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Newsletter No.20

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Split Classes
I would like to extend a huge thank you to all Kindy and Pre Primary parents for your support and understanding throughout the organisation of the PP/1 class for next year. Having so many people view the possibility of their child joining this class positively has certainly made this task easier.

During our discussion about the PP/1 class, the main concern expressed was that the teacher wouldn’t be able to accommodate the varying needs of each age group. Indeed, this is a fear for parents with children in any split class. As a result, the belief is that a straight class comprising of one year group is better. For a small school like Mullaloo Heights, numbers do not allow for straight classes. However, this does not mean our students are disadvantaged. Split classes are based upon the theory of developmental learning. This main premise of this is that children develop at different rates and do not meet milestones at specific ages. In other words, there cannot be a ‘one size fits all’ approach to teaching and learning. For example, a year 1 class will include students with a wide range of abilities, academic, social and physical. An effective teacher will assess each student and ascertain the starting point for teaching. An appropriate program will then be developed for each student or group of students. In a split class, again there will be a variety of abilities for the teacher to address. In this cohort, there will be overlap in abilities, with younger children exceeding older children in some areas. This actually means that the spread of abilities will not necessarily be less than in a straight class. In both classes, the teacher will need to assess skills and deliver a program suited to the needs of their students. What will differ is that in the split classes, ability groups will comprise of students of different ages. In both class structures, student will receive a teaching program based on their needs. In 2016, some of our students will be placed in a split class. If you are worried about this, I am happy to talk it through with you. Please drop into the office and see me.

Chicken Coop
Work has finally begun on our new chicken coop today. As I write, the structure is slowly emerging and it looks like our chickens will have ‘state of the art’ home with plenty of room to move around. The coop should be finished early next week. Make sure you have a walk past the environmental garden to view the progress. As a little aside, Hamish, our coop designer and builder, has already commented on the politeness of our students. Many have stopped to chat to him as he works. Once again, our students demonstrate the values we hold dear at Mullaloo Heights.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, 24 November
2016 Kindy Orientation 8:45-9.45am (Kindy room)

Thursday, 26 November
Pre Primary Assembly

Thursday, 3 December
2016 PP Orientation 8.45-10.45am (PP room)

Friday, 4 December
Yr6 Fun Fair

Thursday, 10 December
Y6 Graduation Ceremony 8.45am in Undercover Area

Friday, 11 December
Yr6 Great Escape excursion

Tuesday, 15 December
Edu dance concert & EOY Award Assembly at 7:00pm in the Undercover area

Wednesday, 16 December
Whole School EOY Lunch

Thursday, 17 December
Last Day of Term 4

~ Term Break ~
Swimming
Swimming is over for another year. Well done to all the students who participated. It has been lovely to watch you all participate in this program so enthusiastically. Also, thank you parents for ensuring your children arrived dressed and prepared for their swimming lessons.

Fire Evacuation and ‘Lock Down’ Procedures
In the next few weeks, we will practise a fire evacuation and lock down procedure. We will explain the procedures prior to each practise so that the students are at ease. We will also let you know when this has occurred.

Caroline Booth
Principal
School Banking is looking for volunteers in 2016 – we need your help!

Our students really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help.

The program requires a volunteer School Banking Co-ordinator to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week and the Commonwealth Bank will provide support in how to run the program. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising.

Currently, School Banking day is Wednesday.

If you have an interest in volunteering for this great program please come and see us on a Wednesday morning in the undercover area and speak to Abby or Sam or Astrid.

Commencing in 2016! Our Early Beginnings program will operate each Friday morning, from 9:30am to 11:30am, in the Kindy room for ages 2½ – 4 years*
(*)only for those children not attending a Kindy program in 2016).
Please email your expression of interest to Sharmian.Moult@education.wa.edu.au
**Further information to follow**
We're looking forward to heading to Mullaloo WA on Sunday 22 November! All entries can be made online and will close at midday Saturday 21 November. To enter, visit oceanswimrun.com.au PLUS, all Medibank members automatically receive a 10% discount on entries at checkout!

Mullaloo WA - Sun 22 November, 2015 - entries close midday next Saturday 21 November

The event will kick off at 7.30am - just before the Medibank Wave Warriors Junior Challenge. Open to everyone from age 5 - 60+, it includes a 200m ocean swim and a 2km beach run. (Kids 5 - 10yo will complete a 400m wade and a 400m beach run). All competitors receive a registration bag including a hat, sunscreen, drink bottle, health bars and more...

Be sure to enter the Medibank competition on the morning to win an amazing Sports Pack filled with over $400 worth of really great stuff for the whole family!!! Adults simply need to complete an entry form on the day to be in the running to win it and the winner will be notified at the end of the day.

All information on events and entries can be made online at www.oceanswimrun.com.au or please feel free to email info@wavewarriors.com.au or call us on 0433 168 930 if you have any questions at all.