Principal’s Report

Hello Parents and community members, I hope you’ve had a pleasant fortnight and all is well as this eleven week term hits the six week mark. Australia has lost another test, the Titans got up into the eight by beating the Bulldogs and hey it’s great to see the weather warming up somewhat even though it is still cool in the morning. The school's lawns are looking wonderful at the moment and after Barry mowed it recently the place is flourishing. The students and staff have occasionally been eating their morning tea down by the river. It is a wonderful spot this time of the year to spend some time to appreciate the environment and take in the day and if you’re in the area at around 11 am most days, drop in and share the experience.

Science Week / Planet Ark
This week is science week. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we have the council’s Waterwatch group attending school to conduct a lesson around our waterways and elements regarding life in the water, its quality and ways we can develop student’s understanding of the importance of this natural environment. In addition, Jim Rebgetz from the environmental education centre will also be spending some time with our students in the not too distant future to support this environmental theme.

As you are well aware Bunnings from Nerang has donated native trees to our school and I’m looking to initiate a tree planting day on Thursday the 29th of August. I have been in touch with the Gold Coast City Council who is also willing to donate a variety of plants specific to the type of vegetation along the river to support and maintain the river bank. I will be inviting our friends at Bunnings to support the day and am also anticipating the support of our parent body. The focus will of course be the planting procedure but I would also like to combine an exchanging of ideas, social interaction and networking as part of the day. We have registered this event with Planet Ark as part of National Tree Day and all participants need to be registered for the day to comply with requirements and naturally all those under 18 need to have parent’s signature as approval.

School Internet Payments
Account name: Numinbah Valley State School General A/C.
BSB: 064430
Account number: 00090323
Reference/Details:
Please record both so that your payment can be recorded correctly
Student/Family/Customer ID and Reference/Item Code.

Get Active After School
We are currently going through the process of completing an expression of interest to be accepted to continue After School Sport for next year. We would appreciate your feedback on whether you would like this program to continue. If attendance is low it is not viable to continue the program.

Community Garden
We recently sent out circulars seeking expressions of interest from those community members willing to contribute their time and experience to support the development and establishment of a community garden. Please let us know at the school if you are prepared to commit to assisting us in this worthwhile endeavour. My aim is to incorporate our association with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in order to support our children’s education around the concept of food from garden to the plate. I am presently completing the application form and have had several discussions with staff about our timeline and ultimately our garden’s progress.
Private Travel
Please ensure when transporting other children in your vehicle or when you approve another parent to transport your child in their vehicle it is imperative to complete appropriate documentation. This is a very important compliance issue and it is your obligation to ensure you are compliant. Contact Danni or myself to acquire the correct documents.

School Sport Program
We are aware that some students due to many other commitments or family appointments are on occasions unable to attend after school sport twice a week on the Monday and Thursday. While acknowledging this fact it is also important to point out that our participation in this program is aligned to the number of students we have indicated initially pledged their participation. It is crucial that we maintain our student numbers and consistency of participation. This program is a government initiative and we are obliged to adhere to guidelines that permit our inclusion in this worthwhile activity.

History P-2
At present our younger students are developing their understanding of the past and we are putting a time capsule together. We’ve looked at significant and memorable events in their lives combined with thoughts around how significant events are recorded and why. In order to organise our time capsule I would like them to provide several items for the purpose of including them in our time capsule. The items students suggested are, Lorcan-small car, Wiltoy, Lily-old coin, Boston-crystal, Jimi-birthday/Christmas card. Talk to your child about what they would like to include in the capsule.

ICAS
Today we finished the last of the ICAS tests the mathematics and to date we have received the results for the science, and the writing will be here very soon. I am very excited about these tests and the information they are able to yield. I will be continuing the school’s participation with this competition next year and will include the year twos also to compare our students with others across the state and the country.

Classroom
We are continuing to witness some wonderful results in our daily number facts session whereby our P-2 are excelling with addition facts while Lily is certainly making encouraging progress with her times tables. While the older students are leading the way they are certainly not as far out front as you would expect. The girls Tajska and Eithne are pushing them along while Tom also is starting to be more consistent. Emma to her credit is the big improver streaking to the lead and she should be very proud of her progress. Wonderful effort Emma.

Our P-2s are currently completing their technology project where they have almost finished houses made from different shaped boxes. I am very impressed with the outcome with some clever work through a few liability issues before we can made from different shaped boxes. I am very impressed with the outcome with some clever work through a few liability issues before we can.

Facilities
I have purchased two mobile netball hoops for students to use on the court and we have taken to locking the tennis courts on the weekends to enhance their security. I will be discussing the notion of placing a sign up on the courts to invite public or community use of the courts however we need to work through a few liability issues before we can initiate the process. This topic will be open for discussion at the next P&C meeting.

I am also acquiring quotes to install air conditioning in our library to facilitate a significantly greater level of comfort for both staff and students during winter and no doubt during summer. I hope also to discuss during the P&C meeting several other inclusions I am looking to provide.

Until Next Time
Have a pleasant fortnight
Warmest Regards
Warren
Science
This term the juniors have been studying our landscape and the benefits of tree planting for our soil and our atmosphere. Today (Wednesday) we have a visit from Dionne Coburn from the Gold Coast City Council to talk to the children about water watch. We are going down onto the river bank for our chat. We have particularly enjoyed our morning teas down by the river as well.

Welfare News
I feel so privileged to be able to work two days a week at Numinbah Valley State School as the youth officer. My days fly past. I spend time working one on one with students and teaching a lesson Tuesday afternoons. These lessons cover a range of topics from etiquette to resilience and persistence. If there are any suggestions you would like to make, or if you need my assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. I am here Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Have a great week
Kind Regards
Heather

Sensei’s Corner
Quiz question of the week
What are the two Japanese words for number four?
Hint: http://www.omniglot.com/language/numbers/japanes e.htm

Write your name and the answer on a piece of paper and place it in the Japanese quiz box in the classroom. The answer will appear in the next newsletter.

Last quiz answer
The snake is the symbol for this year.

Activity of the week
Teach yourself numbers:
Numbers song: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqNotzty3kE
Or Try this number song: http://genkienglish.net/genkijapan/learnjapanesenumbers.htm

Mrs Simon’s Science Corner
Science question of the week
Who is the most renowned cosmologist this century?

Last quiz answer
A leap year is a year containing one additional day. We have a leap year every four years.

Last week’s oral speech presented by Lewin
Today I am going to discuss Kokoda and why it is so important. I am going to answer two question: One: What is Kokoda and what made it famous? Two: How important is the memory to Australia and why?

By the end of my talk, you will also understand why it is important to us here at Numinbah Valley School.

Firstly, Kokoda is a place in Papua New Guinea where a world war two military action was fought. Kokoda is very close to Australia. It is famous for the heroic acts that the Australian soldiers did and also for the bravery of the local Papuan people who helped the soldiers. Kokoda is also two events. The first one is a historical event associated with World War two. The second one is a yearly re-enactment walk.

Kokoda is one of the greatest military events because of the hardship the men had to go through when they were fighting to stop the Japanese invasion coming south into Australia. Also the troops had to cope with the rugged, unforgiving tropical weather while fighting to save Australia.

The memory of Kokoda is very important to Australians because we have learned the importance of mateship, working together and physical and mental stamina while under duress. It is so important that a community organisation called the Kokoda Challenge has taken these valuable lessons and created a re-enactment walk as a way of helping others. The Kokoda Challenge follows the examples of the soldiers and Papuans bravery and teamwork. Once a year many people participate in this walk and raise funds to run youth programs in the community. The walk follows a very difficult track which is similar to the original Kokoda track and is a real endurance test. It is very challenging because it is 96 kilometres long, up and down mountains,
through creeks, non-stop day and night, no sleeping and through any kind of weather. Walkers are encouraged to keep going even when fatigued or sometimes in pain.

Finally, we remember Kokoda for the bravery, kindness and mateship that can be shown in times of severe difficulty. It is important to everyone in Numinbah because we help the event succeed by supporting the walkers and teams with food and drink. In return we raise funds for our school and community. From all of this, we learn that friendship, bravery and teamwork help us through hard times and most importantly that it can be rewarding.

Television / Tender
We currently have an analogue television that we no longer use. If you could use this television for either games for children or simply to add a set top box to for digital conversion and home use please submit a confidential written tender to the school. If I receive no tenders I will be contacting a community group or local charity.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, the U.S.A, South America and Japan will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceausl@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
WATER WATCH