A Message From The Principal

Dear Parents

Congratulations to our 2015 Student Leaders who received their badges at a special assembly last Friday morning. Many thanks to our invited guests, Mrs Jann Stuckey, Member for Currumbin, Mrs Jan Drury, Kids’ Hope Coordinator and Mikey Mendoza, former School Captain of Elanora State High School. It was wonderful to share this special occasion with the students’ parents and family members.

Welcome back Chappy Doug, who has been unwell. Parents please note that Chappy now works from Tuesday to Friday. His office is located in the TLC.

Parents, we have received a number of messages from concerned members of our community about our students riding their bikes and crossing roads in an unsafe way. We will reinforce road safety messages at school and encourage you to do the same at home.

Have you got a green thumb? If so, we would love you to join our fledgling Parent Gardening Group. Please contact the office if you are interested- I’d love to talk to you about it. We are planning to purchase more compost bins and further develop the fruit, vegetable and herb gardens between the Science Room and the Highway. We are also planning a working bee later in the term when the weather is cooler. Thanks again parents for your support with our Clean and Green initiative – the school is looking cleaner and students are taking greater interest in healthy eating.

Our school has gained entitlement to a fourth Deputy Principal. Currently, Mrs Robyn Diaz is acting in the role. The permanent position of Deputy Principal will be advertised State-wide next week and will be filled by the beginning of Term 2.

If there is a thunder storm around 3pm, we will keep the students in the classroom until it passes, so if there are predictions of severe storms or cyclonic conditions during the afternoon, we encourage parents to pick their children up early.

Teachers are in the process of selecting their Parent Reps for 2015. Our first Parent Rep meeting will be held on Thursday 12 March at 2pm in the Resource Centre. Young children are welcome.

This week, our Great Results Guarantee Plan for 2015 was signed off by our P&C President, Mrs Shoana Muldoon and will now be sent to the Independent Public Schools Unit in Central Office and be placed on the school’s website. Our focus for the year is to enhance student learning outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy through supporting students in the classroom and enhancing the skills of our teachers and teacher aides through professional development and coaching. Funding from GRG will be used to employ a full time Literacy/Numeracy Coach, a part-time Learning Support Teacher, Maths and English Resources, the employment of four part-time teacher aides, a class set of ipads and professional development programs.

While the behaviour of our students is generally excellent, we have had to reminded some students in Year 5 and 6 that Interschool Sport and Camps are privileges and participation will depend on satisfactory behaviour.

I attended an Independent Public Schools meeting in Brisbane last week, where the Director General, Mr Jim Watterston spoke about the opportunities available to schools like ours to continue to improve through greater autonomy and local decision making.
As an Independent Public School we are required to set up a School Council which will collaborate with the Principal on matters regarding the strategic direction of the school. A School Council is very different to a P&C Association, which has an important role in fund-raising and community development. The forming of the School Council is quite complex. A Constitution will need to be developed and endorsed by staff and parents and Council members will need to be elected. I would like to work slowly on this process and am planning to have our School Council operational by Term 3. If any parents are interested in the role of School Council members, please contact me for more information.

On Tuesday afternoon, we had a welcome BBQ for our Indigenous families. It was good to enjoy a sausage sizzle and chat to our parents and local Indigenous community workers.

Congratulations to former Year 4 teacher, Mrs Kirsty Cambridge on the birth of her son, Micah. If parents would like to pass on any cards or messages to Mrs Cambridge they can leave them in the school office and we will make sure she receives them.

Warm regards

Tricia Neate
Principal

Coming Up:

Friday 20/2  
8am Active School Travel Committee

Tuesday 24/2  
Chappy will be at a Professional Development workshop

Wednesday 25/2  
11.15am Farewell morning tea for our uniform shop convenor, Mrs Fiona Steele.

26 and 27 Feb  
Mrs Neate at State Principals’ Conference in Brisbane.

Facilities News

From the Business Manager - Improving Facilities

Great Diving Wall

We have installed twelve room dividers over the last few years to separate teaching spaces. During the summer holidays the most recent wall was installed in Lower D Block. The walls are covered with a carpet like material for teachers to display student’s work. The cost of installing a divider is approximately $5000.

New lovely shade shelter for the Happy Chappy Zone.

Our design team decided on two louvre style shades with a silver and turquoise colour scheme. The students are now meeting in a lovely shaded environment thanks to funding from various local community groups.

Please feel free to inspect these new facility projects as you walk around the school.

Judy Adams
Business Services Manager

Sports News

Interschool Sport Cost

Please be aware that our interschool sport costs have increased for the 2015 season. As a result of increased prices with buses our interschool sport costs have increased. Please do not make any payments until your son/daughter receives a sport note from their coach.

Interschool Sport: $78
Surfing: $140
Yoga: $40

District Swimming

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent our school at the Oceanic District Swimming Trials:

Jayda Hughes, Tahlia Mitchell-Darley, Jack Fox, Tai Smith, Oscar Cooper, Alex Williams, Tom Beutel, Talyk Sinclair, KalaniMitchel-Darley, Jake Campbell, Lucy Garufi, Lily O’Sullivan, Lauren Waller
NRL All Stars & Indigenous All Stars Visit

On Tuesday 10th February Elanora State School students in years 4-6 were fortunate enough to receive a visit from players from the NRL All Stars V Indigenous All Stars game. The players took part in a fantastic parade to outline why health & fitness is important to them. Each players was able to talk to the students about the challengers in their day to day commitments as professional athletes and how hard work and perseverance lead them to living successful lives.

Coolangatta & Tweed RSL

Thank you to Joe Russell from the Coolangatta & Tweed RSL for kindly donating a portable set of flag poles to the school.

Jared Frazer
PE Teacher

Science

Year Level Focus- Year 2 and Year 5

Year 5 Biological Science: Survival in the Australian Environment- In this unit students will examine the structural features and behavioural adaptations that assist living things to survive in their environment. Students will understand that science involves using evidence and data to develop explanations. Students will investigate factors that influence how plants and animals survive in extreme environments. This knowledge will be used to create a creature with adaptations that are suitable for survival in a prescribed environment.

Year 2 Chemical Science – Mix, Make and Use

In this unit students investigate combinations of different materials and give reasons for the selection of particular materials according to their properties and purpose. Students understand that science involves asking questions about and describing changes to familiar objects and materials. They will describe changes made to materials when combining them to make an object which has a purpose in everyday life. Students pose questions, make predictions and follow instructions to record observations in a guided investigation. They represent and communicate their observations using scientific language.

Class of the Week - Week 3

Congratulations to 5A for being enthusiastic and engaged during their lesson on camouflage. They worked co-operatively in small groups and actively participated in discussions on adaptations.

Class of the Week - Week 4

Congratulations to 2E for their enthusiasm and co-operation during our investigations on the properties of glue. They successfully made cornflourgoo and explored its unusual properties.

TOTALLY WILD

During Term 4 2014 ElanoraSS students Patrick Brabant, Aaron Gannaway and Jaime Pryor took part in a filming segment with the crew from Totally Wild. The segment was based upon recycling plastic bottles to make surf boards, highlighting the need to decrease the amount of plastic that ends up in our oceans. The students worked with university students from Bond University during the filming. We are excited to announce that the segment will air on Totally Wild on February 23rd. Keep your eye out for this show in your TV guide!!!

Expression of Interest – 2015 Science Conference and Showcase

Our annual Science Conference will be held at Currumbin Wild life Sanctuary on Thursday 21 May - week 5 Term 2. Students in Years 5 & 6 are invited to show their expression of interest by speaking to Mrs Ashburn or Mrs Simpkins in the Science Room. Selected Year 4 students will be invited to participate after consultation between class teachers and Mrs Simpkins / Mrs Ashburn.

Resources needed

Plastic milk bottle tops (rinsed please). Tops can be given to your class teacher or brought directly to the Science room. Thank you very much. This will assist the Year 2 students with an activity in Term 2.

Term 1 Events & Activities

* Prep &Year 1 classes - Worm Farm visits.
* Mr Chandler HOD Science ESHS & Staff –enrichment science lessons with Years 6.
* Schools Clean Up Day Friday 27 February – Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 1 March

* Earth Hour – Saturday 28 March 8:30p.m.

Jeanette Simpkins & Shirley Ashburn
Elanora State School Science Coordinator

P&C News

Next week we have to let go of the strings (so to speak) and farewell Fiona Steele, our Uniform Shop Convener and P&C Administrator. Fiona has played an integral part of our P & C for the last six years. She has been the Executives go to girl. And with an ever changing crew of P & C Executives over the years she has always shown so much patience where she is probably repeating herself to us. Fiona has overseen the change of uniform including the recent sport jacket and the implementation of a Friday sports shirt. Fiona has put in countless volunteer hours as well to help the P & C achieve our fundraising goals. Thankyou so much Fiona. You will be missed.

The P & C are having a morning tea WEDNESDAY 25th FEB 11am to wish her a fond farewell. All welcome. This will be held in the room next door to Uniform Shop.

The P & C welcome the very capable Leah O'Reilly to the position of Uniform Shop Convener and P & C Administrator.

School Banking

All students would have received a CBA Student Banking Information Pack this week. If you wish to sign your child up for student banking you just need to go in to any CBA Branch and ask to set up a Dollarmite account. Student banking at Elanora is on Tuesdays. Please put bankbooks in to the grey Bank Satchel before school starts. There are great rewards to collect and an awesome Disney Land prize to be won. Happy Banking.

Regards

Melanie Allen
P & C Secretary

Tuckshop News

Hi again all

Firstly, a big shout out to all the wonderful mothers who have volunteered your precious time in the tuckshop over the last fortnight. Thank you so very much for contributing to our school community, our childrens well being and bringing some personality to our kitchen each day.

I'm very excited to bring back "Sushi Wednesday". Starting 11th March 2015, please pre order on Monday or Tuesday, at the tuck shop to guarantee your selection, otherwise ordering sushi will be available online through flexi schools. We have found a wonderful local lady who runs her sushi business close by and will deliver fresh sushi every Wednesday morning. Gluten free and vegetarian options including gluten free mayo, tuna, terriyaki chicken, avocado and rice paper rolls. All $3.00. Rice paper rolls $4.00.

I am phasing out brown paper bag ordering. As of term 3 there will only be online ordering for our tuckshop. This is an inevitable part of the future for school tuckshops. Many of our neighbouring schools already have this system in place. flexi schools is an easy and convenient way for ordering your childrens lunch. please come and see me if you need any help with setting up a flexi schools account online. i am more than happy to guide you or provide the information you need to know. In the meantime, all brown paper bags will come directly to the tuckshop, instead of going to your classroom in the morning. We will fill the order and send to your childs class along with the rest of the online orders.

I now have a weekly roster displayed in the tuckshop. Come and put your name down if you can spare even a half hour of your time to volunteer. Keep your eye out for the new delightfully delicious menu coming soon!

Eat clean.

Sharyn Dick
TuckshopConvener
tuckshop@ess.eq.edu.au
Fundraising For Mother's Day

ARE YOU A CRAFTERS?

We are looking for hand made donations for the Mother's Day Stall to be held in May. Smallish items that we can sell for $10.00 or less. There is a donations box in the new P&C room next to the uniform shop. Please email fundraising@elanorass.eq.edu.au if you would like any further information! Thank you!

The Fundraising Committee

Uniform Shop News

Grade 5 and 6 Sports Shirt - 2015

A new sports shirt is being introduced for Interschool sport for 2015. The shirt will be worn by students every Friday for Interschool Sport regardless of which sport they choose to participate in. The shirts are available for purchase from the uniform shop. Cost $38.00. For all grade 5 students this will be a compulsory purchase; however for grade 6 students this will be optional. Please note that students in grade 5 will need a shirt by the beginning of Interschool sport, which commences on 20th March. Any questions please email schooluniform@elanorass.eq.edu.au or see Fiona or Leah in the Uniform Shop.

Second Hand Uniforms

The uniform shop is now accepting second hand clothing. As per our terms and conditions we can only accept officially approved school uniform for re-sale. Please ensure that all items are freshly laundered.

Reminder

On Wednesday 25th February, 11am, we will be having a morning tea for Fiona. It shall be hosted in the new P&C room (beside the uniform shop). Please join us in wishing Fiona all the very best in her new endeavours.

Leah O'Reilly
Uniform Shop Convenor

Dental Van

The Mobile Dental Clinic is temporarily unattended. You will be notified when the van is operational again. Parents may still call 1300 300850 for any emergencies or to book examinations but these appointments will take places at another Mobile Dental facility.

Frosty Fridays
All children are invited to enter the

Children’s Art Competition

as part of the Elanora Uniting Church

Art Show - April 17th – 19th 2015

There are two categories:

8 years and under
13 years and under

This year the theme is:

All Things Bright and Beautiful!

Winners in each category will receive a blue ribbon, a certificate, and art materials. More information about the children’s and adults’ competitions is on our website:

www.elanorauniting.com.au

Contact Dianne 5522 5102 for details and entry forms