National Science Week 15-23 August
The theme for National Science Week 2015 is Making Waves—the science of light, based on the International Year of Light.
The children will be participating in activities based on light on Tuesday 18th August.

P & C Meeting
The next P & C meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th August at 4.15pm.
There are some important matters to be discussed at this meeting—the introduction of a new school uniform and the future direction of our P & C.
Your ideas, thoughts and manpower are integral to the running of the P & C.

Community News

Happy Birthday to
Ashley for 6th August

From the Principal

After School Sport
After school sport began last week with AFL on Thursday afternoons. AFL is a 4 week program and will finish on Thursday the 20th. From next week we will also be offering Hockey on Monday afternoons. Hockey will be a 5 week program running from weeks 5-9.

Attendance
Our attendance rate had shown a dramatic drop this past fortnight. Every day is important at school, and missing school may mean missing important lessons essential for assessment pieces. We are still aiming for 96% attendance for the term.

Explicit Improvement Agenda
Our big improvement areas for this year have been writing and reading. I am pleased to say that we are well on target in these areas. We have implemented a number of strategies for improvement, such as everyday writing, CARS and STARS comprehension strategies, reading groups in the upper school and more. Our data is showing that everyone in the school is continuing to improve in these areas at a strong rate of improvement. We are focusing on student resilience.

This week at school we are focusing on student resilience. This means that if someone makes a face or is wanting to play with others, this does not necessarily mean they are picking on us. We can show resilience and just ignore them or find something else to do. Of course any serious incident should be reported straight to the staff. When we are showing resilience at school we call this Firmly building our resilience at school. A new question means we don't let others drip on our bucket. This means we are beginning to ask at school.

* Use appropriate tool / equipment.
* Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
* Respect the privacy of others at all times.
* Sit still.
* Walk one step at a time.
* Use own bike, scooter.
* Walk bike or scooter to the gate.
* Walk outside gate until the bus stops.

Explicit Improvement Agenda

Individual Goals
This term again we are working on individual goals for each and every student. Their goals are laminated to their desks so they know specific areas they are focusing on in Maths and English.

Uniforms
Please remember that students are to wear their uniforms to school. Students should wear their school shirt and appropriate coloured shorts / pants / jumpers etc.

Resilience/ Bucket Lids
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After School Sport

Hands on math—Year 1&2

Playgroup

Reading Strategies—Parent Pipeline

This term in reading we are focusing on learning specific strategies for decoding texts when they are hard to read, and strategies for comprehension. While they may seem very simple, it is important that even the older students remember these strategies as a useful tool to draw on when stuck on a word.

This week’s strategy: Stretchy Snake

It often requires a lot of patience to listen to beginning readers as they learn to decode and sound out words. Beginning readers usually learn their sounds in isolation and as a result sound choppy when they try to put these sounds together to make words. Taking the individual letter sounds and blending them together can be a first step to becoming a reader for many children. As with any other task, to improve in reading a person must have increased exposure and practice, practice, practice.

Your child is working on the accuracy strategy of blending sounds. The following ideas provide you with suggestions on how you can assist your child in becoming a better reader.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading and blending sounds together, encourage your child to listen for a familiar word.
2. Give your child a rubber band and have them take it between two hands. Write down a simple word for your child to read (3 letter words such as bat, dog, and cap). Have your child pull the band apart a bit with each sound in the word. This will have your child stretching out both the band and the word. When finished with all of the sounds, say the word together while bringing hands together.
3. When reading, tell your child, “Say each letter as you stretch them out, then put them together and say it fast.” Demonstrate what this sounds like for your child.
4. If your child is having difficulty blending sounds and still sounds choppy, encourage your child to sing as they sound out the word. It is almost impossible to make a word sound choppy when you are singing.