Term 2, No.3  
Friday, 27 May, 2016

2016 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Final Winter season Gala day- Good luck to our Netballers and Footy players</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>ICAS Science Test</td>
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| June 03 | School Disco  
5:30-7:30- Come as you like! |
| June 04 | Working Bee 8-12  
Please come and help!!! |
| June 06 | Assembly presentation – School banking |

Note: This calendar will be added to as future activities are confirmed.

This week I received an email from one of our neighbours praising the community spirit and helpfulness of one of our senior students on his way home. As soon as he saw the lady in need he stopped and offered to help her get her runaway dog back. Below is part of her email that she sent to me:

I wish to commend this young man to you - he displayed a kindness, politeness, generosity and community spirit beyond his years, and he is a credit to his parents, teachers and school. I of course thanked him profusely at the time, but I wanted to further extend my gratitude and congratulate you on the calibre of your students if he is a reflection of the school as a whole. I hope you will pass on my thanks to him again.

Congratulations Kumail for demonstrating the high expectations we have of all our students academically, behaviourally and socially.

SCHOOL REVIEW  
Finding the way from Good to Better to BEST!

Our School Review confirmed our commitment to improving our Communication Practices. One part of this is our communication with our families. I know that many of our parents have expertise in this area or an enthusiasm to help us communicate better (Or both!). I am keen to use OUR PARENTS to help us develop different ways you want us to COMMUNICATE with YOU and to improve what we currently do.

We presently use:
- Newsletter
- Assemblies
- Newsletters
- Festival of Learnings
- School website
- Noticeboards
- Facebook
- QParents app

Do we use them effectively?  
How can we use them better?  
What are better ways to communicate with you?  
What information do you want us to push out to you?

If you are keen to help out please let me know- jbann7@eq.edu.au or 0467 777 673.

Don't worry if you can't attend meetings this group is more about sharing ideas and giving me advice than having time away from your families.

CLASS CATCH-UP

Year 4/5 have been learning about Children's Day in Japan. They have learnt special songs and made an origami samurai helmet.

Traditionally Children's Day was called "Tango no sekku". Families celebrate this day by flying Koinobori (carp streamers). The children learnt it has been a celebration since ancient times.

Kobi- I love learning the language and about the special fancy things like the fake food they have in Japan.

Kiana- I love learning about how to write hiragana and to identify their sounds.

Tom C- I love learning how to pronounce the different Japanese words and learning origami.

Lita- I love learning about Japan and the Japanese culture.

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NEWS

NATIONAL SORRY DAY COMMEMORATION  
26 MAY, 2016

Mrs Banks and some wonderful parents took 23 of our students (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) to the ceremony to commemorate National Sorry Day conducted by the Noonga Reconciliation Group at Kalinga Park.

It was an opportunity for our students to develop a greater understanding of the meaning behind National Sorry Day.
National Sorry Day commemorates the Stolen Generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children forcibly removed from their families. 26 May offers the Australian community the opportunity to acknowledge the impact of the policies of forcible removal on Australia's Indigenous peoples; to express their sorrow; and to celebrate the beginning of a new understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia. On February 13, 2008 Kevin Rudd, then Prime Minister of Australia, apologised to the Stolen Generations on behalf of all Australians.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

We are examining information from data gathered from staff about our behaviour management at SHSS. We work with a coach to determine our subsequent actions. Stay tuned for some exciting news in this space. A competition is looming on the horizon!

Attendance

Our school target for attendance is 96%. How are you helping us achieve it?

As the Senior 2's orienteering program nears its last sessions, the coach Gordon Bossley has suggested some fantastic opportunities for students and their families to try orienteering outside the school.

Coming up – Enoggeroos Club events:
North Lakes – 29th May – Park O
Grinstead Park, Alderley – 5th June – Park O

And for the competitive people, the Queensland Sprint Championships at Marist Brothers Ashgrove. Gordon thinks some of the students are nearly ready to try out this event.

You can register for these events by contacting Gordon – gbossley@westnet.com.au - 0412 776 876.

For all CATHOLIC parents of children born in/before 2009 who live in the Stafford Roman Catholic Parish (and/or regularly worship there): The beginning of a preparation programme for your family to celebrate the Sacraments of CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST (First Communion) with your child(ren) in 2016-17 will be on Tuesday 12th July, 7-8.30pm. The meeting will be in the parish church – 70 Appleby Rd (opposite Minimine St). If you wish to be a part of this programme, it is essential that you attend this meeting - Parent(s) only please (unless you have no one to look after your children at home). Mark your diary now. Enrolments must be made by Mon 4th July. If you have any questions, please ring/email the Parish (3356 7155) or stafford@bne.catholic.net.au . If you ARE ATTENDING please enrol via this link https://goo.gl/MlzU5l. (We need to know names and numbers for provision of resources). If you cannot access the internet, please contact the parish office for a hardcopy of the enrolment form. We look forward to seeing you.

How do you want us to celebrate the 50th birthday of our school? Send your ideas to:
admin@somehillss.eq.edu.au
It is Great to be Under 8 at Somerset Hills State School!

Last week we shared our Under 8 Day with students from Prince Charles Hospital Childcare Centre. A great day was had by all with students, families and staff mingling in our Hall and Junior School playground and classrooms. Our students and visitors were treated to a display of our student’s musical talents in the hall and enjoyed 2 stories before moving to our Junior Playground to try out:

- Kite-making
- Biscuit icing (and eating!)
- Playdough
- Threading
- Musical instruments
- Sand play
- Puzzling
- Writing
- And many more activities.

A fruity morning tea donated by Rode Fresh, Nexus Church and Dr Anthony Lynham MLA was enjoyed by everyone.

A highlight of the morning was a visit from our local Fire Brigade and photos with the Fire Engine and a firefighter for all children!

Gift bags were packed with donations from Somerset Hills SS supporters Councillor Fiona King, Bunnings, QUT and EDSCO were welcomed by all Under 8’s.

ENROL NOW FOR 2017. PLACES AVAILABLE IN PREP TO YEAR 6. CONTACT ADMIN ON 36242222
Foster Connections
The best way to ensure our children’s emotional well-being is to make sure that they feel connected - to you, other family members, friends, neighbours even pets. Connectedness is a feeling of being loved, understood, wanted and acknowledged. In a study involving 90,000 teenagers, this feeling of being connected emerged as the biggest protector against emotional distress, suicidal thoughts and risky behaviours including smoking, drinking and taking drugs – so this is a big one!

Don’t Try to Make Your Child Happy
I know this sounds like the opposite of what we’re trying to do here, but sometimes the best thing for your child’s long-term happiness may be to stop trying to keep them happy in the short-term. We are not responsible for our children’s happiness and if as a parent or carer we feel responsible for their emotions we will have great difficulty allowing them to experience anger, sadness or frustration. This kind of parenting swoops in immediately and does whatever we think will solve the problem. The danger of this is that if children never learn to deal with negative emotions when they are young, they can end up being crushed by them as adolescents and adults.

Nurture Your Happiness
While we can’t control our children’s happiness, we are responsible for our own. And because our children take their cues from us, our moods matter. Happy parents and carers are more likely to have happy kids. Carve out time for your own rest and relaxation.

Praise the Right Stuff
Studies have shown that self-esteem and happiness are linked. This does not mean that we should become overzealous cheerleaders as this can lead to pressure to perform. If our children are praised for absolutely everything they do, they could become afraid that if they don’t succeed, they will disappoint you. Children need to know that even when they fail, they are still loved. The idea then, is not to withhold praise but to focus on praising the effort rather than the result. Praise the creativity, the hard work, the persistence that goes into achieving, rather than the achievement itself.

Remember: “Behind every young child that believes in himself is a parent who believed first.” – Matthew Jacobsen
The Smith Family offers support to families

By now you may be aware of the changes the Department of Human Services will make to the Schoolkids bonus – It will be phased out after the next payment in July 2016 as announced on the link below.

Schoolkids Bonus Announcement
Helps with education costs and is automatically paid in January and July.
Schoolkid Bonus is being phased out. The final instalment will be paid in July 2016.

Saver Plus provides free financial literacy education to empower families to learn to save and supports them to reach their saving goals over a 10 month period.
Participants save up to $500 which is matched by the program with another $500 , that has to be spent on educational costs for their children. Importantly a savings habit is developed with research showing that up to 87% continue to save 3 years after completing the Saver Plus Program. This is a fantastic outcome for families and children!!