Here we go, cruising smoothly into the last remaining weeks of Term 3. We are happy to announce that a date has been set for the Term 3 Family Night, and parents are asked to mark Friday 2nd September on their calendars. The schedule for the evening will remain largely the same as previous Family Nights, and events will be as follows…

6.30 – Families arrive. Classrooms open for all.
7.30 – Sausage Sizzle dinner
8.00 – Activities begin

A couple of changes have been made to the organisation however, with the first being that the focus for the classroom visits will be for children to share their individual curriculum goals with their parents and other family members, as well as share samples of their classroom work. There will be prizes for parents who can remember their child’s goal when called upon later in the night. Our goal is for all children to know where they are currently sitting in terms of the curriculum achievement standards, and know what they need to do in order to move up to the next level, and parental support is paramount in recognising these areas of focus. As always, grandparents are also welcome. Families are reminded that children must be accompanied by at least one adult – no drop offs please. Please let us know as soon as you can how many people will be coming along.

Secondly, the P&C are now required to ask each family for $5 to go towards their sausage sizzle dinner. Family members can still have more than one sausage, but this will just help to cover our costs. Because of this, we are no longer asking families to contribute a dessert item. Icy poles will be available for children instead. Cold drinks, including poppers and softdrinks, will be for sale as usual and eskies can be brought along. We look forward to seeing you all there for more great family fun!

On another note, staff have become increasingly concerned with the time that children are being dropped off at school of a morning, and a decision has been made to inform parents that if their child arrives at school before 7.45am, we simply cannot guarantee that they will be supervised, and therefore, this is an unsafe practice and is not encouraged. Staff who happen to arrive earlier than this have chosen to do so to catch up on some work, and this work does not include supervising children. Classrooms are unavailable as they are being cleaned at this time of day. Parents are advised to make alternative arrangements for their children before this time.

A reminder to parents that the Prep/Year 1 class assembly is this Friday, 26th August (not 20th August as accidentally listed in a previous notice) and as always, we encourage as many parents as possible to come along and celebrate their child’s achievements. The Year 5/6 class assembly will be on Friday 2nd September (the day of our Family Night) and the Year 2-4 class assembly will be the week after, on Friday 9th September. Class assemblies commence at 2.30pm in the Senior classroom.

We look forward to welcoming you all into the school again soon…

Julie Musumeci
YRS 5 & 6

It never ceases to amaze the quality of the opportunities LTSS is able to generate and all as part and parcel of what we do. With a nil cost to families there have been two recent standout instances which exemplify this scenario, the first of which was “Fizz” a Shake & Stir Theatre Co and Qld Opera Open Stage collaboration. My reflections centred on a classification rating of AO as I feel the members of staff were enjoying the performance more than the students!! Without doubt this presentation was the best I have ever witnessed to create best ‘value’ close discussions with your child/ren are highly recommended. Can I suggest that you centre your discussions about the performance on:-

- Relationships – being courageous, shy and nervous, difficulties in conversation, leaving friends to pursue new job opportunities
- Bullying – power based (spoil’d son of shop owner), cyber – posting of photos on social media in a manner of revenge. This stays out there, it doesn’t go away.
- Fizz – cure alls panacea, taking ‘things’ to make one more attractive, intelligent or confident
- Being liked for who one is as opposed to the perception of what one ‘needs’ to be
- Use to technology in performance, opera telling a story, props –not everything is what it may seem!!
- Emotional journey through viewing performances drama, music, dance or reading and viewing

The second instance was last Friday’s visit to the Spirit Of Anzac Exhibition and the Indonesian lesson at the School of Distance Ed in Cairns. The Head of Dept of Language at Distance Ed was so impressed that we had gone to them whereas usually it’s the other way around, that he arranged a grab bag of ‘goodies’ for our students who conducted themselves within expectations. One of the best elements of Friday was the discussion I managed with the students on the way up and back. The forward journey centred on geography and history elements whilst the homeward trip was wholly around the Exhibition. Most impressive was the ability of many of the students to express the essence of what the exhibition meant to them on a personal level and indeed what needs to be done in the future to prevent conflict of any kind. A very powerful experience.

Lastly can I acknowledge the terrific performance of all of athletes who represented the Tully District at the recent Peninsula Championships? As a whole each member of this team performed really well and again proved what needs to be done on the day to produce quality performance. Our list reads as:-

Chelsea Zonta: 7th final 100m, 2nd high Jump, 14th long Jump,
Hunter Richtfeld: 6th final 800m Arianna Hyytinen:-3rd Discus, Brock Bonassi:- 4th Discus

As a result of these strong performances, both Chelsea and Arianna have been invited to attend the State Championships as members of the Peninsula team.

Until next time.

SAME DAY ABSENCE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The safety and well-being of our students are the highest priorities for this school. From the beginning of Term 4 2016, this school will be required to notify parents on the same day a student is absent from school without explanation. Our school office will make contact before 9:30am each day if your child is absent either by phone or text messaging. Please notify the school if your current contact details need to be adjusted.

As we reach the end of Term 3, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year.

Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year.
Prep and Year 1

To further our studies into how our food is produced, our learning has taken a drastic turn downwards, and by that I mean right down, into the ground. The children became ‘Worm Hunters’ on Friday and searched all over for worms that could work their magic in our brand new vegetable garden. The children watched a series of clips online that showed them how worms work to enrich and nourish soil, and couldn’t wait to get their hands dirty to find some of the little critters for themselves. On bringing them back to the classroom, we looked at them with our magnifying glasses then quickly popped them into our garden beds so they could prepare the soil for our seeds to be planted today!

I am always amazed at what the children can discover and come up with if allowed the agency to explore their surroundings, and it is such an exciting time in Early Childhood education where teachers are encouraged to adapt their teaching and learning situations to cater for the interests and needs of the individual children in their class, through our work with Age-Appropriate Pedagogies. A significant and incredibly important side-effect to this style of learning is the development of each child’s ability to self-regulate, and nurture skills such as resilience, empathy, independence, problem-solving skills, confidence, coordination, decision making skills, negotiation and relationship building skills – all contributing to the development of sound emotional intelligence, and this links beautifully with our school-wide work on mindfulness.

More and more schools are seeing the benefits of this method of learning on the children in their care (including independent schools), and are expressing their interest in coming on board in the near future.

Lastly, families are asked to send in any empty glass jars with lids that they may have lying around at home, at their earliest convenience. The children need one each for a project this week.

Check out our photos of the ‘Worm Hunters’.

Kind regards,

Julie Musumeci
TEITZEL'S SUPA IGA ~ CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY