THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2015

Each year Sandon Public School students march in the Autumn Festival parade along with all the other public schools in Armidale under the Banner of the Armidale Community of Schools.

Many of our children love to participate in the parade which usually only lasts for about an hour on average. This year, children participating in the parade will be asked to wear full school uniform with their school hats and carry a water bottle to stay hydrated. For the parade this year, the Community of Schools is promoting the Autumn Festival theme of commemorating 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli of allied forces in 1915. 2015 is a year of national significance for all Australians to remember the ANZAC legacy.

Students in the parade will be carrying red poppies (which we will make at school). During WW1 red poppies were the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. It is widely accepted as the flower of remembrance.

Please mark the date in your calendars as a fun way to be part of the wider Armidale Community. The Autumn Festival is being held on Saturday 14th March (12:15 for a 12:30 start) and we hope many of our children will be able to participate.

School Attendance

I have previously written about the importance of regular attendance of children at school. Regular school attendance enables students to maximise their full educational potential and to actively participate and engage in their learning. At Sandon Public School, it is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

When children miss school or are regularly late, not only is their learning and academic progress impeded, they also miss important interactions with their peers, which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. If your child is half an hour late to school every day that amounts to two and a half hours learning time that they miss each week. If your child is away for just one day each week that equates to ten days of learning each term.

Government legislation requires students between the ages of six and seventeen to be enrolled at a government or registered non-government school and to attend school on each day that instruction is provided. It is the duty of the parent or caregiver of these students, under the Education Reform Act 1990 to ensure these obligations are fulfilled and that children arrive at school on time.
This week the school was visited by the NSW Department of Education and Training Home School Liaison Officer who inspected our attendance records. She expressed concern about the number of students who are regularly late for school and will follow up on these.

As a school, our key message is that “IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY.”

Of course there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances which result in absences from school but these should be a rarity rather than the norm. We would ask that all parents/carers support their children in regular attendance at school.

"School Fete – Help Still Needed!!!!!!"

Thank you to all parents and carers who came to the meeting on Monday to assist in the planning of our annual School Fete which will be held on Saturday 28th March. We very much appreciate all assistance and support.

Even so, there is still room for volunteers to assist both in the planning and on the day.

To assist, please watch P and C News in this newsletter. Also, please send in any goods you may have for the white elephant stall and books for the book stall. It’s a great excuse to clean out the cupboards and bookcases and raise funds for the P&C. Thank you everyone!

COMING EVENTS

WEEK 7

Monday 9th March  School Council – 6:00pm
Friday 13th March  K – 2 Assembly - 2:30pm
Saturday 14th March  Autumn Festival - 12:20pm (opposite TAFE)

Swinburne University of Technology – Melbourne – Free Online Course

Autism MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)

Swinburne is offering a free course to offer assistance to parents, carers and families of those living with someone on the Autism Spectrum.

The course is aimed at developing skills and tools based on real life scenarios, through providing short videos to watch and respond to in a forum.

The Autism MOOC will be held completely online and will require approximately 2 hours of your time per week.

Online orientation is on the 2nd April (World Autism Day), with coursework commencing on the 13th of April. There is a certificate of participation available if you so wish.

If you wish to find further information, and/or register, please look at www.swinburne.edu.au – In the news – February.
Today 31 people will get the news they have blood cancer.

Hi, my name is Susan Pancaldi and I am an Educator at TG's Child Care Armidale, and also mum to Frankie (10) Vinnie (9) and Lola (6) who attend Sandon Public School. I will be shaving my head on 13th March, onsite at TG's (11 Samuelson Cres), to raise money for Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave. If you would like to support me and this wonderful cause, please visit: http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/ to donate online. Click the sponsor button and search for, either the TG's Terrific Hairifics team or sponsor my shave, Susan Pancaldi.

The money you give helps the Leukaemia Foundation to provide emotional and practical support to those facing blood cancer.

**READING AT HOME**

**Hints for listening to your child read**

- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next time.
- After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.
- When reading a harder book together, take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.
- On finding an unknown word:
  - **Pause** to give your child time to work out the word
  - **Prompt**
    - go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence.
    - look for a clue in the picture or the words
    - look at the first letter and think about what the words could be
    - ask “Does this make sense?”
    - try to sound out the word
    - if necessary tell your child the word
  - **Praise** your child for trying even if mistakes are made.

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Duval High School 'Roadshow'

The Transition Co-ordinator, Sandra Cotton, from Duval is visiting our school on Wednesday 11 March at 12.30pm with a number of students for a brief presentation on Duval and what it offers students. This presentation will take about 30 minutes. Duval wishes to invite all interested parents to attend.
Lorin Nicholson Performance

On Friday 27th February, Sandon was lucky enough to have world renowned Lorin Nicholson visit. For 2 hours Mr Nicholson told his stories, taught us his tricks and played his wonderful music. Although Lorin Nicholson has faced many hardships, such as being blind, he has never given up and is a great inspiration to all of us. He has two websites where you can find many clips and stories of his life. Thank you very much Mr Nicholson. All the students who attended had a great time and learnt a lot about never giving up.

Media Committee
NORTHS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

REGISTRATION DAY

22 March 2015
Phil Wheaton Oval 10am – 12pm

Includes a Sausage Sizzle and Fun Football Activities

WE WELCOME OUR RETURNING PLAYERS AS WELL AS NEW MEMBERS!

City Hockey Club

Field hockey registration for the 2015 winter season are now open. City fields teams in the Friday evening competition.

Registration forms are available from the Colour Copy Centre, East Mall.

PH: 0427668915 AH for more details.

All welcome.

Uralla United Football Club

Registration Day

Saturday 14th March 2015
12-2pm Uralla Bowling Club
Queen St, Uralla

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact
Samuel Townsend 0400 298 878,
Danielle Hunt 6778 3442
This is our major fundraiser for the school and to make it really successful we need help from the whole school community. There is a lot to do and we desperately need your help to make our 2015 fete successful.

**Ways you can help starting now.....**

- Sort out your unwanted goods. Books are needed for the **Book stall**.
  Unwanted goods in reasonable condition can be brought in for the **White Elephant stall (no clothes please)**.

- Those of you who have a flair for craft or handiwork may like to make items for the **Craft stall** or you may know someone who is creative in some other way (woodworking, knitting/crocheting) and is willing to donate items.

- If you have a green thumb you could pot up some plants for the **Plant Stall**.
  If you plant now they will be in perfect condition by 28th March.

- Volunteer to help on a stall.

- Volunteer to phone and collect donations from local businesses.

Attached is a list of our stalls and those people who have already kindly volunteered.

Please complete and return the slip below if you are able to co-ordinate or help on a stall. If you have any other suggestions please let us know.

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**FETE 2015 - Saturday 28th March**

I would be interested in helping/co-ordinating the ______________________ Stall.

Hours I am available to help on this stall (please circle one or more): **All Day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before 10am (set up)</th>
<th>10-11am</th>
<th>11am-12 noon</th>
<th>12-1pm</th>
<th>1 - 2pm</th>
<th>after 2pm pack up</th>
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I can donate goods for the ________________________________ Stall.

I have a suggestion: ________________________________________

Name:_________________________________________ Phone no:__________
Next Fete Meeting Monday 16th March at 6:00pm in the staff room.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STALL/ACTIVITY</th>
<th>C0-ORDINATOR</th>
<th>HELPERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbecue &amp; Drinks</td>
<td>Grant Clark</td>
<td>HELPERS NEEDED, Greg Field, Jason Moulynox, Brendan &amp; Alicia Webb, Jim Maher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Art, Tattoos, Face painting, Nail art, Hair art</td>
<td>ARMIDALE FAMILY DAY CARE</td>
<td>ARMIDALE FAMILY DAY CARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Stall</td>
<td>Adele Rae</td>
<td>Catherine Eadie, Simone de Souza, Jim Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café Sandon &amp; Ice-creams</td>
<td>Courtney Ryan</td>
<td>Susan Pancaldi (11-12), Viv &amp; Marty Lawler (1-2) HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cakes/Sweets/Produce/Craft</td>
<td>Natalie van der Veer</td>
<td>Alison &amp; Crystal Green, Madi Cole HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate Wheel</td>
<td>Di Harvey</td>
<td>Sue McCulloch, Jim Maher HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing Pool/Uniform Stall</td>
<td>Robyn Johnson &amp; Sarah Hillier</td>
<td>HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig Races</td>
<td>Megan Tijani</td>
<td>HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairy Floss &amp; Popcorn Machines</td>
<td>APEX Team</td>
<td>APEX Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Activities</td>
<td>Renee Thomas</td>
<td>HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Stall</td>
<td>Helen &amp; Trent Bull</td>
<td>Mark Clayton HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Jane &amp; Tom Palfreyman</td>
<td>Jan &amp; Kevin Harman (10-11) HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Foods</td>
<td>Gal Winter</td>
<td>HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucky Dips</td>
<td>Suellen Simpson</td>
<td>Babington Family, Natasha Booth, Michaela Potts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Elephant</td>
<td>Julie Dawson</td>
<td>Chrissy Vale, Karen Browne, Grant &amp; Ben Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation Callers and Collectors</td>
<td>Megan Tijani</td>
<td>Lee Jordan, Marie Babington, Jim Maher HELPERS NEEDED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please start sending in any donations:
- Clean second hand goods (please no clothes & no broken or incomplete items)
- Books, DVDs, CDs
- Craft
- Plants
- Cakes can be brought in the day before or on the morning of the fete
- Donations for Lucky Dips - or $$$ to purchase prizes