4 February 2013

THIS WEEK . . . WEEK 2
Tue 5/2: Annual School Swimming Carnival at Swansea Pool for all students in Years 2 to 6. There will be many events for students aged 8 and up including some novelty events. A note was sent home last week with all the details. It is expected that every child will attend and participate. Look out for the war cry competition. Good luck swimmers!

NEXT WEEK . . . WEEK 3
Mon 11/2: Vision screening for Kindy students
Tue 12/2: Active After School Sport begins for students in Years 3 to 6 - see note in this newsletter
Wed 13/2: Head Lice Check - see note in this newsletter
P&C meeting at 9.15 am
Active After School Sport begins for students in Kindy, YearS 1 and 2 - see note in this newsletter

WEEK 4
Wed 20/2: Parent Information meeting and Meet and Greet Barbecue starting at 4.30pm

Canteen is closed every Tuesday
The weekly Newsletter can be found on the school website!!

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Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to the 2013 school year. I trust you all had a nice break in spite of the couple of hot days and the last few days of rain. Welcome to our new parents and caregivers including grandparents. I hope you will find our school a happy and friendly environment. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have concerns or issues because my job is to ensure that your children have a valuable learning experience and I don’t want anything to stop that from happening.

All students returned looking fabulous - I was most impressed by their lovely uniforms. Thanks for the black school shoes!! Thanks to Mel Stokes who coordinates our school Uniform Shop, for all her work to get the huge supply of uniforms that are needed at the beginning of the school year.

We have a small number of staff changes for 2013. Right at the end of the year Mr Ken Brooks, one of our long-serving Assistant Principals, was offered the opportunity as Principal (Relieving) at Fassifern Public School. It is expected that by the end of this term Mr Brooks will know if he will return to us at Swansea or if he will continue on as the Principal at Fassifern. In the meantime, Miss Katherine Dunbar is replacing Mr Brooks on a temporary basis. At the end of 2012 Mrs Clarkson was awarded a very prestigious scholarship for Special Education and she will be replaced by Miss Body on Kindergarten, job sharing with Mrs Bassett for two days per week. Miss Henry will continue her wonderful work 3 days per week as our school’s Teacher-Librarian, job sharing with Mrs Simmonds until further notice. Mrs Anderson and Mrs Chensee will be job sharing until further notice on an unfilled vacancy that may very well be filled this term.

We are very close (we need another 5 students) to move to a tenth classroom position. This means that most of our classes and grades are filled up to, or beyond, capacity. At this stage we will continue with the nine class arrangement.

The classes for 2013 are:

KB - Mrs Boyce
KC - Mrs Bassett (Assistant Principal) Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and Miss Body on Thursday and Friday
1AC - Mrs Anderson and Mrs Chensee
2/1T - Mrs Tyrrell
2H - Mr Hellier
4/3B - Miss Dunbar
4/3T - Mr Thomas
6/5M - Mr Murrell (Assistant principal– relieving)
6/5R - Mrs Rippon (Assistant principal – relieving)
Reading Recovery (for Year 1 only) - Mrs Anderson
Learning and Support Teacher (LAST) - Mr Watson, five days per week
Release from Face to Face – Mrs Melville, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Teacher/Librarian - Miss Henry, Monday Tuesday and Wednesday

Due to enrolled children’s life threatening Anaphylactic allergic reactions to all nuts and peanut products, we would like to encourage families not to send these products to school with their children. These include peanut butter, Nutella, sesame seeds, loose nuts, muesli, nut or chocolate bars or any products containing any type of nuts.

Quality Teaching … Excellent Facilities … Enriching Programs
parent information meetings and meet and greet - wednesday 20 february
in 2013 each class teacher will hold a parent information meeting starting at 4.30pm on wednesday 20 february. issues such as homework, home reading, assessment and class discipline processes will be just some of the items up for discussion. after this information session the school will put on a barbecue for our school community. in next week’s newsletter a return slip will be included so that we can effectively cater for the barbecue.

music with aaron from rock cave
in 2013 we will be offering an opportunity for our students from year 2 to year 6 to become part of our school’s rock bands. this is great fun and all our 2012 music students enjoyed performing at gwandalan public school. please see mr hellier if you have any questions about this great program!

homework in 2013 and homework club
the results of our 2012 homework survey produced some interesting though not unexpected responses. keeping this in mind, there will be some positive changes to the weekly homework that we expect all students to complete and return. just a reminder that students receive a mini award for returned homework.

we are also establishing a homework club. this will be held each wednesday at lunchtime (1.15 to 2.00pm) in the computer room. any student k-6 can come along and do their homework at this time, complete computer-based homework, receive extra tuition from the supervising teacher or receive advice and support on any homework matter. in term one i (mr paterson) will be the supervising teacher - this may change each term. depending on the response we may hold homework club twice per week.

please encourage your child to come along and get the benefits of extra assistance at homework club.

head lice check on 13 february
i must apologise that at the end of the 2012 school year i did not conduct my usual term 4 head lice check.
we have had many recent complaints about the severity of the outbreak. i have also had teachers with head lice so it’s little wonder that i continue to encourage parents to regularly inspect and if necessary treat hair.

with this in mind i will conduct a head lice check on wednesday 13 february. any student who has head lice will be excluded and parents contacted as a matter of urgency. if you do not wish for your child’s hair to be checked please let me know by writing a letter to me - please mark this letter confidential.

parent courses at eastlakes family support centre
we have recently received advice that eastlakes family support service will be running a number of parenting programs:

engaging adolescents - the incredible years - parenting without panic - leaving violent relationships.

please contact the school office for further information about these courses.

food for thought
i found this article in the sydney morning herald......

children who perform kind acts are not only happier but also enjoy greater popularity in their peer groups.

a study of more than 400 vancouver students aged nine to 11 split the children into two random groups. one was asked to visit three favourite places each week for a month, the other group to perform three kind gestures a week over the same period. that included sharing their lunch or carrying shopping. among the places the children chose to visit were the shopping centre and their grandparent’s house.

published in the journal plos one this week, the results showed that after a month of monitoring, the children who performed kind gestures were far happier than their counterparts.

and while both groups had an increased sense of wellbeing, only the group that performed kind acts experienced greater acceptance by their peers. this was measured by student surveys, which asked the children to nominate which of their classmates they would like to do a school activity with. the peer nomination showed the students who performed kind acts gained an average of 1.5 friends.

the results from university of british columbia and university of california researchers back up earlier studies and have implications for teachers.

the lead author, kristin layous, from the university of california’s department of psychology, said educators would do well to introduce classroom activities that promote and provide the opportunity for students to help each other.

“the findings suggest that a simple and relatively brief prosocial activity can increase liking among classmates,” she said.

“given the relationship between peer acceptance and many social and academic outcomes, we think these findings have important implications for the classroom.”

promoting kindness could increase connectedness and thus reduce bullying, the study concluded.

exciting happenings at swansea public school

active after school sport for this term!
swansea public school will be running the active after school communities program. this australian government program is run by the australian sports commission and provides opportunities for primary school children to participate in free sport and other structured physical activity after school.

this term a diverse and dynamic program has been put together for children to enjoy including dance for students in kindy, year one and year two and skateboarding for students in years 3 to 6. the activities focus on increasing physical activity and improving skills in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. each program runs for seven weeks and there is no cost involved - it’s free!!
To ensure children can take advantage of this excellent opportunity, we encourage parents/caregivers to allow them to participate for the full hour and to pick them up after the program concludes at 4pm.

1. **Skateboarding for students in Years 3 to 6** - each Tuesday from 3.00-4.00pm. All skateboards and protective equipment will be provided. The first session will be held on Tuesday 12 February and last session will be on Tuesday 26 March. There are only 16 places available.

2. **Dance for students in Kindy, Year One and Year Two** - each Wednesday from 3.00-4.00pm. The first session will be on Wednesday 13 February and the last session will be held on Wednesday 27 March. Students will need to bring along a drink bottle of water and wear comfortable shoes. Only 20 places available.

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**Badalya Hut Canteen Roster**

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<td>Wed 6/2 Rosemary</td>
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<td>Mon 11/2 Peggy Jade</td>
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**Recess Special – Wednesday**

Pancakes with strawberries and chocolate sauce
$3.00 – Order on the day

Thank you - Barb

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Return slip ........ please return to Mrs Patterson

Swansea Public School: Active After School for Term One 2013

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<th>Student Name:</th>
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Parent/Caregiver Signature: ________________________________