Dates to Remember - Term 1 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Feb</td>
<td>School Swimming Carnival 6pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Feb-13 Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>Homework Club commences</td>
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<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>Scripture commences</td>
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<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Leader's Investiture</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Mar</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Mar</td>
<td>Selective High Schools Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Mar</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Apr</td>
<td>Cross Country/Fun Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Feb</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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Principal's Report

We are only 1 week into our new school year and already there is an energy buzzing around the school. Parents will no doubt have noticed that construction is well underway for our new school security fence. It certainly makes the school look better and will increase the safety and security of students, staff and facilities. You may also have noted the colourful painting that has also taken place over the holidays. Mr Wheat came into school on a number of days, to continue the painting under the window panels. This can now be seen on the Admin block and 5/6 rooms. Thankyou Mr Wheat on a job well done! Next up will be the painting of panels on the Kindy/Stg 1 Block.

Parents may also have noted the new painting and wall carpet that has been installed in the Kindy room. The room looks fresh and much more stimulating for the students. Special thanks to Mrs Broughton and her husband who came in to school during the holidays to complete these jobs. Our aim this year is to repaint one classroom per semester. We will be organising some working bees during the year to complete these jobs. Look out for details in an upcoming newsletter.

We welcome Mrs Kathy Barlow to our Administration team. Mrs Barlow be filling the role of Mrs Cox who will be on leave for the next 12 months.

Class Structures

Information on class structures for 2015 was sent home earlier this week. Our class groups are stage based, which we believe is the best structure for students and staff. As explained in the information sent home, we are presently just short of reaching numbers to maintain the 7 classes we had planned for.

Weekly Events

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Homework Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Even Wks Commencing Wk 4 T1</td>
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While this is disappointing, if we do need to move to a 6 class structure, we have planned this to cause minimal disruption to students. In a 6 class structure, we would simply merge the 2 stage 3 classes into 1 class. This will not be ideal for everyone, it is the option that causes least disruption to the school. While there is still time to pick up the extra enrolments we need (fingers crossed!), at this point the most likely outcome is that we will move to a 6 class structure. If you know of any families who may be interested in enrolling their child at Richmond North PS, please encourage them to contact the school ASAP.

School Contributions

Parents also received this week, information about school contributions for 2015. This notice included details about Student Workbook purchases, special program costs and P&C contributions. Payment of these contributions can be made in 1 lump sum or in instalments as outlined in the payment schedule. Parents will soon receive an invoice for the amounts due for their children. No payment is required UNTIL you have received your invoice. Families experiencing financial difficulties should contact the school office.

School Website and Newsletters

Our school website acts as a major communication channel between the school and parents/community. The website is where parents can access our school newsletter; read school and DEC policies and procedures; download forms; view student work samples and make payments for school expenses. As such, we want parents to visit this site regularly so they stay informed. The address of our school website is –

www.richmondn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Principal’s Report (cont’d)

This year, we are setting up a data base of parent email addresses so that we can send alerts when the school newsletter has been uploaded to the website and is ready for you to read/download. A separate note will be sent home this week where you can indicate if you would like to be on the notification list. Please complete the note and return to school ASAP. In order to save paper, the newsletter will only be distributed electronically via the website. A small number of paper copies will be available in the school office should you require one.

Real Schools - Parent Information Session

Parents should have received a flyer regarding our Parent Information Session coming up on Monday 9 March at 4pm. At this session, we will be explaining our school partnership with Real Schools, and how this will be beneficial to our students. Parents will learn about Restorative Practices and culture change within the school. Parents will be asked to provide input and contribute to the discussion as well. This will be a very informative session. I strongly urge parents to find the time, where possible, to attend and contribute. This session will be very important in establishing a strong partnership between school and home as well as ensuring that the school and parents are ‘on the same page’. The Duration of the session will be approximately one to one and a half hours long and I look forward to seeing everyone at this information session. If you need another flyer, please contact the school office.

School Assemblies

School assemblies will be conducted once a fortnight – on Fridays of ‘even weeks’ (Wks 2/4/6/8/10). Our first whole school assembly will be on Friday of Wk 4 (Fri 20/2). Parents are welcome to attend our Whole School Assemblies. Whole School Assemblies will commence at approx. 2.10pm. We are looking at changing the format of our assemblies in 2015 to make them more engaging and relevant to all students.

Award System

Awards systems are an important component of school life as they are used to recognise student achievement and application. Awards systems include such things as merit awards, special certificates, morning teats and ceremonies. At the end of 2014 we commenced a review of our School Awards system. After consulting students, teachers and the P&C, we determined that the current awards system was not working well for our students and was not effective in promoting excellence and effort across the whole school community. The system allowed for inconsistencies and was confusing for a number of people. As a result of the review, we have decided to change our school awards system to incorporate the following principles –

- A school award system should be consistent and easy to understand
- Students should value the awards system

- The awarding of merits, should be more closely linked to student learning
- The school award system will no longer be cumulative (ie. No bronze/silver gold etc) as it was felt this takes away from the individual awards and why they are receiving them
- While the standard for achieving awards should be high, we need to recognise excellence in a whole range of areas
- Awards systems should be about achievement and recognition NOT about a competition to see who gets the most
- We need to have effective and efficient ways of tracking awards and communicating this information to parents
- Awarding of merits should be done in a fair, equitable and meaningful way so that students will see them as being important, achievable and valuable.
- The school awards system should reflect the schools vision statement, the school mission and the school values and goals.

Over the next few weeks, we will be putting together the details of our new awards system. It will look different to our old system but we believe it will be a better model for students. Once we have completed the review, I will publish the new system on the school website as well as sending a paper copy home with all students.

School Discipline Policy

The start of each year is always a good time to revisit our school Discipline Policy. If is important that students and parents are familiar with the school rules and the possible consequences for breaking them. We are lucky at Richmond North that for the most part, students behave in safe, respectful and responsible ways.

Our School Rules are –

- Respect yourself and others
- Do as you are asked
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Be in the right place
- Look after the school and its environment

A detailed explanation of the rules, consequences, behaviour levels and structures can be viewed and downloaded from our school website – www.richmondn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Anti-bullying Policy

Richmond North Public School is committed to providing a safe and happy environment that fosters responsible and respectful relationships. As such, any form of bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Bullying can be defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure.

Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships. Not all fighting or arguing that happens at school is bullying. Sometimes students will mistakenly label any type of conflict as ‘bullying’.

- Bullying can involve physical, verbal or emotional behaviours that are intended to hurt, intimidate or control another person.
- Cyberbullying includes sending messages via social media or online chat.

Let’s all contribute to a safe and happy school environment.
Principal’s Report (cont’d)

The school attempts to deal appropriately with bullying wherever it is brought to our attention. Sometimes though, bullying can be hard to detect and may go unnoticed. For this reason, we encourage students to –

1. Develop strategies to deal with bullying and to feel empowered in doing so
2. Report the bullying to a teacher
3. Support other students who may be victims of bullying
4. Ensure our own behaviour towards others is respectful

If parents are aware of incidents of bullying (involving their own or other children) we encourage you to contact the school. Parents however, should never approach other children directly regarding issues regarding bullying.

There are serious consequences at school for students who bully other students. These consequences include – detention, withdrawal from school activities and in some cases, Suspension. There is never a justification for bullying behaviour. It is normal for children to have disagreements, arguments and get angry with each other from time to time. It is NOT ok or ‘normal’ to bully other students though. When an incident of bullying is identified and verified, parents will be contacted and may be required to attend the school for a meeting. I hope that we can work together to ensure that Richmond North is a bullying-free school.

Mr B Thurling-Principal

Did you Know?

Research shows that children do better at school when their parents are involved in their child’s education.

Getting involved at school

You can speak to your child’s teacher about how you can be involved. You, your child and the school benefit from your involvement.

You can:

♦ introduce yourself to your child’s teacher
♦ keep the teacher informed of any changes that may affect your child
♦ stay informed by reading the school newsletter and/or school website
♦ go to information sessions at the school
♦ talk with your child about their day
♦ attend Parents and Citizens’ (P&C) meetings
♦ volunteer in classroom activities, such as children’s reading
♦ participate in school social activities

Life seems to go from zero to one hundred during the first few weeks of school. As busy parents the list below brings some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly.

Check the school has all your contact information including daytime phone numbers. Have you changed address or phone numbers since last year?

Have you nominated a current emergency contact – someone who would be able to come and collect your child if you weren’t available? After you check with them, supply their details to the school.

Medications that are kept at school. Are they up-to-date with complete, current instructions for use? Have you supplied any ‘consumables’ necessary for administering the medication to your child?

Does your child need a mobile phone this year? Make sure they have your contact numbers and emergency contacts programmed into their phone. Also establish the rules of use at school. Make them use a phone cover and consider taking out insurance in case they lose their phone.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Term 1 2015

Peppercorn Family, Community & Youth Services
South Windsor Family Centre
P4 4577 9804
E: dragin@psinc.com.au

Why outdoor play is important

Spending time outside gives your child the chance to explore the environment and hone
adventures. Your child can play favourite games, test physical limits, express themselves and
build self-confidence. Outside play can also mean more mess – and more mess often means
more fun.

When your child is outside, they probably have more space and freedom for big movements,
like running, jumping, kicking and throwing. Physical activities like these are good for health,
fitness and physical development.

A bit of sun won’t go astray either – small amounts of sunlight exposure can help prevent
vitamin D deficiency.

Getting your child outside: some ideas

It’s a good idea to encourage your child to play outside several times a day. Outside play doesn’t
dhave to be a big deal, particularly if you have an outdoor space at your home. Younger
children will need you to keep them safe from outdoor hazards while they play.

Children love to help. Outdoor play can include working with your child on everyday tasks,
such as gardening, sweeping the driveway, watering plants or hanging clothes on the line.

Making time to visit your local park, oval or playground is a low-cost and easy option if you
don’t have a back or front yard. Your child will probably have even more fun to run around there.
If you can walk to the park, you can also teach your child about road and traffic safety
in the way.

As your child gets older, you could encourage them to try a structured outdoor activity, such
as junior sport.


Experience The Magic Of Hosting

In July our exchange student, Toon, joined our family. And when I say joined he literally did
that. He has become my teenage son. Our experience as a family has been amazing and
unforgettable.

Toon is leaving this week and I feel like my son is grown up and leaving home. There is
nothing negative that I can say about our time with Toon. Toon has been through all sorts of
things with our family. Through good times, like the birth of our new daughter, and not so
good times (but nothing bad).

I would like to say my respects to Toon’s parents. They have done a wonderful job raising
such a courteous, well mannered, well balanced son. We have so many fantastic stories
from this exchange experience. We have enjoyed it so much that we are hosting again next
July. We will have a friend for life and will never forget Toon.

Thank you WEP for the chance to meet Toon. It wouldn’t have been possible without the
WEP team. Only a quick few words to show my appreciation in meeting Toon and to WEP.

Enrich your home with a curious exchange student in July 2015

www.wep.org.au  1300 884 733  info@wep.org.au