

A m a r o o N e w s l e t t e r

May 6th 2009

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No Child Left Behind

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine? I know that there are plenty of people who are secretly doing rain dances, let us see if they are successful in the coming weeks.

NAPLAN AND SCHOOL BASED TESTING

Next week is the annual NAPLAN testing where all students in Australia in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit the same tests. As a school we are also conducting testing in years 1, 2, 4 and 6 This way we will be collecting information on how all our students are performing, so we can plan effectively for student learning.

This means that we need all our students as ready as they can be. Some things which really help are no late nights, having a good breakfast each day and families taking an interest in the testing by talking and being positive. We know that Amaroo students are good at giving it their best, which is one of the most important parts of school life, and life in general of course.

NEW TERM AND NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The term has started very positively and all classes have very quickly picked up from where they left off. We welcome one new staff member, Mrs Leanne Fyfe, who has taken over Room 2 Year 3. Mrs Fyfe has relocated from Hopetoun and is started to settle into Collie life. Mrs Blurton has moved and will be teaching in the ILC and providing a support role amongst other classes in the afternoons.

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

I have now had it confirmed that the projects we submitted have been approved. As yet we do not have a starting date as we are not in Round 1, but all three rounds begin this year so when I have timelines I will keep the community informed.

Project One

Five room Early Childhood Block - this can incorporate Kindergarten, Pre-primary 1 and 2 plus two Year 1 classes. This will also mean Koolbardi will move onsite, possibly into one of the existing pre-primary rooms.

Project Two

Enclosing the Undercover Area - this will mean we will have an indoor area for assemblies and for wet weather days.

Project Three

Maintenance of school buildings - this will include painting of all external surfaces of the Administration, years 3-4 teaching block. Included is also the painting of internal offices in the administration area.

These projects total \$2 670 000 for our school and will be providing significant improvements.

Enjoy the week and remember each day to bring your smiles, laughter, good humour and happiness.

Colin Chisholm
Principal



Department of
Education and Training

Amaroo Primary School
Celebrating Over 50 Years Of
Quality Education



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 th to 8 th May	Tourette Syndrome Awareness Week
7 th May	Assembly - Tourette Syndrome Awareness
8 th May	Mothers Day Stall - 'Bring and Buy', Pre Primary to Year 7 School Banking
11 th May	School Council Meeting
11 th to 15 th May	NAPLAN
13 th May	Pre Primary Learning Journey 3:30pm to 4:30pm
18 th to 22 nd May	Scholastic Bookfair
18 th May	P&C Meeting
21 st May	Assembly Room 14 Year 2

ASSEMBLY

Tomorrows assembly, Thursday 8th May commencing at 9:00am is being held to support Tourette Syndrome Awareness Week.

Parents and friends are most welcome to come along. *Please remember to turn off your mobile phones and listen carefully at all times.*

STAFF CARPARK

The dropping off of student lunches in the Staff Carpark is prohibited. In order to ensure the safety of students, lunches need to be brought onto school grounds and hand delivered to students.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

School Contributions are now due for all students.

Parents can pay their child's contribution as well as any other amounts e.g. Cooking,

at the office. EFTPOS facilities are available.

Thank you to the parents who have promptly paid their fees for 2009.

DEPUTY NEWS

It's been wonderful to see how quickly the students have settled into school life and to see so many smiling, happy faces about the place. Many are very glad that they don't have to remember to bring a hat!!

If you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to come and talk to me either on the quadrangle before school each morning or make an appointment to see me through the office.

VIRTUES PROJECT

This month's Virtue is **Self discipline (Self-control)**. This links in with the Organisation Key to Success.

To help you talk to your children about this virtue, there is a mini fridge poster attached to this newsletter.

Some questions to guide your discussion;

- What are some problems we might have if we didn't pursue self-discipline/self-control?
- What are some of the benefits of self-discipline/self-control?
- What does it feel like to lose control of our emotions?
- When is it most difficult to feel in control of our emotions?
- Name three things you can do to stay in charge of yourself when you feel angry?
- How can you stop yourself from watching too much TV?
- What could you do instead?



Quotable Quotes -

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

William Ernest Henley

"Procrastination is the thief of time."

Edward Young

"I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has to get down to work."

Pearl Buck

"What it lies in our power to do, it lies in our power not to do."

Aristotle

YOU CAN DO IT

This fortnight the Juniors are completing their final confidence lessons. The CONFIDENT catch phrase being taught this fortnight is; *True and false thoughts*

Thank you Miss Busher and the students from Room 13 for your great display on the office board about 'Feelings are Important. Please feel free to come and admire the work of these students.

TOURETTE SYNDROME

This week is Tourette Syndrome Awareness Week. This syndrome effects some of the students at our school and their families.

In order to raise awareness of Tourette Syndrome amongst the school community we are holding a Tourette Syndrome Awareness Assembly tomorrow, Thursday 7th May, to promote understanding and compassion towards people who are effected by Tourettes.

The focus of tomorrow's assembly will be raising awareness about Tourette Syndrome, what it is and how it effects people. However, due to unforeseen circumstances we will not be holding the Tourette Syndrome Fundraiser after the

assembly. Therefore, students are **NOT** required to bring in a gold coin donation tomorrow.

If you would like to know more about Tourette Syndrome you can contact the Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia the following ways: Phone (02) 9382 3276, view the website www.tourette.org.au or you can request further information by e-mailing info@tourette.org.au directly.

HEADLICE

Headlice is still a problem at our school, however we really appreciate the number of parents who continue to regularly check their child/ren's hair and if necessary administer the appropriate treatment to ensure that Amaroo continues to be as 'Nitz' free as possible!

In addition, we request that all hair is tied up in a plait as this deters the Nitz.

Students who are found to have live lice will continue to be sent home until they have been treated.

Thank you for your continued assistance with this matter.

RINGWORM (TINEA)

We have had a few cases of 'ringworm' (Tinea) that have been reported recently. 'Ringworm' is a common fungal infection of the skin that usually affects the scalp, skin, fingers, toenails or feet.

It is transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, animals or contaminated objects and is contagious. 'Ringworm' needs to be treated. Antifungal treatment (cream) is available.

Please check your child/ren for spots or marks that aren't healing or going away and contact your local pharmacist for the best advice.



YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS

These will take place on the morning of Thursday 28th May 2009, in room 7. Please ensure you return your child/ren's completed paperwork to the office or Steve Homer, before this date.

LEARNING FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Smith Family have Learning For Life Scholarships available to assist Collie primary school students. The eligibility criterion is a Health Care or Pension Concession Card and a commitment to your child's education. Scholarships can assist with the cost of uniforms, education, fees and excursions. There are currently vacancies in the Collie district. For further information please contact your school or call the Smith Family Collie Office on 9734 4260.

LOST PROPERTY

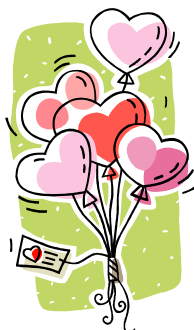
Any Lost property will be put onto the stage after tomorrow's assembly. Please have a look to see if your child/ren has mislaid anything. Last term, a number of items of clothing were unclaimed and had no names written on them. If you haven't already done so, please try to label your child/ren's clothing to make identification and return easier.

I hope you have a lovely week.

Sarah Dunbar-Stuart
Pastoral Care

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

This Friday, 8th May we will be holding our 'Bring and Buy' Mother's Day Stall. All students from Pre Primary to Year 7 need to bring a gift. Items are to be left at the Uniform Shop on Thursday and Friday morning at the latest. Alternatively, gifts can be handed into the canteen each day.



DANCESPORT

HUMPHREYS DANCESPORT



Week 9 of this term (22nd June to 26th June) we will have two instructors from Humphreys Dancesport at Amaroo. All students in Year 1 to 7 will have one

lesson each day where the students will learn a variety of dances; ballroom, latin, street latin, hip hop, line dancing, and folk dances are included in the program. Friday night students will be invited to attend a social where they can demonstrate what they've learnt during the week. More details on the social will be available later in the term.

The cost is \$25.00 per student for the week. Families who have more than two children will only have to pay a total of \$50.00 per family (4 students \$12.50 /student, 3 students \$16.70/student). Payments can be made at the office or through the classroom teacher and should be finalised by **Friday, 19th June**. Students who have **not paid** for their lessons **will not** be able to attend the Friday Night Social. Please remember that we have EFTPOS facilities available at the office. Parents are welcome to pay off this amount through the office, however arrangements need to be made before Dancesport begins.

Humphreys instructors present a brilliant program and the children will learn valuable social skills in addition to some new physical skills. This is a compulsory part of the school curriculum in Health and Physical Education as outlined in the School Contributions list that all parents received last year.



STUDENT TESTING

During Week 3 of Term 2, all students in years 3, 5 and 7 across Australia will be participating in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program in Literacy And Numeracy). There will be 4 tests - writing, reading, language conventions (spelling and grammar) and numeracy. These tests provide important information to you and our school. You will receive a report on how your child is performing in these areas compared to every other similar aged child in Australia. The school will receive data on how our students are performing and areas of strength and weakness. This is very important data for the school. It supports our planning for improving student achievement and is one of the main tools used by governments to provide a school with additional funding and support.

Your support by encouraging your children to have a go, do their best and be at school on these days would be greatly appreciated. Many classes are already completing practice tests so that your children are not surprised by the tests and know what to do to complete them. In all the tests there will be questions that your child will find as too easy, about right and too hard. Please support us with the following messages: there is no failing in this test. It is a measure of what they can do. If they get stuck, move onto the next question.

During this week students in years 1, 2, 4 and 6 will also be completing a spelling and numeracy test. This is not part of the National Assessment Program, but is part of the school data collection process.

BOOKFAIR

Amaroo is holding a Jurassic Bookfair in Week 4 of this term. Booklets and more information will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Kelly Fox
Library Officer

SCHOOL BANKING

Our next school banking day will be Friday, 8th May 2009. Students need to bring their bank books and money to the office by 11:30am.

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen phone number is 9734 5677.

Canteen Roster TERM 2

Thursday	7 th May	Sonia Marshall
Friday	8 th May	Caroline Fitzgerald
Monday	11 th May	Diana Sklenar
Tuesday	12 th May	Christine Young
Wednesday	13 th May	Stephen Edwards
Thursday	14 th May	Help Required
Friday	15 th May	Cherie Snelgar
Monday	18 th May	Debbie Hoggarth
Tuesday	19 th May	Nicole Kostezky
Wednesday	20 th May	Help Required
Thursday	21 st May	Brenda Tuck
Friday	22 nd May	Help Required

The canteen roster for term 2 is now available for names to be put down.

UNIFORM SHOP

Our Uniform Shop will operate on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:45am to 9:30am.



COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNIOR BADMINTON

Junior Badminton starts on Monday, 11th May 2009, with beginners playing at 3:30pm to 4:15pm, Experienced players play at 4:15pm to 5:30pm.

The cost will be \$3.00 per player, per week.



Players need to wear non-marking soled shoes, white tops and coloured shorts/skirts.

Please phone Kandee Shepherd on 9734 4574 if you have any queries.

LIFESTYLE TRIPLE P LOOKING FOR INTERESTED PARENTS

We are looking for interested parents of children aged 5 to 10 years, committed to attending the Lifestyle Triple P program. The program will increase parents' skills and confidence in managing children's behaviour to improve children's nutritional intake and activity levels. *Lifestyle Triple P* builds on these core principles with lifestyle knowledge and skills such as:

- Family focussed healthy eating,
- Specific core food serve recommendations,
- Monitoring,
- Label reading,
- Snacks,
- Modifying recipes,
- Being active in a variety of ways,
- Roles and responsibilities around eating,
- Managing appetite,
- Self esteem and teasing.

You are eligible to attend the program if you think your child may have a weight problem. Signs indicating that your

children may have a weight problem include:

- If they wear clothes much larger than their age (more than 2 sizes above their age).
- If they are much bigger than other children in their class at school
- If they watch more than 3 hours of television each day
- If they eat just as much as adults, or more than adults
- If they eat takeaway food more than twice a week
- If they get very puffed when doing physical activity
- If they constantly say they are hungry or are always looking for food

Early identification and management of overweight and obesity in childhood is more likely to prevent long term weight problems. Parents play a key role in the management of childhood overweight and obesity. Please contact us if you can identify with any of the above or are concerned about your child's weight.

If you have any queries relating to the above or to register your interest for Lifestyle Triple P please contact Community Dietician, Adele Morris on 9795 2823.

STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA

In July 2009, students, aged 15 - 18 years, from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to



international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au.

POSITIVE PARENTING

There is no one way to be a parent. The positive parenting program suggests simple routines and small changes that can make a difference to your family. Collie's Primary Health will be running a four week program for parents with 3 to 5 year olds. Strategies discussed are applicable throughout the Primary School year. The program is held at Community House Forrest Street Child Health Centre on Wednesdays 1:00pm until 3:00pm, commencing 27th May until 17th June.

Limited Creche facilities are available for this afternoon program, no charge involved. For bookings and an information package please ring Child Health Nurse Triple P Coordinator Anita Hoddell on 9734 1454 by Wednesday, 20th May.

