



NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 27th August 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 28th August

First Kinder Orientation Day
9.30 - 11.30

Wednesday 3rd September

School Council Meeting 6 pm
P & C Meeting 7 pm

Friday 19th September

Last Day of Term 3

Monday 6th October

Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 7th October

First day of Term 4

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

P&C Bonfire and BBQ

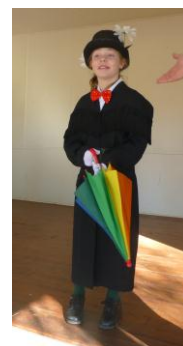
Parents, students, staff and friends are invited to gather together to farewell winter as a school community at the P&C bonfire and BBQ (sausages, lamb kebabs and steakettes for sale) at school this Friday from 5.30pm. Bring something to sit on, something to drink (non-alcoholic), warm clothes and a salad or dessert to share.

Consistent with Department of Education guidelines, as this is a school event with students in attendance, alcohol will **not** be permitted on the night. *(Alcohol 1.4.2 The consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any school function (including those conducted outside school premises) at any time when school students, from any school, are present. A school function is any function organised by the*

school and/or in the name of the school and applies to all types of functions including dances, farewells, sporting fixtures and barbecues.)

Book Week Parade

Well done to all of our students and staff who dressed as their favourite book character for the parade last week. This was a fabulous way to share our love of books and the importance of reading!



Work Experience Student

This week we welcome Xavier High School student, Emily Williamson, as she undertakes a three day work experience placement with the K/1 class. Emily completed her primary schooling at Table Top PS, so it is great to have her back for a few days!

Kindergarten Orientation

We welcome our 2015 Kindergarten students and their parents (and those who are thinking about enrolling their children in our school) to our Kindergarten Orientation Day from 9.15 until 12pm tomorrow. It will be a very exciting day for everyone!

NSLC Student Leadership Breakfast

Our Year 6 students will attend the Northern Spirit Learning Community Leaders Breakfast and Forum this Friday at the Glenecho Neighbourhood Centre, Glenroy from 8am. On the day students will listen to a number of community leaders talk about their views on leadership and the qualities they feel contribute to quality leadership. Students will also be involved in three workshops which aim to assist them make decisions about their own view of leadership. The permission note needs to be

returned as soon as possible (Thursday at the very latest).

Appropriate Food Choices

We would encourage students not to bring lollies, lollypops or bubblegum to school or eat this type of food before school.

Premier's Spelling Bee

Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 competed for a chance to represent our school at the regional final of the Premier's Spelling Bee earlier this week. It was a very exciting couple of days where the competitors were all of a high standard, spelling some very difficult words! Those students who were absent for the school competition will get a chance to compete upon their return to school. The winners will then be announced. Our winners will then go on to compete at the Regional final, which will be held at Deniliquin North PS on Thursday 11th September.

Creative Art Projects

With the murals now completed, students are working on the garden totem poles. They will certainly be a beautiful and striking addition to our school gardens.

Thanks

Thank you to the Reichel family for their ongoing efforts in planting beautiful shade trees in our car park. Given time (and plenty of water in the coming summer months), these lovely deciduous trees will provide welcome shade to those parking under them.

SRC Friday Fund Raiser

The SRC stone guessing competition has now closed and the winner will be announced at this week's school assembly. Good luck to everyone who entered!

PSSA Friday Sport

Unless it is raining, PSSA netball and soccer will continue this Friday. No matter the weather, Gymnastics for the K/1 students will go ahead. This is the second last week of PSSA competition.

School Assembly

The whole school assembly will be held in the library this Friday at 12.00pm. The class presenting the item this week is 4/5/6.

Newsletter Changes

From Term 4, our newsletter will be published fortnightly rather than weekly. It will be sent home via email, published on our school website (www.tabletop-p.schools.nsw.edu.au), posted on our school Facebook page and also on our Twitter account (see below). As is the normal practice, special notices will be sent home as they are needed. Paper copies will be sent home to families who elect this option. Please contact the school if this is your choice.

School Facebook and Twitter Accounts

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TableTopPublicSchool>

Twitter: @TabletopPS

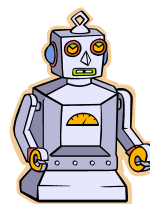
School Council/P&C

Our next meeting will be 3rd September - 6pm School Council and 7pm P&C.

Andrew McEachern - Principal

KINDER SOUND

The Kinder sound this week is 'r' for Robot



HOW2Learn

Making the most of museums

Museums are treasure troves! There are museums for science, furniture, technology, inventions, tanks, ships, nursing, rural life, design, clothes, jewellery, prison life, children, plants, natural history, environmental education, toys and much more. In addition, historic houses, such as those owned by the National Trust, are a kind of living museum.

Tips for getting the best out of museums

- Plan a trip to a city where there are several museums to choose from.
- If you have a local museum, ask if they run an educational program.
- As a family, make a list of things you are interested in and then look for a museum that fits with these. The Internet can be very useful for this.

P & C MEAT FUNDRAISER

The P & C will be conducting another Yalandra Meat Fundraiser for Term 3. Order forms will be sent home soon.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to the following award winners from last week's School Assembly:

Student of the Week



Special Encouragement Awards:



Teacher Merit Cards (Green cards)

K/1

Aimee, Hope, Sheya, Dante, Darcy, Audrey, Stefan, Mia M, Zoe, Anthea, Boyd

2-3

Jessica, Thomas, Jake, Zenith.

4-6

Robert, Louis, Emily, Caleb, Claire, Paris, Jacinta.

SRC Kindness Award: Eliah

Class Awards:

Library - 4/5/6

Classroom- 4/5/6

Assembly - 4/5/6

If you would like to pay any accounts by direct debit

School bank details:

Account Name: Table Top Public School

Account Number: 157014

BSB: 032-001

Reference: *Surname and item/s being paid*

COMMUNITY NEWS



Jindera Playgroup

Do you have children between 6 months and 4 years?

Are you interested in joining a local playgroup or know of someone who is?



Then this may be the group for you!

Where: Jindera Primary School Hall

When: Every Wednesday of the school term

Time: 9:30 – 11:30am

What to bring: A piece of fruit to share at morning tea

For more information, please call Jen Howard on
(02) 6026 3778

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

As a Parent:

- ☒ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ☒ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ☒ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ☒ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ☒ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.