THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.

- John Lubbock

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

The excitement at Sandon this week was our Kindergarten Orientation Day. It is always wonderful to welcome new students and their families to our school.

Thank you so much to all who assisted in making the morning a success. We had a lovely morning, showcasing some of the special qualities and programs that are Sandon. Sincere thanks to Mr Earl, teaching staff and the administration team for their organisation. Also, thank you to the Year 6 students Joshua and Bethany who spoke so confidently, sharing some of their experiences of their time at Sandon. Our two present kindergarten ambassadors Arianna and Ben were also wonderful.

Again, we could not function without the support of the P and C who once again catered for the morning tea. Thank you so much Courtney Ryan and team and thank you to the families who provided the food. Also thank you to Robyn Johnson and Kate Dawson for providing information to parents regarding our Uniform Pool and to Courtney for explaining about the school banking program and for explaining the important role our P and C plays in the overall operation of our school. Thank you everyone. We are so appreciative of your efforts and support.
ANNUAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST –
a date for your diary

Each year, an important part of our school tradition is our annual breakfast in Term 4 where we join together as the Sandon Public School Community and the staff prepares breakfast for everyone who is able to attend.

On Wednesday 12th November commencing at 7:30am, we invite all families to our annual Community Breakfast. This is always a very enjoyable event and a great opportunity for families and staff to have an informal chat over a pancake and cup of coffee.

COMING EVENTS

TERM 4 WEEK 4
Friday 31st October 3-6 assembly – 2:30pm

Parent Help Needed for Touch Football
Sandon has a number of teams, Years 3 – 6, playing Touch Football on Thursday afternoons. It is a schools competition and is all about having fun and playing team sport. We are looking for a parent who would be willing to help train the students at lunchtime (1.10 pm – 1.50 pm), as many of them have not played before. Just once a week would really help. Please contact the office if you can assist.

Many thanks, Linda Frizell

Kindergarten Orientation
On Wednesday we held our annual Kindergarten orientation for next year’s enrolment. It was a fabulous morning and all the children seemed to be very settled and ready for ‘big school’.

I would like to thank this year’s Kindergarten parents who were able to provide some morning tea. I would especially like to thank Courtny Ryan for all her help coordinating the morning tea, speaking to the parents about P and C, school Council and school banking. A big thank you also to Sarah Hillier, Lee Jordan, Katie Roberts and Annie Kanety who helped prepare the morning tea. Also thank you to Kate Dawson and Robyn Johnson for talking to the new parents about the school uniform shop.

I would also like to say well done to Arianna and Ben from Kindergarten who were able to share their experiences of their first year at Sandon. At the other end of the scale I would like to say thank you to Bethany and Joshua for speaking so well and sharing their primary school memories and experiences with the parents. You all did very well!

Paul Earl
FINAL UNIFORM ORDER

THE FINAL ORDER FOR THE 2014 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE PLACED TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER.
This will include the Special High School Order that we process each year for those year
six students going on to Duval and Armidale High. You can collect a special order form
from the Office indicating the basic clothing available.
If you have any uniform needs please collect an order form from the office or the
Clothing Pool and return it to the office with a deposit of 50%.

SPECIAL HIGH SCHOOL ORDER
The Clothing Pool will be placing an order for basic high school clothing for those in
year six.
We are able to supply:
• White shirts (polo and button up, boys and girls)
• Grey shorts & trousers (Gabardine school short, cargo short, trouser)
• Black & Navy sports shorts (Microfibre)
• Bottle Green Sloppy Joe and Jacket (Duval High School)
• Maroon Sloppy Joe & Navy Jacket (Armidale High School)
• Black & Navy Track Pants (Microfibre/Fleecy)

PLEASE NOTE: Jackets are the fleece lined Dry & Cosy with hood that we normally stock.
The youth sizes, 10-12-14-16 are priced at $33.00 and the Small, Medium and Large are
$38.00.

Orders need to be into the office by Tuesday 2nd December with a 50% deposit.

Order forms are available from the office.

Robyn Johnson & Kate Dawson, Clothing Pool Co-ordinators

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser
Join us on
Saturday 25th October
11am – 2pm
Armidale Plaza Car Park
(Outside Subway)
Sponsored by Kleenheat Gas & Armidale Plaza
All proceeds to Beyond Blue
KR
This week in KR we have been looking at Dr Seuss books to develop our literacy. After studying the books we have each created our own fantastic Cat in the hat. In class we read Dr Seuss’s “A B C” and using this book as a guide we created our own book written in the same style, using each letter to write a sentence. We have also been working on developing our understanding of numbers through a variety of number games.

Tom McLean

5/6T
It has been a fantastic start to term 4 with all the students in 5/6T settling back into learning with great enthusiasm.
This term we are researching Australia’s democratic history through the combined HSIE and English unit "Talk about Rights". 5/6T have already been analysing the structure and language of famous speeches, including Gough Whitlam’s speech to the Gurindji people in 1975. This has been particularly topical over the last week and has resulted in learning more about Gough Whitlam and the how he changed Australia.
We are recording lots of information, creating artwork on canvases and will be setting up our room like a museum dedicated to our Australian History. This unit has led to lots of fun discussion and students will be able to use the class blog to post comments on lessons and what we have learnt. I will also keep it updated with current homework projects and classroom happenings, when possible.
We will begin reading the novel "Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence" by Doris Pilkington at the beginning of Week 4. This novel is based on a true story and focuses on the topic of the "Stolen Generation" from the perspective of three children. We have recently purchased a class set of this novel and need to cover 30 books with contact. If there are any parents or carers who have a spare moment to help out with covering these novels, we would be very appreciative! Please pop in and see Ms Chorley in the library and she will show you where they are.
In Creative Arts, we are investigating different aspects of drama and how to write scripts using "Dr Who" as our inspiration. This has been a lot of fun so far and I am looking forward to seeing the scripts that 5/6T produce and perform. The "Giacometti" statues are nearly complete. They look fantastic and students are very excited about bringing them home.
As it is close to the end of the year, many students need to restock their classroom equipment. Could you please check with your child to see if they require new whiteboard markers, blue/red pens, pencils and glue sticks. Thank you.

Renae Thomas

3/4D
The term is off to a flying start and we have started some fabulous units. In science we are working on a unit entitled Smooth Moves. This unit looks at the forces of pulling and pushing and what affects these. We will have some interesting lessons experimenting with weight, size, gravity and friction. It’s a great unit to end the year!

In HSIE we are looking at a unit called ‘Who Will Buy?’ This unit provides opportunities for students to explore the goods and services that provide for needs and wants and the responsibilities of producers and consumers. It explores the changes that have occurred and the influences of technology.
In English we are looking at a variety of stories and ways that stories are presented and represented. The students are currently writing a narrative in the form of a ballad based off the book ‘Edward the Emu’ by Sheena Knowles. It has been trickier than we expected and challenged us in surprising ways.

In maths so far this term we have studied whole number, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, capacity, time and patterns and algebra. Many of these concepts will be revisited in the second half of the term as well.

Darlene Erieau
5/6M

I have been very impressed with the way 5/6M have approached Term 4. We have been hard at work and we continue to produce some interesting pieces of work. This term we have started our new unit on ‘Democracy’ and the students have been busy researching their chosen world leader. The students are in the process of writing a biography of their leader. I look forward to reading their pieces of writing. Last week the students completed an autobiography of their own life and they published their work also. I was very impressed with their level of commitment and I enjoyed reading about their lives, interests and future endeavours. At the end of the year the students will bring home a portfolio of work and you will be able to see all the work that they have produced this semester.

In maths we are continuing to work with fractions and starting a new unit on division. Just a quick reminder to students that they need to know their times tables in order to complete our maths work in class. So I encourage each child to take some time out at home to try to learn their times tables.

A big thank you to the students who completed their “Iron Man” recycled model for homework. The kids shared them with the class and all the models showed creativity and imagination. Here are some photos of the children’s work. I wish to thank those parents who continue to encourage their children to complete homework.

Thank You, Helen Bull

KG

We have some very enthusiastic gardeners in KG. Our class garden has survived the holidays and is being watered and inspected regularly by our budding green thumbs. There was great excitement this week when we were able to pick enough snow peas for everyone to taste.

The children have welcomed Summa to our class this week and hope that she will enjoy her time at Sandon with us.

As the days are warming up please double check that all clothing is clearly marked with the name of the child who is wearing it - then it is easy to return when it is left lying around. Items without clearly marked names will be placed in the lost property box near the office.

Please keep returning home readers each week and don't forget to encourage writing at home.

Carolyn Gadd

2/3E

WOW!! Term 4!! This year has flown by but I guess we say that every year.

It was fabulous to learn that all the children were well behaved during my time away. Unfortunately, as part of my role as the Assistant Principal I quite often need to take time off class for many reasons. For example, this week was the Kindergarten Orientation, which I was required to coordinate and run. I am very pleased with how the class has managed these interruptions and I always ensure that the casual teacher is teaching aspects of my program to maintain continuity.
In recent weeks I have been taking the class through some old NAPLAN questions. The aim of this is not to teach to the test but to assist them with how to answer NAPLAN style questions.

This week our focus in Mathematics has been on multiplication and division. In English we have looked at how and when to use the apostrophe in contractions.

K/1T
We have had a great start to the term. We have been busy working on our writing and have been learning how to write procedures and on improving the correct use of basic punctuation. In reading the children are making wonderful progress and developing strategies such as reading for meaning and reading ahead. We are also trying to remember to use the punctuation to help us make meaning of what we are reading.

The children are really enjoying our science unit this term called “Watch it grow”. Thankyou to those parent’s and carers who have sent in baby photos for this unit of work. We have shared these with the class and discussed the things we can see that are the same about each child and those things that have changed. As part of this unit we have mealworms in the classroom to observe their life-cycle and record the changes we see. Already the mealworms have moulted and they are growing really fast. The children have been trying to predict what they might change into.

Michele Thomas

3/4F
3/4F has been working very hard in all subject areas. Mrs Frizell has returned and is looking forward to a fun and successful last term of the year. The students are engaging in our science unit. We have been exploring simple machines and are lucky to have three boxes of levers, gears, pulleys and inclined planes to explore in class. We have looked at the impact of simple inventions like the wheel and pulleys to lift heavier weights.

Today is our last day with Andy who is returning to China. We have enjoyed having Andy with us. We have learnt a lot about Chinese culture from him. We wish him all the best for his future.

Linda Frizell

1/2P
1/2P is ‘Investigating Eggs’ this term. We have started by finding out about all the different animals, birds and insects that lay eggs – and there are a lot of them! In groups we have written and drawn life cycles of chickens, echidnas and frogs. In pairs, the students are now working on a research project. They have each chosen an egg laying animal and are reading
books and finding information online to assist them with writing an information report. This is a long process, but when complete each student will present their report to the class to share what they have learnt. I can’t wait to hear their presentations. Ask your child what animal they have chosen, and what they have learnt so far.

In PDHPE we are focusing on the skill of kicking balls and playing soccer. We are also learning about being healthy, eating the right foods, the importance of drinking water, exercising and making good choices.

In maths we continue to learn new strategies to solve problems. We are currently relating maths to real life problem such as: If there are 6 pencils in a box and I have 5 boxes, how many pencils do I have altogether? As the term progresses we will be exploring different kinds of measuring including, time, volume and capacity and mass. The children have all been very engaged over the last few weeks, it looks to be a busy and exciting end to the year.

Green class

Green class are doing the ‘Schoolyard Safari’ unit this term. They have been learning lots of interesting facts about insects, spiders and bugs. We have made some spider webs, butterlies, grasshoppers, ants and lady bugs which are displayed in the room.

The class are having a fantastic time at gym each Tuesday and Mr O’Hara is very impressed with the skills they have learnt and the enthusiasm they bring each week.

If any parents have a bug catcher that Green class could borrow for a few weeks that would be greatly appreciated.

Lindy, Chrissy and Julie

Purple class

We went shopping at Coles this week to buy some ingredients to cook Pizza. The students in Purple class displayed beautiful manners and demonstrated the SHINE values on our outing.

Tam has been reading the ‘Diary of a Wombat’ and incorporating this with our time maths activities.

We were very excited to have a surprise visit from Annan this week. He seemed very happy to see everyone and we enjoyed talking to him about his new school and home at the beach.

Purple class are thoroughly enjoying the gym sessions on Tuesday. It is a great program and all students and staff involved are having a fantastic time. I would really like to encourage parents to come and watch later in the term and see some of the great skills and activities that the children are doing.

Lindy Commens
You have one more chance to support Sandon Library this year. Simply purchase ONE book to take home, in the ONE-OFF book fair, and you will also be donating 1 book to the Library. Buy 2 books to take home and you will also be donating 1 book to the Library and you take an extra book home as well!

This is a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping before the rush. The fair will run over 4 days from **10th -13th November**. Simply drop in at any time during these 4 days to purchase a book.

THERE ARE NO BACKORDERS, so first in best dressed! Some great bargains available in this ONE-OFF fair....BE QUICK! We thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our wonderful Library.

Jo Chorley

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**Plant a Tree Day**

On Monday the Environmental Committee and the Year 6 Leaders held a Plant a Tree Day. The students worked in peer groups to discuss the importance of planting native trees in our playground. The students came up with some great ideas including trees produce oxygen, prevent soil erosion, provide cooling shade from harmful UV rays, beautify the landscape, provide homes for animals and are a fun place to play. This activity encouraged the students to think about our natural environment and was also lots of fun! A special thankyou to those parents and carers who sent along a donation for this day. With funds raised this year we have been able to plant a vegie garden, purchase the native trees and buy a hanging wall garden which is now in the playground filled with marigolds, petunias and cacti. A special thankyou to the Armidale Tree Group who helped us select native trees suitable for our school, including an endangered species.

Michele Thomas

On behalf of the Environmental Committee