**Welcome to the second addition of the Salt Ash Public School Newsletter for the year. Our Kindergarten students and new enrolments have settled in well and are enjoying life at school. Miss Nash has commented that our Kindergarten students have been a little tired from adjusting to the routine of ‘big school’ and all the new learning that is taking place.**

**We have five classes for this year…**

**Kindergarten**

**Year One**

**Years Two/Three**

**Year Four**

**Years Five/Six.**

**Following discussions with individual parents the proposed trial of the 4/5/6 open classroom with two permanent teachers, additional teacher allocation and support staff was abandoned.**

**Our School Swimming Carnival was another successful day. Thank you yet again to Mr Milne for organising the Carnival and ensuring that it ran so very well.**

**We would especially like to thank the parents for their wonderful support and assistance with travel, timekeeping and organising students to participate so very well in all events….Mrs Browne even taught some students the art of creating a head piece from their towel !**

**A blast from the past !!**

**Special thanks to our Life Saver Extraordinaire Kylie Davis for her ongoing support for the school and to Clay Niki for his assistance with our 25m races.**

**Finally…. congratulations to all the students who participated so very well and demonstrated resilience and for many of our students new found confidence in their abilities.**

**Unfortunately Mr Milne was quite ill last Friday and our Champions could not be announced. We will announce our individual Champions and the winning House this week at Assembly. Eligible students will participate in the Zone Carnival to be held this Friday. A note for the Carnival has been organised and was distributed yesterday.**

**Thank you also to the parents who were able to attend our Parent Information Sessions last Wednesday night. It was great for the staff to have such support and to give them the opportunity to update parents on class organisation and expectations for the year. Parents are again reminded that if they were unable to attend on the night they can contact staff and organise a suitable time to learn about their child/children’s class/classes.**

**Thank you also to the P and C for organising ‘nibblies’ for the Meeting that followed the Parent Information sessions…..the food was very much appreciated by those who attended the Meeting.**

**It was a pleasure to see so many of our parents and grandparents attend our Library Lovers Picnic Day held last Friday. Your assistance with listening to children other than your own was also very much appreciated.**

**Miss Nash got some great snaps of families reading in the COLA. The much needed rain did not dampen our spirits.**

**Thanks to Mrs Higginbottom for organising this activity.**

**Thank you to Katie McKay for ‘volunteering’ to update our School Website with some new snaps…your assistance will be very much appreciated !!**

**New Canteen C0-ordinator.**

**The school welcomes Lee Stewart as our new Canteen Co-ordinator for this year.**

**The school community would also like to thank Mrs Creedon and Mrs Plunkett who have done such a wonderful job covering the role until a new Co-ordinator could be elected.**

**News from the Canteen…**

**Hi everyone. For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Lee and I am pleased to have taken on the role of Canteen Co-ordinator. I have been involved with Salt Ash Public School for the past six years and have a daughter in Year Five.**

**I would like to thank the new parents who have volunteered to help in the canteen. Your help is gratefully appreciated.**

**If there are any grandparents or family members who would like to come on board, you are most welcome. Your children/grandchildren will love seeing you in the Canteen.**

**I have taken a couple of things off the menu as they do not sell. These include banana milk, salmon salad and garlic bread.**

**Please feel free to approach me at any time. I will be at the school most days and the canteen volunteers have my phone number.**

**I am looking forward to meeting all the helpers. Thank you so much for your decision to help out. Please find attached to the Newsletter the Canteen Roster for this Term. As you can see, there are days where, at present, we do not have any volunteers. If you can assist on these days or can be put on an ‘emergency’ roster for any of our remaining Canteen days….please fill out your name and phone number at the bottom of the roster and return to school. It would be great to have our volunteers also indicate if they are available to ‘cover’ any days for the rest of the Term to ensure that the Canteen opens for the children.**

**Cheers Lee**

**Dive In Help Out….last year was our first opportunity to participate in this great local community fundraiser. We participated because…. Everyone deserves the right to learn to swim.**

**All funds raised in the YMCA Swimathon 2014 go back into local communities to provide those most at risk of drowning including, indigenous, newly arrived, people doing it tough, and people with a disability, the opportunity to receive vital swimming and water safety skills.**

**Students from Years 5 and 6 will swim at the Tilligerry Aquatic Centre and can be sponsored on line or in cash via the Office. Students can be sponsored by family and friends. We participate in this activity on Sunday 2nd March from 10:00-11:00am.**

**A note in relation to this activity was distributed last Friday. If your child/children did not receive this note please contact the school.**

**Harmony Day Activities…**

**This Term all students at Salt Ash Public will participate in lessons to develop their awareness and understanding of Harmony….they will also participate in activities developing their understanding of bullying and how best to deal with any issues should they arise.**

**Wearin’ o the Green….**

**As an aspect of our Harmony Day activities we will celebrate St Patricks Day. Students are encouraged to come dressed to school wearing something green….we will have a day of St Patrick’s Day activities. I am in the process of working with parents to best determine how we will organise our ‘green’ food. It may be an opportunity for the P and C to use the day as a fundraiser. When we have a plan ‘nutted out’ we will inform parents.**

**Also taking place during Harmony Week will be our annual school disco. In Keeping with our St Patrick’s Day theme and Harmony theme (and to make it easier for parents) students are encouraged to come dressed in green or orange (for Harmony Day) for the disco…**

**Aussie Bush Camp for students in Years 3-6.**

**This 3 day camp will take place from Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th August.**

**Notes in relation to the Aussie Bush Camp are attached to today’s Newsletter. We are requesting a non-refundable deposit of $50.00 from families who will be attending to cover the cost of the non- refundable deposit requested from the financial office of The Aussie Bush Camp.**

**Aussie Five Fair Rules….**

**Parents and students also need to be aware that there are some circumstances in the classroom and in the playground where students can be placed IMMEDIATELY on an Amber or Red alert should the behaviour or the circumstances warrant. Dangerous or aggressive behaviour can move straight to Amber or Red if deemed appropriate by the staff in the classroom or on playground duty.**

**Parents wanting to discuss an Amber Alert Notification need to make an appointment via the front office and should NOT expect to discuss the notification with staff prior to school commencing.**

**Children know our Aussie Five Fair Rules and what is acceptable behaviour in the classroom and the playground. They are also aware of the consequences for not ‘sticking to the rules’**

**Traffic Light reminders…..**

**\*Green….warning**

**\*Amber ….Time out in the Classroom….with a note sent home and the behaviour recorded electronically.**

**\*Red …time out of the classroom with a buddy class and a note sent home informing parents of the appropriate time out given at school.**

**\*\*\*\*Parents are also reminded that students remain out of the playground until the behaviour note is returned…..**

Week Four

Tue 18th Feb Newsletter Day

Nudie Food Tuesday

Friday 21st Feb Assembly@ 8:55am

Zone Swimming Carnival.

Week Five

Tues 25th Nudie Food Tuesday

Fri 28th Feb School Assembly@ 8:55 am.

Sun 2nd Mar Dive In Help Out @Tilligerry Aquatic Centre 10am- 11 am for students in Years 4-6

**Premier’s Reading Challenge…….**

**Every year our school participates in this exciting Challenge. Students are challenged to read a required number of books before August 22nd. For Years 3-6 this is 20, of which 15 must come from the PRC list and for K-2 it is 30 which can be shared reading. We support your child to meet the Challenge by encouraging regular borrowing, choices used in independent reading groups and shared reading of PRC titles. We keep the records here at school so if your child is reading books from home or the public library write the title and author and send in to be recorded on their sheet.**

**For full details of rules and booklist see** [**https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html**](https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html)

**A reminder that students need a sturdy library bag to protect their books from home to school. Students without a bag will still borrow but not be allowed to take the books home**

**Week 4-5**

**Over the past two weeks Class 2/3 has been settling into reading groups, completing many reading and comprehension activities. Students have been practicing their spelling words and have completed their first spelling test.**

**In Mathematics, students have learnt different strategies to add two-digit numbers and are currently experimenting with different types of measurement.**

**Students have also engaged in serious class discussion, sharing ideas around the topic of bullying. They are aware of the many types of bullying, including cyber bullying, and have devised many strategies to combat bullying in and out of school.**

**Week 2**

**Merit Awards: Montana Latham**

**Salties: Mikayla Anderson, Hayley Parnell**

**Week 3**

**Merit Awards: Olivia Pickles, Riley Creedon**

**Values Kelsi Bielefeld, Ocea Liston-Smith**

**Sports: Kye Warner**

**Year 4**

**The students have all settled well into the classroom routines for this year. We have been busy over the past couple of weeks with Assessment Tasks in all KLA'S. We have a fantastic group of Year 4 students who have already demonstrated commitment to their learning.**

**This year we will be using class DOJO for positive behaviour management as well as our Aussie Five Fair Rules.**

**Award winners for weeks 2 and 3:**

**Merit: Bella Rooney, Brooke Nicholson, Kaelan Maloney, Ben Smart**

**Salties/Values: Mason Davis, Stephanie Fallou-Killick, Arnika McCreadie, Courtney Swain**

**Sport: Maddy Patane**

**Kindergarten have had a very busy, but fun week. We have learnt 3 more sounds ‘i, p, n’. Now we know 6 sounds and can read our first words. We enjoyed reading lots of books this week and “Olivia” and “Clancy the Courageous Cow” were two of our favourites. We started talking about “Staying Alive” our new science topic and Miss Nash is looking for some tadpoles that will grow into some very cute little green frogs. We have also been working on learning to sprint and have been finishing off our wonderful picture of a rainbow fish.**

**Merit: Aleisha Hockey, Kate Slade, Sophie Robinson, Archer McKay**

**Values: Tara Kenny, Percy Rowe, Emily Trimingham**

**Sport: Dominic Rooney, Ethan Wyatt, Lily Peters, Izzy Conna.**

**A big thank you to Juliette Bailey for cooking a lovely thank you gift to be given to Ma who made a wonderful Gingerbread House for the Xmas raffle last year.**