**GIN GIN CROSS COUNTRY - CONGRATULATIONS**

Corey Hanks, Liam Welborn, Maverick Pearce, Tori Nelson, Caleb Harris, Jodie Schultz-Michie, Taylor Driscoll and Lane Angove ran in the Gin Gin District Cross Country which was held on Friday at Gin Gin State School. All eight students ran well – pushing themselves right through to the end in what was quite a tough event under warm conditions. The big news is that Corey and Caleb have qualified to represent Gin Gin District Schools in the Bundaberg Zone Cross Country at St Luke’s this Thursday, 2 May. Congratulations to all students and best of luck to Corey and Caleb for the next stage.

**BOOK CLUB**

Book club brochures for issue no. 3 have been offered to the children. Orders are due back at the school by 9am, Wednesday 8th May. Please allow two weeks after this date for delivery. Please write cheques out to Sharon School and not Scholastic Aust.

**PHONE SYSTEM DOWN**

Our phone system stopped working on Monday morning. Just after the phone system collapsed, the keyboard on my computer, (with all my emails), also stopped working. They tell me bad things happen in 3s; I better keep my head down.

I realise the notice I put on our Facebook page would not have reached everyone. However, this was one example of how Facebook can be a useful way of getting messages out in a hurry to at least some of our families. My apologies for the inconvenience I know this would’ve caused.

**REPORTING**

One of the requirements of the new National Curriculum is for teachers to report on how students performed on set assessment tasks. Because the assessment tasks have been standardised across the state, (and, eventually, the nation), it’s intended to make the rating comparable to students in the same year level from other schools. Sounds good!

However, it’s possible for a student who is making great progress to “bomb-out” on an assessment task. It’s also possible, (albeit less likely), that a student who hasn’t been traveling well to submit a wonderful assessment task. Thus, while the assessment task rating will be an accurate indicator of how well they’ve done that/those particular task(s), it might not reflect on their progress at school.

For the clearest idea on how well your child is travelling, it is now more important than ever that you attend a parent/teacher interview when it is offered.
NAPLAN - 2013
The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), will take place over 3 days from Tuesday, 14 May through to Thursday, 16 May. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the National Statement of Learning for English and National Statement of Learning for Mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.
I've attached a timetable of tests below for your information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tuesday, 14 May</th>
<th>Wednesday, 15 May</th>
<th>Thursday, 16 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Language Conventions (40 minutes)</td>
<td>Reading (45 minutes)</td>
<td>Numeracy (45 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing (40 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions (40 minutes)</td>
<td>Reading (50 minutes)</td>
<td>Numeracy (50 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing (40 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Language Conventions (45 minutes)</td>
<td>Reading (65 minutes)</td>
<td>Numeracy (Calculator (40 minutes))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing (40 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Numeracy (Non-calculator) (40 minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests, and schools should not exert influence on parents to withdraw their child from the tests. Parents or carers may withdraw their child from the tests to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing.
If you are concerned about your child sitting the tests, please discuss this with your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Are the Tests Important?
Yes and no. When we look at results overall, the tests can help us to get an idea of how we’re travelling as a school in different areas. Individual student results can be anything from “spot on” to “very misleading”.

SHARON AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA SESSIONS
Mrs Mac is continuing with our drama workshops after school every week on Mondays.
The drama group will cover all aspects of performance including speech and drama, singing, script work, public speaking, music, play writing, dance and drama games. This term we’re aiming to produce a mini-musical. Sessions run from 3:25pm (after the late bus goes and giving children time to have afternoon tea) until 4:45pm. Because each child has a role for the mini-musical, it’s important that they can stay for the whole session. There will be a cost of $60 for the term which is payable to the school and moneys raised will be used to purchase resources for the school.

From Monday 8th April until Sunday 9th June 2013, if you happen to shop at Woolworths, you will be given Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent, excluding cigarettes, liquor and gift cards.
By collecting these Woolworths Earn & Learn Points, we will be able to redeem them for educational resources.
The points are allocated by the checkout operator handing you stickers. These stickers are then stuck on a special Earn & Learn Sheet. The sheet can be obtained from the checkout operator or downloaded from the internet at: http://www.woolworths.com.au

Kind regards,

CARDBO TENNIS
The new Fitness Adult program catering for all standards of players, with lots of fun, hitting lots of tennis balls, music and Heart Rate Monitors conducted by Bundaberg Tennis Academy Coach, Kevin Banner at the Rotary Park Tennis complex, 69b George Street, South Bundaberg. Registration is Essential. Limited numbers. For times or more information, please phone Kevin 0407 639824 or Kevin 4152 0753 or 0409 520753

Carinbundi Shopping Trip
Need an excuse to shop? Enjoy a great day of shopping at Eumundi Markets and Sunshine Plaza, and help to raise funds for Carinbundi, a not for profit organisation helping people with disabilities in the Bundaberg Region. Date: Sat 11 May 2013. Cost $55. To book or for more information phone 41513510 or email rmaclean@carinbundi.com.au

Writing Classes at the Bundaberg Library
Bundaberg children can learn how to pen stories and novels when Creative Dragons writing classes return to the Bundaberg Regional Library, on Thursday, May 2.
The five-week classes are run by fantasy author and journalist Cherie Curtis who has also taught for the Queensland Writers Centre. Classes will run on Thursday, May 2, 9, 16 and 23 and Thurs, June 6.
Numbers are limited so book as soon as possible. For details on fees or to register, visit www.creativedragons.com.au or email cherie@creativedragons.com.au