



WEDNESDAY NOTICE

20th November 2013

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What's happening in Term Four:

November	20 th	Wednesday	Biggies Environment Day
	20 th	Wednesday	Kinders to Orana Camp for the day
	21 st	Thursday	Triathlon – Biggies and Middles 3/4
	21 st	Thursday	Last Day Prep/1 Camp
	22 nd	Friday	NO SCHOOL PREP & GRADE 1
	26 th	Tuesday	Middlies 3/4 & Biggies Environment Day
	26 th	Tuesday	Garden Market @ 3pm
	27 th	Wednesday	Middlies 1/2 Environment Day
December	28 th	Thursday	Committee Meeting @ 7.15pm
	2 nd	Monday	First Day Grades 2/3/4/5 Camp
	3 rd	Tuesday	First Day Grade 6 Camp
	5 th	Thursday	Last Day Grades 2/3/4/5/6 Camp
	6 th	Friday	NO SCHOOL GRADES 2/3/4/5
	10 th	Tuesday	Biggies Environment Day
	11 th	Wednesday	Kinder/Prep 1 Environment Day
	11 th	Wednesday	Garden Market @ 3pm
	13 th	Friday	Music Concert – starts at 2pm
	16 th	Monday	Leavers Day
	18 th	Wednesday	Whole School Barbeque and Games (PM)
	19 th	Thursday	LAST DAY TERM 4 – PHEW!

Committee: The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday 28 November at 7.15pm in Number 10. Everyone is welcome. The minutes of the last meeting are attached.

NUTS, EGGS, SESAME SEEDS AND ANAPHYLAXIS: Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and can cause death. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention.

Anaphylaxis occurs when the immune system overreacts to an allergen or 'trigger' in the person's environment that is typically harmless. The immune system responds by making an antibody to attack the allergen and this starts off a range of immune system reactions which are potentially fatal.

Common allergens are insect bites, medicines and food. Food allergens do not necessarily have to be ingested to cause a reaction. In some cases, touching the food will cause a reaction, and in some cases being in the same room as the food will cause a reaction. About 10 people die each year in Australia due to allergic reactions to food.

Food allergy should not be confused with food intolerance. Food intolerance is a chemical reaction and reactions are usually related to the amount of the food consumed. Food allergy is an immune response. Within minutes of exposure to the allergen, the person can have potentially life-threatening symptoms.

There are children at The Cottage School who are allergic to nuts, eggs and sesame seeds. Please be vigilant about not bringing these foods into the school. If you see someone else bringing in any of these foods, give them a gentle reminder (we all make mistakes). Remember that anaphylaxis can be fatal – we need to provide support to families who put their trust in us when they send their children to school each day.

http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Food_allergy_and_intolerance
<http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Anaphylaxis>

Who to See: An updated copy of 'Something on Your Mind' is attached.

Proposed changes to school structure – update:

Dear Cottage School Community,

Last Monday (11/11) a community meeting was held to discuss the proposed changes to the school structure that were presented by Committee following advice from teaching staff that the current staff structure is no longer adequate for the governance and educational administrative needs of the school.

It was fantastic to see so many people attend the meeting and participate in a considered and constructive discussion about the issue at hand and the proposed model. An ordinary Committee meeting was then held last Thursday (13/11), with the outcomes from the community meeting high on the agenda.

It was clear to Committee that the school community was not in support of the model of creating a position of 'lead teacher', predominantly as it would mean removing one of two senior teachers in the school from class teaching.

At the Thursday night Committee meeting (attended by several parents) the decision was made not to proceed with the proposed model but to instead address the issue in two parts as follows;

1. The issue of Coordinators not having capacity to manage the ever increasing educational and administrative demands of the school will be the major strategic focus for Committee in 2014 with a solution / model to be decided by the end of the 2014 school year at the latest.
2. The immediate issues of re registration and integration of the National Curriculum will be managed with a short term solution. It has been proposed that this may involve Kath working full time on this as a project in Term 1 & 2 in 2014 with the intensive support of a free consultant from IST (Independent Schools Tasmania) while someone else teaches the Biggies for those terms. The logistics that would allow this proposal to operate only became apparent on Thursday afternoon and as such teaching staff have yet to discuss any impact that this may have on the school.

Committee believe that approaching the issue in this manner will address the immediate requirements of re registration and National Curriculum while allowing a more reasonable timeframe for the school community to develop a long term model that will address the long term sustainability of the coordinators role. Committee have asked that Tom and Kath discuss the proposal of Kath leading a short term project with the teaching staff and have set a Committee meeting for Thursday 28/11 at 7.15pm to make a final decision. Anyone interested in participating in this important discussion is warmly invited to attend this meeting, however Committee would appreciate any feedback about the above proposals in writing prior to the meeting so that everyone has the time to consider all feedback.

As always please feel free to contact myself or any other Committee member if you have any questions or thoughts.

Kind regards, Michelle Folder

Term Dates for 2014: There have been a few queries about the term dates for next year. Here they are listed for Prep – Grade 6. Kinder families for next year will be notified when their children will start.

Term 1: Tues 4 Feb – Thurs 17 April

Term 2: Tues 6 May – Fri 4 July

Term 3: Tues 22 Jul – Fri 26 Sep

Term 4: Tues 14 Oct – Thurs 11 Dec

Schools Triathlon: The final event timetable is on the STC website: www.schoolstriathlonchallenge.com

The event will go on unless the weather is extreme, so please send along a raincoat, towel & warm clothes. The event photographer will have photos up on the STC Website soon after the event.

If you have any queries regarding the details for the Schools Triathlon Challenge please feel free to contact me. I feel sure it is going to be a fun day for all.

Georgie

Family Jobs: Thank you to all those families who are here every week performing their family jobs and helping to keep the school running and also to keep costs down. The staff particularly are grateful to people who do their family jobs. When the jobs aren't done, it's up to the staff to do them. Unfortunately there are some families who don't do their family jobs, which is unfair to the families who perform their jobs religiously. With increasing workloads, staff just don't have time to perform family jobs, so the Committee has decided to 'fine' families who do not do their family jobs and use the income to employ someone to do them.

Families will be asked to 'sign off' when they have finished their job each week. People who don't do their job on the day that they've been requested to do it will be fined.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this, please see Penny.

Garden Market: We had another fun Garden Market with the Kinders last Wednesday and home gardens are obviously thriving, judging by the great array of fresh produce that was brought along! Our second last market for the year will be next Tuesday (sorry Kinders!) 26 November. Contributions from your garden and kitchen are very welcome. If you are cooking and bringing food for the market, please remember **no eggs, nuts or sesame seeds**. This is **vitaly** important to ensure the market is a safe place for everyone.

If you have any suggestions for projects or purchases around the school that Garden Market could support please talk to us about them. Examples of things we have funded in the past include the yellow boxes, timber for the 'nook' outside the white cottage, Lego for the 3/4s, kitchen equipment for the cooking program/cooked lunch, netball hoops and volleyball net, manure & pea straw & plants for the school garden, a trailer of bagged manure for people affected by the Dunalley fires etc.

Thanks from the Garden Marketeers

What's On:

Attachments: Updated copy of 'Something on Your Mind', Minutes of the last Committee Meeting