FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 1 – Week 7

Our key priority this year will be an unrelenting focus on improving reading, writing and numeracy in all students through a whole school pedagogical approach which includes explicit instruction. This means that all students will improve in reading, writing and numeracy because we will be focussing on the best possible ways to teach.

Principal’s conference

The conference focused on the importance of:

- implementing a pedagogical framework to support excellence in teaching and learning practices
- connecting with parents and the community to support successful student learning outcomes

Dr George Otero shared with us this article from the Herald Sun (Wednesday, August 19, 2009, page 27)

The educational power of parents was demonstrated in Australia recently when a group of parents were asked to simply play a board game one night a week for four weeks with their children. The results were stunning! Playing board games at home just once a week helped improve the children’s concentration, teamwork, sharing, communication, sportsmanship, critical thinking skills, maths and spelling. OMD Insights got 125 families, around Australia with children five to twelve to down the Nintendo and play board games at least once a week for a month. Family relationships improved and parents were amazed children did not need to be glued to the TV.

I was not surprised by this study. I remember, very fondly, times I spent with my parents and siblings playing board and card games and carried that tradition on with Jonathon. Parent involvement in the school is important yet as the board game research indicates, parents impact educational opportunity and experience in many diverse ways and in many different environments. Keep up the great work!

Retirement

As you are aware Mrs Kari Morphy is currently on long service leave. This week she advised the school that she will not be returning as she has decided it is time to retire. Kari was a teacher here at Marlborough for 18 years and has made an amazing contribution to our community. She has truly made a difference to the lives of all the students at our school and will be sadly missed by both the staff and students here. She will be joining us at our celebration day on the last day of term. This will give everyone a chance to catch up with Kari and for the students to say goodbye.

Awards

These are the two students of the week winners, Jessie and Madison. Madison got hers for helping in class and Jessie got hers for being organised in class. (Photos and text by Cadyn)

At parade this week Justin received the first lower school awards for IXL maths. Well done Justin!
Parent teacher interviews
With the newsletter today is a list of appointment times for parent teacher interviews which will take place next week. Both Michelle and I will attend each interview. If you need longer than a ten minute timeslot please make a note of this. To schedule a time outside the listed times please write down a couple of suggestions and we can find a time that is suitable to us all.

What’s happening?
We come from a land down under… In SOSE we have been learning about Australia including our national flag, the states flags and flowers, our national flower and Australian currencies and the notable Australians that feature on our currency. The activities involve group work and self-paced investigations that cater to everyone. The students are learning to draw conclusions and give explanations, using information learnt in these hands-on engagements. At the end of the term students will have a wonderful project book to take home and share with you.

Student council report – Jessie Noakes
In the Student Council meeting on Monday we discussed more on the subject of the Easter Party. We talked about the price and the prize for the raffle. In the end we decided that there will be $1 tickets for the chance to win a big basket full of Easter goodies. We also agreed that there will be a stall where you can get you face painted for 50c.

Accident insurance cover for students
Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education and Training does not have Student Accident Insurance cover for students. Therefore, if your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs, are the responsibility of the child, parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If parents have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered through the private health insurance. Any other costs would be borne by the parents.

Student Accident Insurance is an insurance policy that pays certain benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is a personal decision for parents as to the types and levels of private insurance they arrange to cover their child for any accidental injury that may occur. Parents should contact their insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if they choose to take out student personal accident insurance cover for their child.

Parent and community engagement framework launched
Research tells us that students achieve more when schools, parents and the local community work together. To this end our school will be using the newly-launched Parent and Community Engagement Framework to better work with you for the benefit of our children. Visit the website for more information on the framework.


Schools to enhance teaching
By the end of 2013, our school will have developed a pedagogical framework in collaboration with the school community. This framework is designed to ensure our school delivers high quality teaching focused on the achievement of every student. For more information speak to our school’s administration team.


Regards

Meg Saunderson

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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 18th – Interhouse Cross Country</td>
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<td>Thursday 21st March – School Photos</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th – Interschool Cross Country – St. Lawrence</td>
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<td>Thursday 28th – Last Day of Term 1</td>
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<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 15th – Term 2 Begins</td>
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