Thursday 4th September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

A Big Thank You

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our P & C Committee for their efforts in supporting our school and most recently with their work that has reduced the price of our senior shirts by over half the original cost per student.

Literacy Development Begins at Home, With a Literate Home Environment

Learning to read and write at a high level of proficiency is a lifelong process; however, it is well established that the early childhood years serve as an important foundation for subsequent literacy development (Neuman & Dickinson, 2001; Snow, Burns, & Griffin, 1998; Whitehurst & Lonigan, 2001).

One of the most effective approaches to helping young children develop literacy skills is having a home environment that supports literacy. Research clearly shows that instructional environments have a powerful impact on children's growth in reading. While much of the research on instructional environments focuses on classroom environments, researchers believe that the same effects may be found in supportive home environments. Other researchers have concluded it seems clear that home environments for reading and writing should be given at least equal consideration.

Encouraging and supporting your child to read at home

Parents can support their children's literacy development at home by:

- talking to children as much as possible
- joining in — playing and talking with children
- asking their children what they did at kindergarten or school
- singing songs
- looking at cereal boxes and other packets in the kitchen
- discussing recipes and talking about how food is prepared
- encouraging children to write their own shopping lists
- encouraging children to fetch items from the supermarket shelf
- writing messages on sticky notes and leaving them on refrigerator or wall
- look at the junk mail together
- having lots of books in the home
- joining the local library and borrowing books
- reading and writing with the children
- looking at magazines and comics together
- reading and telling a story every day
- watching television together, such as — ‘Playschool’ and other children’s programs
- writing cards and letters — get children to write their own messages and sign their names
- recognising familiar landmarks
- sending birthday cards and postcards

Parents Count Too Pamphlets

Effective partnerships in numeracy education develop from good communication. A range of pamphlets has been developed outlining activities that can be used at home to support mathematics learning at school. These pamphlets on “Helping your child with...” are available in files that can be downloaded in 22 community languages. As well as English, the languages available are Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Farsi, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Macedonian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Thai, Tongan, Turkish and Vietnamese.

These resources were developed by the NSW Department of Education and can be found at:


Stephen Rowe
Principal
STUDENT AWARDS

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<tr>
<td>Leanne Brown</td>
<td>Andy Ho</td>
<td>Kain Andrews</td>
<td>Madison Small</td>
<td>Tammy Ho</td>
<td>Marcus Taliani</td>
<td>Anthony Harp</td>
<td>Christopher Hoyt</td>
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| Gabrielle Archer | Angelina Hoyle | Chedyn Ah Young | Mia Khalil | Brandon Pham | Marken Silagi | Kaila Weston Hill | Robert Tan |}

Would you like your child to be part of the art therapy program? Did you know that we do relaxation groups here at school?

Kristy will be working with our students using focused psychological strategies to help our students to achieve their full potential.

How could coming to see Kristy help your child?

See your GP and ask for a Mental Health Care Plan for your child today.

Has your child experienced:
- Feeling like he/she doesn’t fit in?
- Finding him/herself in trouble?
- Finding change difficult?
- Feeling sad or frightened?
- Feeling like they need someone safe to talk to?
- Being angry a lot?
- Feeling worried?
- Having trouble at school?
- Trouble at home?
- Bullying?
- Confusion?

Kristy will work with your child to:
- Feel happier
- Solve problems better
- Find ways to talk to other people
- Feel more in control
- Ask for help when they need it
- Make good choices
- Be able to think things through
- Learn new ways to feel better
- Find safe ways to express feelings

Thank you to our wonderful teachers who organised this fabulous event!