

The Gecko News

Principal's Word



Term One is flying by- we are almost at the halfway mark already. Our students have been very busy settling in to the routines of their new classes. Exciting times have been had by our Kindergarten – Year 2 students with a visit from Scitech last week. Students had lots of fun learning about chemical sciences and what happens when we mix things.

Our senior school students have been trying out for the upcoming League Tag Competition, with training for this already well underway. Our Year 6 students have demonstrated their willingness to take on the responsibilities of being our senior group by nominating for our school leadership roles. Announcements of these positions will be made at our assembly tomorrow morning.

In week 8, our P&C will be hosting the school Colour Explosion fun run! This is set to be very exciting with the focus of the afternoon being fun, fitness and lots of colour. It will be a great opportunity for our school community to come together. Further information about this event is outlined in the P&C News section of this newsletter.



Melanie Buller
Principal

Public School Review

School reviews provide feedback to principals, their staff and the school community to help improve school performance. They also add to existing quality assurance measures. Our school is being reviewed this term. We are currently collating our school submission where we outline how we are going, how we know this and what we have planned for improvement.

On Thursday, 11 March the review team, consisting of a Director (Public School Review) and a principal, will attend the school for a validation visit. The purpose of the visit is to validate the areas we have identified in our submission, via meetings and discussions with staff, students and parents.

Year 5/6 Cultural Incursion

The Year 5 and 6 students have been offered a fantastic opportunity to attend a powerful and informative one-hour incursion called 'The Story Blanket'. The 'Story Blanket' is interactive and takes the students on a journey along a historical timeline. Through readings, photos, actions and stories the 'Story Blanket' explains many of Australia's significant events and the impact they had on Aboriginal people.

This incursion is a free event and will be held on Tuesday, 2 March. Further details have been sent out to parents of all students involved via Compass.

Healthy Breakfast Club

Healthy Breakfast Club is held each week in the Staffroom on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30am-8:00am. Students will be provided with a free breakfast, offering cereal, toast, fruit and milo.

All students are welcome to attend. We ask all parents, particularly those of students with allergies, to be aware that your child may opt to go to the Breakfast Club. If you have any concerns with your child attending, please contact the school office on 9584 6200.

If you would like more information regarding Breakfast Club, or would like to volunteer or know a neighbour or grandparent that could assist, please contact the School Chaplain, Mr Chris Greene via the office on 9584 6200.



On Entry Assessment

During weeks 4-7 of this term all pre-primary students will be participating in the Education Department's On-Entry Assessment Program. This program provides teachers with information on the essential literacy and numeracy skills and understandings of each child in the class. The assessment tasks will be conducted in both whole class and one-to-one environments. Further information regarding the program will be sent out to all parents/carers over the next week. Additional information can also be found at:

<http://det.wa.edu.au/educationalmeasurement/detcm/navigation/on-entry/information-for-parents/>

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Assembly

Our senior assembly (Year 3-6) is on tomorrow morning, hosted by Year Six, Room 18. This will commence at approximately 8:30am. The assembly will also include the announcements of our Year 6 student leaders. We hope that you can join us.

Art News

In Art this term, we are looking at the theme of Animals. We've started with Seahorses and Lions and have been learning how to draw them. Ask your child to show you how it's done. Their efforts so far have been amazing!



ART SHIRTS – can you please check that your child has an Art Shirt. If you're having trouble finding one, please let me know and I'll try and help.

Yours in Art, Mrs Gatti

Attendance

We are off to a flying start with our attendance this term, which is fantastic to see. Students are beginning to settle in to the class routines and make new friends. Attendance at school every day is vitally important for student's academic and social development. We are happy to work with any family who may be experiencing difficulty in getting their child to school, for any reason, so please come and see me if you would like some support here.

A quick reminder that if your child is absent for ANY reason, even if they are still sick and you notified us of this the day before, you need to still add an Attendance Note in Compass. This is the easiest way to update your child's attendance records, and will mean an SMS reminder will not be sent out or a follow-up call made. If you need your Compass login details to be resent, please contact the office.

Ms Braithwaite



P & C News

Colour Explosion

The School Colour Explosion will be held on Friday, 26 March as follows:

- 1.30pm – 1:50pm (Kindy/PP/Year 1)
- 2:00pm – 2:25pm (Year 2 – 6)

Sponsor and fundraising information will be sent home tomorrow with all students. Please refer to the Colour Explosion pamphlets to register your child's name, school and class.

Children will need to wear an old white or light coloured t-shirt and are also able to wear casual shorts. Please NO SCHOOL SHIRTS to be worn for the run. Children will be supplied with sunglasses but they can wear their own goggles if they prefer. Asthmatic children will be sprayed with powder below their waist or on their back.

For this event to run smoothly, we will need volunteers to set up and spray the children as they run past each station. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Dianne Vallve at the school on 9584 6200.

Colour Explosion Top Tip- Coconut Oil is a natural product that can be applied to hair prior to the event to prevent colour staining.



Meeting

The next P&C AGM meeting is being held on Monday, 15 March at 6:30pm in the staff room. All parents and carers of SHHPS students are welcome to attend and have your say in how we can support your children to grow and thrive at school.



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Drama Celebrations

It is lovely to see some photos of our students from South Halls Head PS participating in drama productions from their lessons with Helen O'Grady Drama Academy.

Further information regarding these sessions can be obtained by contacting Kristen Matthey (Principal)
 Email: kristen.matthey@helenogrady.net.au
 Phone: (08) 9593 7194



Term Dates

Week	Day	Event
5	Mon 1/3 Tues 2/3	Public Holiday (Labour Day) Yr 5/6 Aboriginal Cultural Awareness
6	Thu 11/3	Newsletter School Review
7	Mon 15/3 Fri 19/3	P & C Meeting AGM 6.30pm Rugby League Tag Yr 5 – 6 Meadow Springs
8	Mon 22/3 – Fri 26/3 Fri 26/3	Yr 3 – 6 Swimming Doddies Beach Colour Explosion
9	Mon 29/3 – Wed 31/3 Thu 1/4	Yr 3 – 6 Swimming Doddies Beach Year 3 – 6 Beach Carnival

