luck, please let me know via a note, an email or in person. I will take note of the missing books and will contact you later in the year or early next year if the book/s appear on the list of missing books from the stocktake.

Thank you for your support in returning or searching for library books.

Lexile Reading Program

The Lexile website is currently unavailable as we are still in the process of migrating to Literacy Pro. Hopefully, this will be in operation by next week, I'll keep you posted. Students are encouraged to continue reading and either complete a 'paper quiz' or wait for the new system to be available and complete an online quiz then.

P&C NEWS

The P&C would like to thank Kelly Woodger for all her organisation with Bookclub. All the work she puts into it, is very much appreciated. The school benefits greatly from Bookclub with Scholastic rewarding the school with vouchers that are used to buy books for our library.

We also thank our team of banking mums who, every Thursday spend hours counting and sorting our children's banking. Again their help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Next P&C meeting, the last for 2014 is next Tuesday, 9th December at 6:30 in the library.

CANTEEN NEWS

Christmas Lunch Bags will be available through until Friday 12th December inclusive! Check our School website/App for details on bags available!

Wednesday 10th December – Red Day!!! Help needed please in the canteen for second break from 1.30 -2.15pm.

Wednesday 10th December - Carols on the Green! Help will be needed on the night to sell chips, lollies & drinks, please see Margaret in Canteen if able to assist.

Thursday 11th December – Presentation Day – Canteen will be **CLOSED**.

Friday 12th December – LAST CANTEEN DAY FOR 2014!

Please be aware that the canteen **WILL NOT BE OPEN** for lunches the last 3 days of term, being Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th December. Canteen will be closed for cleaning in readiness for 2015.

Roster

Thursday 4/12 – Renaye Dobb, Belinda Richardson, Jodi Peachman

Friday 5/12 – Kelly Woodger, Angela Buddingh, Peter Guest

Monday 8/12 – Suzanne Halpin, Renae Picton, Michelle Gray

Tuesday 9/12 – Deb Shaw, Kate Coveny, Larissa Street (am)

Wednesday 10/12 – Andrew Sweet, Sharon Sweet, Vikki Shoesmith, Kate Ellis

BANKING NEWS

BANKING CHAMPIONS: KS

School Banking is every Thursday.

****Helpers are required urgently****

UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN Wednesdays 2.30 – 3.15pm

Uniform Shop Closed Mondays