Absence Notifications via SMS

Last week’s newsletter advised the school was moving to use SMS messaging as a way of advising parents of student absence. During the last week we have been trialling the system with selected parents. As expected there are some important checks required by parents to ensure the system works effectively. Most importantly we need parents to ensure we have the correct mobile numbers saved in the system and that these numbers are saved in the correct order. Parents are also asked to ensure that emergency contact names (used when parents are unable to be reached) are as they currently wish them to be. If you are not confident the school has this information listed as you would prefer, please call the school office to discuss. Emailing updated information may be a preferred option for some.

How it will work: Where a student is absent without explanation, parents will receive an SMS, probably in the late morning of the absence, advising that their child has been marked absent from school. Parents are able to reply to the text with a reason for the absence and this is imported into the software as a record of the parent’s explanation for the absence. Separate notes or phone calls are not required (unless you feel there is a need; we may make contact if the reason is unclear). Parents should bear in mind, as advised in previous newsletters, there are limited acceptable reasons for absence from school. If the reason provided does not fall into one of the approved areas, the student will be marked absent without (satisfactory) justification.

Italian Exchange 2015-16

Reminder: We will be hosting 15 Italian students from the evening of Monday 31 August 2015 to Friday 18 September 2015. At this stage we are seeking Year 9 2015 students who are willing to participate in the exchange. It is possible to participate as hosts only and not participate in the return trip to Italy. Consequently we are looking for Year 9 2015 families who are willing to host our Italian guests when they arrive later this year. Further information is available from Mrs Entwistle, Mr Robertson or myself.

Rob Walker – Principal

CHS Under 14’s Rugby League

On the 6th of March the Evans River Boys U14’s rugby league team travelled down to Maclean to compete in the CHS competition. It was a courageous effort by our team which consisted mainly of year 7 and 8 students, some of whom had not previously played rugby league. Unfortunately our team was beaten on the day but improved immensely as the game progressed with Tim Williams scoring a try in the first half and our boys only letting in two tries in the second half. Well done boys and thank you to Scott Barker for driving the bus. (The boys are feature in the masthead. Photo courtesy Mr Chris Gillespie)
All About School Councils

What is a school council? A school council is the group responsible for setting the goals and the directions that a school will take in the future. It plays an important role in making sure that the whole community is involved in all the important decisions made by the school.

What decisions can a school council make? The school council works out what the school needs and what are the most important matters the school should focus on. The school council assesses the school's financial needs. The school council gives the principal advice on many matters such as how well the school is reporting the students' achievements to parents or about the welfare of the students in the school.

Who can be a member of the school council? The members of the school council are Principal, parents, teachers, representatives of the local community and students.

Why would I want to be a member of the school council? Being a member of the school council is a good way for you to express your opinion on important school matters. If you represent a group of people, such as parents or students, you will have the opportunity to express their point of view when decisions are being made. You will also have regular opportunities to advise the principal about matters that affect the school. You will learn a great deal more about the school as a member of the council and you will help to make the school an even better place. If you are a parent of children at the school your own children will also benefit. You will be showing them that you care about their education and that you wish to work for their school.

How often does the School Council Meet? The Evans River K-12 School Council meets on the 2nd Monday of each month.

The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge

The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge opened on 2nd March and closes on the 28th August 2015. The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

K-2 students can experience their books by listening to the story, participating in shared reading or reading part or all of their selected books. Students need to experience 25 books from the PRC list and 5 books of personal choice. Students from Years 3-9 need to read 20 books independently. Students need to read 15 books from the PRC list and 5 books of personal choice. All students can enter their books online as they read them or complete the printed PRC Reading Record and return it to Ms Durheim or Mrs Piccoli for entry.

Booklists can be viewed on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website. School library books from the PRC list will have a gold sticker on the cover of the book.

Tracy Durheim

P&C News

Our next meetings will be held on Monday 18th May Our morning meeting takes place at 9:00am in the Administration Building and the second meeting is held in the Library at 4:30pm. Please join one of our meetings and bring along your ideas.
Senior Constable Kim Mewing spent two days at our school this week providing ongoing support and education to Years 7-10 across the topics of cyberbullying and online safety. Constable Mewing recommended www.cybersmart.gov.au as a fantastic free website where kids and parents can seek advice and guidance to report and find answers to issues. There is also a link to the kids helpline online counselling service.

Constable Mewing encourages kids to take control of their digital worlds by blocking offending profiles and reporting offensive posts online. She also encourages kids to talk to parents and carers about their online worlds.

Science Trivia!

This Week’s Question: To which animal does the word lupine refer?

Last Week’s Question: What is the largest fish in the world? WHALE

COMING UP at Evans River K-12 School, Learner drivers workshop 5th May, 2015 at 5:30pm. Book with the school office, myself or by phoning freecall 1300 359 968

Canteen Roster - Week A

Monday 20 Apr  Help Wanted
Tuesday 21 Apr  Donna Moore
Wednesday 22 Apr  Molly Forsyth
Thursday 23 Apr  Von Pickens
Friday 24 Apr  Charmayne Stevens

K-6 AWARDS Term 1 Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder</th>
<th>Riley Arnison</th>
<th>Honey Hodder Bell</th>
<th>Ruben Wilson</th>
<th>Ruby Smales</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Shae Fuller</td>
<td>Luke Corbett</td>
<td>Mia Jo Henderson</td>
<td>Caleb Samuels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2/3D</td>
<td>Ivy Hamilton</td>
<td>Sky Geoghegan</td>
<td>Sarah Li Miah-Bella Norman</td>
<td>Jace Savage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2/3M</td>
<td>Abbie Yourell</td>
<td>William Weekes</td>
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<td>Caelian Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4C</td>
<td>Damon Walker</td>
<td>Kyla Flaherty</td>
<td>Alex Redman</td>
<td>Iris Hobbins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6F</td>
<td>Justice Savage</td>
<td>Georgia Manning</td>
<td>Holly Perkins</td>
<td>Jeremy Clennett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6E</td>
<td>Tahlia Howard</td>
<td>Tyson Horseman</td>
<td>Jade Harris</td>
<td>Sacha Boutle</td>
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Spread the message about the P&C’s Fundraising BBQ on Election Day March 28th, at the polling booth at the school. We will have bacon & egg burgers, sausage sandwiches, tea, coffee & cake. There will also be a book stall and the EcoWarrior students will have their own activity. We still need some extra helpers so if you can help with the BBQ or stalls I would love to hear from you.

Music lessons are well underway now with the tutors from Hothouse music seen here with Ryese Bateman (trumpet) & Finn Gillespie (guitar)

Each year our Year 7 classes have to make their own musical instrument. Shown here are: Brodie Forsyth with his drum & Noah Boutle with his eclectic bass (which actually worked) and if Ziggy McCartin-Cole’s grandfather is missing some spanners I know where they are!! Cute Spannerphone….

Each year Bethany and Erica Bayliss host a pancake breakfast for our students. This year with help from their friends Claire Brownhill and Mya Tosomeen they held it on St Patrick’s Day and the students loved the green pancakes.

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Uniform Store
Eftpos Available
Secondary shirts and sports shirts (sizes 14/16/18) are now in stock
Girls Skorts Size 8-16 with logo $23
Boys Ruggers No Logo only $13
The School Uniform Store operates each Friday 8:30am to 9:30am.