Kurri Kurri Public School
Learning, caring and respect for all
Kurri Kurri Public School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning school where Kids Matter

Principal News

Today for my part of the Vodcast that goes out on our website each week, I took everyone on a tour of the school. The focus was on learning and support that is happening in our K-2 area. On the tour we heard from some children in 1H as well as meeting our speech pathologist Beck Hopkins and talking to our Instructional Leader Sarah Williams. I hope you will take the time to view the vodcast and visit a few places in the school you don’t always get to see. This morning a Teddy Bears Picnic for children in the Kurri Kurri area starting school was held in Rotary Park. The idea is to celebrate as a whole community this important step for children. Staff from our school joined with staff from other local schools. We were also supported by local early childhood education and care providers and by Coles. Thank you to Mrs Williams, Mrs Petherbridge, Mrs Dawes and Ms Brown for their organisation of this event. It was a success that will become part of the Kurri Kurri calendar. There will also be other key community events during the year to promote the services available to parents of preschool age children, and the importance of building a relationship with your child’s future school.

Quicksmart 2016

Quicksmart is a mathematical program introduced to our school by the University of New England and ran at Kurri Kurri Public School by our own staff. It operates each week for 3 days with scholars receiving numeracy strategy knowledge and support on each of these days. Daily attendance at the Quicksmart program is a requirement to assist the scholars to achieve their potential. Permission forms have been sent home with eligible scholars from Years 4 and 5 which should be returned to school to ensure inclusion in the 2016 program this week. Mrs Garrett- Program Coordinator

Stage 2 Engineering Project

For the past two terms selected scholars in Stage 2 worked together to create a pushcart for a challenge that tested and furthered their engineering and maths skills. The scholars all had fun with this project and were surprised to learn how much was involved to build a pushcart. We would like to thank Mr Geoff Smith, a University of Newcastle Masters student, who helped out with the project.

Christmas Cards

We have designated Party/Disco Day (16th December) as the day for scholars to hand out Christmas Cards to their friends. From past years’ experience, we have found this adds to the fun of party day and scholars can take their entire cards home at one time and they do not get lost.

Holiday Reading Program

We have noticed from past years, some scholars reading levels dropping over the holidays. This year we are starting a new initiative for scholars to take home readers or novels to read over the holidays. As it is a holiday, we do not expect scholars to read every day, however frequent reading will ensure scholars remain at their end of year levels. Books also make an excellent Christmas present.

Principals Awards

Friday 27th November was our last Whole School Assembly for the year. The next lot of Principals Awards for K-5 will be handed out in the first Whole School Assembly in 2016. Year 6 awards and medallions will be handed out at the Year 6 Clapout.

Newcastle Herald Hunter Region Schools Newspaper Competition

Earlier this year scholars from 5/6MO submitted their entry to the Newcastle Herald Hunter Region Schools Newspaper Competition. This competition runs throughout the year and saw almost 100 entries published over its duration. This week 14 representatives from the class attended the awards ceremony that marked the close of the competition and the all-important judging of entries. We were very proud and excited to be presented with a Highly Commended Award for Overall Best Newpaper, placing our entry in the top three of all entries submitted. Congratulations to all the writers, photographers, artists and cartoonists who worked so hard to produce this award-winning entry. Well done to you all!

Local Community Performances

On Monday 7th December our performers will be presenting items at Kurri Kurri Coles in the Bakery section from 10.00am. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. On Wednesday 9th December from 10.00am our performers will go to the Kurri Kurri Masonic Village to entertain the residents. Due to size of venue parents and carers will not be able to attend.
MAITLAND DISTRICT MOTOCROSS
This year Isabella W-4Y, Olivia W-3H and Edward W-1T, competed in the Maitland District Motocross season. They had a very successful and enjoyable year. Isabella finished 2nd overall in point score, in the 7-9 years old 65cc class c (against the boys), Olivia finished 4th overall in point score, in the 7-9 years old 65cc class c (also against the boys), Edward got a participation trophy for the nippers class (non scoring class). Next season Isabella steps up to 10-12 years old 65cc class, also training on her 85cc. Olivia stays in the 7-9 years old 65cc class and Edward steps up in to division 2 full scoring class also training on a 65cc.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2016
Enrolments are still open for children commencing Kindergarten in 2016. If you are aware on any child/ren that is to start next year please pass this information on. Kindergarten interviews are taking place now, if you are still to have your child’s interview please call school office on 4937 1235 to make an appointment. These interviews are very important in order for your child to commence Kindergarten in 2016.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORT
Just a reminder that today is the last day for all after school sport programs. A big thank you to all scholars who participated and we look forward to continuing the program in 2016.

PRESENTATION DAY
Our Annual Presentation Day is on Friday 11th December starting at 9.30am. We hope you are all able to attend.

KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 5 CLASS DISCO DAY
This year we have arranged for our Kindergarten to Year 5 scholars to celebrate the end of the year with a disco. There will be three sessions to enable the music to cater for different age groups. When: Wednesday 16th December (Last day of school) Cost: $2.50 per student with a maximum of $7.00 per family. Please pay at the office
Clothing: Party clothes, but not your best clothes. No thongs as teachers have also organised other activities where students may be running. No thongs as teachers have also organised other activities where students may be running.

WHOOPING COUGH
We are still receiving notification of confirmed cases of Whooping Cough throughout the school. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last up to many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and is worse at night. The infection can occur even in fully vaccinated children. If you have any of the symptoms please get them checked by your doctor.

THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 2016
This is the first day for scholars in Years 1-6 in 2016. Scholars normally report to their current class lining up areas when the commencement bell rings. A teacher will meet them, and take them to their 2015 classroom. If it is raining, parents should direct children to their 2015 rooms, where a teacher will greet them. In most cases the teacher will be the child’s 2015 teacher, but not always. We normally are able to confirm class placements during the morning, and anticipate having children in their 2016 classes by the end of the day.

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, AND EXCURSIONS IN 2016?
We have been made aware of financial assistance that is available to families to help cover the costs of school uniforms, school equipment, school excursions, drama lessons, dance lessons, tutoring etc. If you would like further information please contact the school on 4937 1235.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS – LOWES
Our school uniform is now available online at Lowes. www.lowes.com.au free shipping for orders over $100. Register online and receive a discount on your first order.

LIBRARY RETURNS & OVERDUES
Just a reminder that the Library is now closed for 2015 student borrowing. If you have any books at home from the Library could you please return them as soon as possible for stocktaking purposes.

CLASSES FOR 2016
We are starting to organise our classes for 2016. This is a very complex process with a lot of discussion and planning to ensure we have the places scholars in appropriate settings. To assist us, we ask you to contact the office if you will be moving from our school or if you know of any new enrolments for 2016.

P&C CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Carols by Candlelight will be held at our school on Sunday 13th December between 6.00pm-9.00pm. This year we will have our Choir and Dance Groups performing as well as all the Year 1 classes, all the Kindergarten Classes and 3A & 5K will perform an item together. Gates open at 5.30pm with a gold coin donation at the gate. Any Parents or Carers available to give any assistance please contact the school on 4937 1235. Email: kurrikurripublicschool@pandaffiliate.org.au or find us on Facebook.

CAITRENE NEWS
Week commencing Monday 7th December

Mon Janene Straker Leanne Bloomfield
Tues Naomi Henry Alana Henry
Wed Julie Herbert Melissa Vadas
Lydia Carr Kristy Earl
Maddeline Butler
Thur Kim Stoddart Leah Couperthwaite
Kristy Lynch
Fri Julie Herbert Sallann Caffey
Lisa Purkiss

COMMUNITY NEWS
Summer fun in nature around Port Stephens. Join our Discovery Rangers to experience a different side to Port Stephens and Tomaree National Park this summer holiday. There’s something for everyone. Bookings for all Tours are essential. All tours cost between $12 and $15 per person and families between $36 and $45. For more information on tours and general enquiries, phone Sue Olsson on (02) 4984 8210 or email suzanne.olsson@environment.nsw.gov.au