Redfern’s Ramble

Smile!
Today was our annual photo day. As with all long-term planned events there is only so much that can achieved in supporting everyone’s requests. The photographers did an excellent job of raising and lowering the stands to accommodate a procession of smaller and then taller children and then back again so that we could maximise who was photographed at a time most suitable to all.

I have asked for a date earlier in the Term 1 calendar for 2016 in an effort to avoid some of the high school auditions, sport trials, etc that have compacted on this year’s photo day. No doubt the new date will conflict with some other activity, however, we will do our best.

Rules of engagement
As you are likely well aware the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up of students along Derribong Drive can be quite a challenging activity for parents, students and supervising teachers. We are all doing our best to ensure this is a safe and mostly calm activity.

School staff, and the RMS Traffic Controller, are not the police and cannot fine drivers for abuse of the road rules. We are able to encourage safe driving behaviour that supports everyone. To that aim, please remember the ‘Kiss & Drop’ zone has a limited number of places. If your car does not fit along the kerb between the signs you are not to wait behind the line of stationary cars. The RMS Traffic Controller is not allowed to cross students at the crossing while cars are banked up behind the ‘Kiss and Drop’ zone.

Please remember your children are learning from your behaviour at this time. As Australians we are all fortunate to live in an egalitarian society where differences are celebrated. Patience, following the road rules and using polite communication when things go array will continue to ensure our students observe positive role models inside and outside our school.

March 18, 2015

Mirror mirror on the wall
I know that Ms. Liles is carrying a thank you message within this newsletter for the support she received from parents on the weekend polishing and erecting mirrors in the hall. I would like to add my voice to her gratitude. I would also like to thank Ms. Liles for her efforts; efforts that included a 12 hour day on Saturday. Dedication comes in many forms, and Ms. Liles exhibits a whole host of them. Well done!

Quick reminder
Mr. Hoy will relieve as principal from tomorrow until the end of term. During this time Ms. Liles will be the assistant principal leading Stage 2 and Mrs. Blanch will teach 4H. I look forward to returning from Day 1 Term 2.

Common sense and a sense of humour are the same thing moving at different speeds. Humour is just common sense dancing!

William James

Sports News: Congratulations Elizabeth! At the South Coast Regional Swimming Carnival held on Friday 6th March, Elizabeth (4H) successfully qualified to represent our school and the South Coast Region at the NSW PSSA State Swimming Championships. Elizabeth finished 2nd in the Junior Girls Breaststroke with an exceptional time of 49.73. The State Championships will be held at Homebush on the 25th and 26th of March.

Congratulations on this truly outstanding achievement Elizabeth. Best wishes and good luck at Homebush!
Matt Batley, Sports Organiser
Harmony Day: This Saturday, March 21st is Harmony Day, however, at Unanderra Public School, we will be recognising Harmony Day on Friday March 20th. The message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

There are many ways we can celebrate Harmony Day – through sport, dance, art, film, music, storytelling, cooking and sharing cultural meals. By participating in Harmony Day activities we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place.

The students at Unanderra Public School will be recognising Harmony Day through a variety of class activities. To further promote Harmony Day, students and staff have been invited to wear an orange item of clothing on Friday. Alternatively, students might have an orange accessory such as a badge, hair-tie or wristband that they could wear.

Please note that this is not a mufti day. We expect that students not dressed accordingly for Harmony Day will wear their school uniform on Friday. Also, Harmony Day activities are free and we are not asking for donations.

Andrew Bennett, Harmony Day Coordinator

Home Reading: Are you looking at the tips in the READ IT books and finding them useful? We realise there isn’t much room for writing the book titles so if I they go into the comments column that’s alright. We do want parents to acknowledge they have been listening to their children read so can you please put your initials near the face if you are not writing a comment. Students should be finishing the faces to show what they think of the book or their reading.

Some students have reached 25 nights and have their first award – Well done!

Kathy Dobinson, Learning and Support Teacher

Reflections in the Hall: I would like to extend a huge thank you to the parents, students and community members who donated their time last Saturday to polish the donated mirrors for the hall. The mirrors have now been mounted to the wall and will be used as an excellent learning resource for a variety of programs including dance, public speaking, CAPA groups, class performances and choir.

Thank you very much for your time and effort. It is greatly appreciated.

Kyleigh Liles, ClassTeacher

School Photographs: School Photos were taken today. For any enquiries, please feel free to contact MSP Photography on 4261 3009 or email: illawarra@msp.com.au

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P & C News

P & C meeting: The next P & C meeting has been scheduled for Monday 30th March 2015, at 7.00pm in the school staffroom. If you would like to hear more about what’s happening in the school, present ideas, share opinions and vote on items raised on the agenda, please come along to our next meeting.

Adidas Fun Run – As one of our first P & C fundraisers for the year the Adidas Fun Run will be held this Thursday 19th March in conjunction with our school Cross Country. Parent letters and sponsorship forms detailing the event have been sent home. If you did not receive one please see the office. Sponsorships are based solely on participation in the Cross Country and not on distances or laps run. There are lots of great prizes you can earn by participating in the fun run along with a chance to win a trip to Disneyland. Online fundraising is available and details are contained in your sponsorship booklet. All monies and prize selections need to be returned to the school by the 27th March.

Easter Raffle: The school Easter Hat Parade will take place on Thursday 2nd April and we are preparing now for our Easter Raffle to be drawn during the parade. We are seeking donations of Easter eggs or gifts to fill baskets for this raffle. If you would like to make a donation all items would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you.

Bright Star Kids: For all your school labelling needs see Bright Star Kids. Just provide the school’s details when you create your account or at checkout when you complete your order and 20% of sales will be paid back to the school. Support Bright Star Kids at www.brightstarkids.com.au Joanne Crawford, P & C President

School Banking: This week we had 106 bank deposits – another great effort. KD won the prize for the most deposits this week.

Regarding selection of prizes after reaching 10 tokens, please ensure that you select a prize that is available in that term. Prizes for other terms cannot be ordered this term. Please also be aware that prizes are not kept in stock at school. They must be ordered and can take a few weeks to arrive.

If anyone is able to help out with schools banking on Tuesday mornings from 9am - 10:30am extra help would be appreciated. If you are able to help out, please leave your name and phone number at the office. Thank you.

Elizabeth Ilievski, Dajana Castagna and Jenny Evans, School Banking Coordinators

Stage 3 Poetry

Best Friends

You’re the one who’s by my side when no one else is there.
You’re the one I always count on, you always seem to care.

You help me through the tough times when I’ve lost all hope.
You cry with me at sad times and laugh at all my jokes.

You never seem to judge me or ever put me down.
You put a smile back on my face, whenever you see a frown.

by Brianna Mullaney (5/6A)

Music

Some music is soothing, some music is sad.
Some music is happy and some is really bad.

I like to play in treble, high notes I can sing.
I’m really sorry Meghan, but bass just isn’t my thing.

I like classical, country and even Indi rock.
Heavy metal’s not my thing, my favourite type is pop.

Music makes me happy, no matter what the type.
I love every genre, loud or low or high.

Tuesday is my music day, It’s my favourite one.
I have vocals, choir and piano all of these are fun.

My teachers’ names are Grahame, that’s one, now here’s the rest.
There’s Emily and Mrs Morgan (the last one, she’s the best!).

Music is amazing, it helps me when I’m hurt.
And when I’m doing homework, the music helps me work.

Music is my passion, I’ll never ever quit.
When it comes to music, that’s when I’ve got some wit.

by Siena (6M)