Principal’s Report

Last Thursday was a very exciting day at Fairfax as we welcomed 8 new chickens to our playground! The chickens are busy making themselves at home and settling in well in our chook pen. A huge thank you to Mrs Shields for collecting and transporting our chickens safely, were we were all eagerly awaiting their arrival on Thursday morning!

This week Mrs Shields is on leave. Mrs Shields will be replaced by Della, who has been busily completing our library stocktake and accessioning new books into the library. Our library borrowing day will be Fridays beginning this Friday 8th March. Please ensure your child has a sturdy library bag to protect our library books.

Unfortunately due to the recent rain our schools cleanup day was cancelled last Friday. We hope to hold our cleanup day this Friday, if you are available please feel free to join us between recess and lunch on Friday (11:30 – 1:00 pm) to help us tidy up our local area.

This week important information regarding Best start information will go home with our Kindergarten students. If you have any questions about this information please don’t hesitate to come in and see me.

PSSA Netball trials will be held in Narrabri on Friday 15th March, please let me know if you require further information before next Monday.

Moonbi and Manilla school horse sports days are both coming up, if you require information on either of these events please come in and see me in the office.

On Monday 25th March, Hunter New England Health Professionals will be at our school to again conduct free vision screening assessment for our Kindergarten students. This program is a NSW Ministry of Health initiative and is free of charge, please fill in the permission forms and return to school by Friday 22nd March.

Our vegie garden is in abundance with fresh vegetables, with the recent rain it has become overgrown and is in need of a tidy up. Please come along on Wednesday afternoon, at 3:45 pm, to discuss the future direction and prospective working bee or garden day to work on the vegie garden to tidy it in preparation for winter crops.

Thank you to Karan Todd for organising an afternoon tea roster for active afterschool. This week is Karan Todd. Next week will be Leanne.

Have a great week,
Rebecca Smith
In the Classroom

This week we have introduced a Blog to our classroom, the enthusiasm for this learning tool is amazing. The blog is monitored by the DEC (as with emails) and is moderated by myself. We hope to use the blog to communicate ideas and suggestions for the classroom as well as complement our work. Students are able to access their blog from home by logging into their Kidspace Portal, (student.det.nsw.edu.au) and following the links to BlogEd. Once we have learnt how to use our blog properly in the classroom we hope to widen our audience and possibly communicated with students from other schools.

In art we have had fun creating different looks for ourselves! Can you guess who created these wonderful masterpieces?

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th March</td>
<td>Vegie Garden Meeting</td>
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<td>Active After School - Cricket</td>
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<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>Schools Clean Up Day</td>
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<td>PSSA Soccer Trials (Narrabri)</td>
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