Principals Report

Welcome back to a new school year and, in particular, a warm welcome to all our new students. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to also welcome our new families to our school. I hope you all have been able to enjoy the holiday break and the students are refreshed and ready for another year of learning. I would also particularly like to welcome our new staff member Miss Shirley Squires who is working with Year 1.

Class Structure

As staffing is dependent upon enrolment numbers, at the present time we are unsure if we will have 11 or 12 classes this year at Cooerwull. Stage 1 (Years 1&2) classes have been formed today and hopefully by Friday we will confirm our number and form classes for Stages 2 and 3.

For the first 2-3 days students will be working in either stage 2 (Years 3&4) or Stage 3 (Years 5&6), students will complete beginning assessments over these days to help inform future groupings. Students will also attend House meetings to organise our upcoming swimming carnival on Monday.

If you have any concerns please contact the office and make an appointment to come and see me.

Stage 1 class organisation at the present time is as follows: -

K3  Mrs McKinney
K4  Mrs Willison
1-8  Miss Smith
1-9  Miss Squires
2-10 Mrs Price (Mr Prior)
2-11 Mrs Lawler

I will continue in the role of Acting Principal until a new principal is appointed to Cooerwull and Mrs Price will be taking my class, 2-10. Mr Pangas will be on Long Service Leave for the year and Mrs Cusack will continue her leave for 2013. Mrs Bodnar and Miss McConnell will continue as Relieving Assistant Principals joined by Mrs Greer as the third Assistant Principal.

Stage 2 and 3 class teachers will be announced as soon as numbers of students are confirmed.

Mrs Manhood will be teaching Music and working with Mrs Howell in the Library, Mrs Auld will again be teaching Reading Recovery, Music and Teacher Release from Face-to Face, and Mrs Bodnar will be continuing as our Learning and Support Teacher.

What an exciting, and frequently anxious time this can be for our new students and in particular our new Kindergarten students. We will endeavour to make the transition to school as smooth as possible. If you have any questions please contact your child’s teacher or the office.

The Newsletter is a way for the school to inform families of events within the school, provide some guidance re educational matters and how we can work together to ensure all students learn, both academically and socially, in a safe and caring environment. The newsletter will be sent home on a fortnightly basis with the youngest child on a Tuesday and you are encouraged to look for it on these days. (There may be times when it will be sent home weekly). A copy of the newsletter can also be found on our website.

If any parent has any concerns regarding any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dave Prior  Acting Principal

Kindergarten Students

For the first two weeks of school (7 school days), until the 8th February, Kindergarten classes will finish at 2.00 pm. After this time, the children will remain until the rest of the school finishes at 3.00 pm. Please be on time to avoid tears. Your assistance and co-operation will help make a smooth and happy entry to school for your child.

If you are collecting your child, please wait in the Infants Plaza area under the covered area and the children will be brought down to you. If there are any changes to the way your child is to go home
please send a note to your child’s teacher – children find it difficult to remember variation to routine and unless a note is received Infants students go home in the usual manner.

**Uniforms**

Personal appearance and grooming affects individual standards and school morale. Therefore wearing school uniform is encouraged to enable students to feel part of the school. For safety reasons, hooded clothing is not part of our school uniform.

**PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING CLEARLY.**

Uniform requirements are listed below. Kinder students are asked to bring a paint smock to protect their uniform when painting, etc.

We have a “No Hat, Play in the Shade” sun sense policy for the student’s protection. Broad brimmed hats (green) are an essential item of clothing.

The school uniform requirements are listed below:

**BOYS K- 6**
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey polo shirt or skivvy
- Bottle green top with school badge
- Bottle green broad brimmed hat
- Bottle green school jacket (optional)
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

**GIRLS K- 6**
- Green check dress or bottle green shorts (Summer)
- Bottle green tunic, slacks or track pants (Winter)
- White blouse, polo shirt or skivvy
- Bottle green top with school badge
- Bottle green broad brimmed hat
- Bottle green School Jacket (optional)
- White socks
- Black shoes

**SPORT 3- 6**
- Bottle green shorts
- Gold polo shirt
- Bottle green tracksuit (for Winter)
- White socks
- Appropriate footwear.

Students who have represented at Western Region carnivals or NSW carnivals, are permitted to wear their representative sports shirt or jumper on the school’s sports day.

**Meet and Greet Afternoon tea.**

On Wednesday, 6th February at 3.15 pm, families are invited to come to the Primary COLA and meet the staff in an informal manner. Afternoon tea will be provided and this is a great opportunity to meet your children’s teacher and the new members to our staff. I hope you can all join on this day.

**Swimming Carnival**

The school’s annual swimming carnival will be held this Monday, 4 February, at the Lithgow Pool. A note will come home explaining the day’s activities. If you are able to assist on the day can you please contact the school – we parents to assist as officials on the day.

There will novelty events this year for all students not attending the carnival at school, Year 3 to 6 and any 8 year olds in Year 2, to participate in a variety of activities and to support their house.

**School Photos**

School photos will be taken next, Wednesday, 13th February. Individual photo order envelopes will be sent home today. If you require a family photo the family order envelopes are available at either office, please ask your eldest child to come and collect one. All photos, including family photos, will be taken on the one day. All photo orders and correct money should be available for the photographer prior to photos being taken. Cheques are to be made out to the photographer. The Office is only collecting envelopes handed in with the correct monies enclosed. **The office is unable to supply change for photos.**

We ask all children to wear full summer school uniform for their photos. This means summer dresses, white socks and black shoes for the girls and grey shirts and shorts, grey socks and black shoes for the boys.

**Emergency Contact forms**

Contact forms will come home today. Please edit the form by crossing out any incorrect details and adding the correct details. On the reverse of the form are 5 further sections on Media consent, Video Conferencing, Scripture, Excursions and Bus Travel. Please return the forms to your class teachers once completed. Please see the office if you have any concerns.
Difficulties with Payment

Parents experiencing difficulty with the payment of any fees, excursions, uniforms or books are requested to meet with the Principal to discuss the matter.

All discussions with regard to financial difficulties will be treated as strictly confidential.

The school does not wish any child to be denied access to any excursions or events on the grounds of genuine financial difficulty. Please come and see the Principal if you are having difficulties.

P&C Meeting

The first P & C Meeting for 2013 will be held on Tuesday, 5th February in the Infants Staffroom at 5 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. So if you have some new ideas or can help in any way or would just like to come and meet the P&C, we would love to see you there.

Hats

A reminder to all students, that School Broad Brimmed Hats MUST be worn while outside or students will be asked to play in the shade. This is Departmental Policy.

This includes before school, recess and lunch. Please ensure all children have a broad brimmed hat in their school bag every day during term, as we are unable to loan them hats due to health reasons. Hats are available for purchase in the Infants Department for $12 each.

Nut Free Environment

Can I please ask that children do not bring food containing nuts to school. We have a number of children who suffer severe allergies (anaphylaxis) and nuts are a common cause. This can be a life threatening matter for these children and so is an important issue for us all. I therefore request that no peanut butter sandwiches, nuts or muesli bars containing nuts, are brought to school.

For similar reasons please:-
• Speak to your children about not sharing their food with other students. We encourage students to take their uneaten food home so that you are aware of their tastes and needs at school.
• Do not send in birthday cakes to school their important day as teachers are not able to distribute it to children for health reasons. (Teachers will celebrate birthdays in different ways.)

Term 1 2013

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