

Week 9 December 5th 2017

Well the end of the school year is just over a week away. We have a lot to celebrate in these final weeks and I am keen for all parents to be aware of our special events' dates and times. Therefore, I am sending home a paper copy of this week's newsletter to all parents.

Our newsletter is normally sent home weekly via the Connect app, is posted every week on our website and a paper copy is also available from the front office. Please make sure you can access your Connect messages through your phone or device. If you are having trouble accessing your Connect message, a simple hint shared by other parents is: *Don't open the message through the email but rather go straight to the app and open up from there.* Don't forget to have notifications switched on so you know if you have a message through Connect. Our Facebook page is a great way to share our events and happenings, however it is open to the wider community, and therefore some important school notices will only be shared via Connect. You don't want to miss out on important school information.

Kindergarten Christmas Concerts Wednesday 6th December and Thursday 7th December 9.00 am

Kindergarten parents don't miss your child's kindergarten concert this week. I look forward to joining you.

Awards Assembly and Opening of our Foundation Mural Friday 8th December

Please join us at our Awards Assembly this Friday at 8.45 am. Two children from each class will receive a special GROW book award and there will be some very special music items you won't want to miss. At the completion of the assembly the students will move onto the grassed area

and we will formally open our 'Forest to Garden' mural and the plaque acknowledging both foundation students and staff. Please make sure your child has a school hat and is wearing sun screen on Friday as they will be sitting in the sun for approximately 15 minutes for this special event. The Kindergarten students attending on the day will be joining us for the mural opening and all parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend. **The P&C Bike Raffle** will be drawn at this assembly. You have to be in it to win it, so please get your tickets before school or from the office this week. All money raised will go towards our planned new playground areas.

Carols in the Garden

This Friday evening, 8th December, all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be performing in our 'Carols in the Garden' concert. Parents are invited to bring a picnic rug or outdoor chairs to sit back and enjoy some traditional carol singing. We are asking children to come dressed in Christmas colours (red, green, white, gold or silver) for the evening.

Students are asked to arrive at 5.30 pm and go directly to their classrooms. The concert will begin by 6.00 pm. Following the concert, students will be dismissed to parents to enjoy a picnic tea together. The P&C will sell some drinks and chocolates on the night but you will need to bring your picnic tea. At the completion of the carols, students will need to be picked up from their class teachers by parents and **will not be allowed to leave on their own.** Please notify your class teacher if you won't be present on this evening and if so who will be picking up your child.

Graduation Ceremony 13th December 8.45am

The Graduation Ceremony is a very special and significant whole school event in the school calendar. We ask you to join us, as we formally acknowledge our graduating students, and wish them well for their future as they leave 'The Garden'. These are our foundation graduating students, and as there are only a small number of graduating students, we do invite all parents to attend and show their support to these students and their families. The graduating students will join Mrs Ashwood and Mr Batt for an excursion on the train to Elizabeth Quay where they will enjoy their graduation lunch at a restaurant on the Quay.

Rockingham Beach Excursion 14th December

There has been a great response to our end of year Rockingham Beach picnic excursion. Please ensure you have returned the permission form and paid the \$3. We invite parents to join us on this special day but remind parents the children must go to the excursion and come back to school on the bus. Students must stay with their faction groups for the entire four activities (water games, sand activities, picnic games and time on the playground). They will be permitted to share lunch with their family within the designated area. We will send out a note early next week with a map showing clearly where the activities will be and what time your children will be participating in each of the activities. We will also give you a list of what to bring. Parents please respect our need for tight restrictions on the movement of children on the day as we are committed to their safety in this uncontrolled environment, and our 'duty of care' on a designated school excursion. Every staff member will be present and we have the required number of personnel with their life saving qualifications. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a happy and relaxed day with our foundation students and we hope you can join us, even if only for a short while.

End of Semester Reports

End of semester reports will be emailed out on Friday 8th December. If you require a paper copy please notify the office this week. We are delighted with the progress of our

students in 'The Garden' this year. As a staff we have discussed and celebrated every child's achievement. Teachers have shared with Administration and their colleagues the assessment results. We are committed to seeing every child make progress and achieve to their potential. We see it as our responsibility to work closely with the students who are making limited progress to determine their learning needs and ensure we provide a program to support those needs.

Please come and see your class teacher next week if you have any questions or concerns about their report. Remember a C grade is as expected for that year level and although some children have received D and E grades their progress since the beginning of the year has been exceptional and must be celebrated. We hope you can discuss your child's report in a positive light, giving them praise and credit where due, and inspiring them to set goals for areas needing improvement.

Please look closely at your child's attendance. Attendance below 95%, if there has not been an extended time of illness, needs to be carefully considered. Your child cannot, and will not achieve to their potential if they are not at school. This is something our staff and school board will need to address closely next year as our attendance data shows much room for improvement.

I look forward to as many parents as possible joining me for a very special gathering of parents tonight at 7 pm in our school board room. Lee Downham who is a Rockingham councillor and also one of our school board members, can see the potential for parents in our school community to work efficiently and effectively in the way we approach fundraising for school resources. He has a rich business background and much local knowledge he wishes to share with parents. So come along have a listen and be inspired!

Jayne

**Jayne Ebsworthy
Principal**