At Duncraig Primary School our purpose is to create a caring and supportive environment for all children, to enable them to achieve their academic, artistic, social and physical potential while fostering respect of self and of each other and to become valued and contributing members of society.

Newsletter 2 Monday 23 February 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In writing my second newsletter as principal of Duncraig Primary, I have been reflecting on what a busy but professionally rewarding month this has been. There is an old proverb that states “it takes a village to raise a child”. During these first weeks at Duncraig, what is clearly evident is the wonderful sense of community that exists in the school’s ‘village’. This is apparent not only during the day-to-day operations of the school with staff, parents and students but also through the School Board and P&C, where members actively participate. The local community also use the school’s grounds after school and on weekends. This all adds to the ‘community feel’ that makes Duncraig Primary a special place to both work and learn.

School Board

Last week the Duncraig Primary School Board met for the first time in 2015. You will find the names of the parents, staff and community members on the school’s website. The School Board meets twice a term and their role is one of setting the long-term future for the school. As part of this role, they maintain oversight of the school Business Plan. The school’s current Business plan (2014-2016) communicates to all staff, parents and the community the strategic direction of Duncraig Primary and what we want to achieve. The plan is directed toward achieving our aim that ‘every day in every classroom, every student is learning and achieving’. To do this, the plan outlines five focus areas directed toward improving all aspects of your child’s education at Duncraig. These focus areas are:

- Learning: A success for all
- Teaching: Sound teaching
- Leadership: A Shared Approach
- Relationships: Safe and caring learning
- Resources: The physical and natural environment

As principal, my role is to report regularly to the School Board on our progress towards implementing the strategies within the plan, as well as our achievement of milestones and targets. A copy of the full plan is available on our school website for interested parents.

Student Absence from School

Students are required to attend school on a regular basis to gain the maximum benefit from schooling. Research has established that every day counts and that there is no safe level of absence from school. For example, a student who is absent from school one day a fortnight will, by Year 9, have missed the equivalent of one year of schooling. Ensuring parents are aware of the importance of regular school attendance is a current priority in Department of Education schools. For this reason, I request that parents who will be taking their child out of school for holidays contact both the class teacher and myself to advise of the absence. Parents with children who regularly miss school due to appointments in class time should also advise the school. Student absences can only be recorded as authorized if notification from a parent has occurred and therefore it is important that the school is aware of the reason for your child missing school.

Lisa Tucker
Principal
CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES
We look forward to your support in paying these voluntary contributions –
Kindergarten  $60
Pre-Primary  $60
Years 1-7    $60
These funds will be used to provide additional resources for all students.
An outline of possible charges for each year level was provided at the end of last year. Please use this to anticipate educational expenses for the year. Charges will be collected at the time the particular event, such as an excursion, occurs.
If you have any queries on contributions and charges, please contact the office. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or bank deposit (BSB 016 495 3409 48316). We have no EFTPOS facilities.

Library News
Mrs Southall would really appreciate some parent help in the library. If you can volunteer some time to assist with things such as shelving books and covering new items please see Pat in the library on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Book Club News!
Duncraig Primary School has opted into the new LOOP system offered by Scholastic. If you normally pay with credit card we encourage you to register your children and order online. It is a wonderful streamlined system that has made book club much easier to run! You just need to register your children according to their classroom number. Give it a go. Thankyou from the book club ladies (Nicky and Carmen).

School Banking
Don’t forget that every Friday is School Banking day from 8.15am in the library.
For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.
Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Duncraig Primary School.

Free Dress (pink, purple or blue) Day Friday 13 March
Wear pink, purple or blue and bring a gold coin donation to support Narelle Mortimer (Jade’s mum) in a fundraising walk benefiting the Australian Institute for Medical Research in researching ways to end women’s cancers.

Tiqbiz
Some of our school communications, reminders etc. are sent to your phone or tablet via our tiqbiz app. This app is available free from the Appstore or Googleplay. Instructions can be found on the school website or from the office.

P & C ASSOCIATION NEWS

NOTICE OF P&C AGM
The 2015 AGM for the P&C will take place at 7pm on Thursday 26th February 2015 in the school library. All welcome.
If you are interested in nominating for an executive position or as a class representative please email duncraigpc@gmail.com"

What is the P&C?
The P&C is a group of parents and interested citizens who work together to improve our school and the school experience for our children. The P&C is also a forum for discussion and the exchange of information between parents and the school.
At Duncraig Primary, the P&C, with the help of our invaluable volunteers, runs or organises the school canteen, uniform shop, kitchen garden, the Scholastic Bookclub, and fundraising and social activities such as discos, footy tipping, family nights, cake stalls, lapathon, Easter raffle and gift stalls. We also host social activities for parents and working bees.
Achievements of 2014

In 2014 as a result of a fantastic fundraising effort and huge support from the school community the P&C was able to provide funding for the following items:

- provision of the Mathletics program to all students;
- a new oven for the canteen;
- shade sails for the junior playground;
- painting of playground art in the undercover area;
- materials and volunteers required for a school busy bee;
- resources for the kitchen garden;
- an end of year family night;
- end of year book prizes;
- decorations and photo booth for the years 6 and 7 graduation;
- the Tiqbiz application – for use as a communication tool;
- reading resources;
- a swing set; and
- resources for an iPad trial (including iPads and training).

Goals for 2015

In 2015, in addition to funding ongoing items such as Mathletics and book prizes, our key goals are to:

- create a nature playground;
- fund new interschool uniforms; and
- provide playground equipment or recreational resources for the upper school students.

Any ideas for additional projects will be given full consideration by the P&C.

The P&C is also hoping to host a school fete for the first time in a number of years.

Benefits of being part of the P&C association

There are a number of benefits to being part of the P&C, including:

- you will have access to information on what’s happening in the school and why things are being done the way they are;
- you get to have a say in how the fundraising money is spent; and
- it gives you a strong connection to the school and a new network of people who care about the school, now and into the future.

How to become involved

The AGM for the P&C will be held in the school library at 7pm on Thursday 26 February 2015.

All positions are declared vacant and anyone may nominate for a position on the executive committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Executive committee member). Volunteers are also needed for the various committees – such as canteen, fundraising and uniforms.

If you don’t have the capacity to join a committee, but would like to assist in some way – please let us know and we can contact you when we need help.

If you have any queries contact Mandy Blackwell (current President) on 0408 952 523 or email duncraigpc@gmail.com

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Roster

Canteen Rosters are now posted outside your child’s classroom. Please put your name down to volunteer as it is vitally important for the running of the canteen that we have the help of parents in providing support to the canteen.

Class Roster for upcoming weeks

23 - 27 February - Room 20 - volunteers needed
2 - 6 March - Room 19 - volunteers needed
9 - 13 March - Room 18 - volunteers needed

Please also come see Clare in the canteen if you are available to volunteer in the Canteen at any other times during the school year as we always can use a set of extra hands.

Online Ordering
You can now order healthy, delicious lunches for your children online. Just sign up for the tiqbiz and signup for Duncraig Primary School and click on ‘online’ to register. If you require further information please ask Clare in the Canteen for further information. You can also place lunch orders in person by coming to the Canteen prior to 9am.

NETBALL SEASON 2015 IS NEARLY HERE!!
Is your son (yes – boys can play netball!!) or daughter keen to play netball for their school, join a team sport and make new friends this year?? Calling all players to jump on board and register for the 2015 season. Your child must turn 7 this year to be eligible to play. Look out for the flyers posted in the classroom windows. This will have registration days and times information listed on them. Registration forms are available from the office. Also, please don’t be shy – if you think you would like to coach, know how to umpire or can help out in any way (like joining the netball committee) please contact me expressing your interests… The more parents involved, the more efficient our school netball club will operate. Susie Wright Duncraig PSNC co-ordinator, 0407 210 174

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform Shop will be open on Friday 27 February from 8.15 - 8.45am and then fortnightly on Friday mornings from 8.15am – 8.45am. See the Term 1 calendar on the school website for all the opening times for this term.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Disclaimer: These notices are provided as a community service only. We do not have any connection with these providers and we do not endorse these programs.

Zig Zags Out of School Hours Care
OPEN NOW
BEFORE, AFTER & VACATION CARE AT DUNCRAIG PRIMARY SCHOOL
BEFORE SCHOOL CARE 7.00AM - 8.45AM COST $13 INCLUDING BREAKFAST
AFTER SCHOOL CARE 3.00PM - 6.00PM COST $22 INCLUDING AFTERNOON TEA
CHILD CARE REBATES APPLIED TO REDUCE YOUR FEES
READING AND HOMEWORK SUPPORT OFFERED
CASUAL AND ONE OFF BOOKINGS ALSO WELCOME
DROP IN AND SEE US. WE ARE LOCATED BEHIND THE FRENCH CLASSROOM PREVIOUSLY THE OLD LIBRARY OR CALL WENDY 0466 413 287 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mums Raising Boys - Wednesday 24 February 6.30-9 $25 at Lotteries House, Joondalup. However well-prepared mothers are logically, the emotional response to having a boy is often still, ‘Wow! This is unknown territory.’ It is true that for many mothers, the idea of raising a son carries its own set of worries. As the primary female role model in a boy’s life, mothers play an important role in the development of their son’s identity including their ability to be nurturing. This is turn affects how they relate to others, particularly to girls and women.

For further information please phone 9489 6322.

Parent Child Connection - Thursday 12 March x 4 weeks at 22 Southport Street, West Leederville. 6.30-9pm $50 per person/ $75 per couple. Raising children should be one of life’s greatest experiences, but as any parent knows, it is not an easy task. People with children under ten are invited to this four-week course to learn new skills, feel better about their parenting and gain confidence. For further information please phone 9489 6322.

Understanding Stepfamily Relationships – a weekend course – 13th 14th 15th March being held at 22 Southport Street, West Leederville. $75 per person/ $120 per couple. Stepfamilies and blended families operate in a different way to intact biological families. The dynamics of a stepfamily are more complex and there is a need for special understanding and management from both biological and stepparents working together for a healthy stepfamily growth to happen. For further information please phone 9489 6322.
Rock and Water Programme - Saturday 21st March held at West Leederville Primary School 8.30-12.30 $50 per pair.  
Physical exercises are constantly linked with mental and social skills. The Rock and Water program leads from simple self-defence, boundary and communication exercises to a strong notion of self-confidence. The program offers a framework of exercises and ideas to assist boys and girls to become aware of the purpose and motivation in their life. Topics include: intuition, body language, mental strength, empathic feeling, positive feeling, positive thinking and positive visualising. For further information please phone 9489 6322.

Dads Raising Teenage Girls - Thursday 19th March 6.30-9 $25 The father-daughter relationship is particularly important during the teenage years to help girls navigate this difficult time. Find out how you can build a more rewarding relationship with your teenage daughter. For further information please phone 9489 6322.

Kids and Today's Technology - Wednesday 11th and 18th March at Fremantle; and 23rd and 30th March at West Leederville. $35 per person/$50 per couple. Technology is now being used by very young children and most teenagers are proficient users of many aspects of technology. Your knowledge of what's out there, how it's being used and how you manage it in your home will have a direct impact on your kids' learning and safety. For further information please phone 9489 6322.

Fathering after Separation – Thursday 26th March 6.30-9pm $25.
It's important for fathers to distinguish between their parenting role and the relationship break-up. This seminar is held in a male-only environment, suggests ways in which fathers can keep in touch with children, even if hindered by formal access arrangements. For further information please phone 9489 6322.

Languages of Love and Children

Gary Chapman, author of Five Love Languages for Children, says “Loving our children isn’t always enough. Learning to speak their love language communicates your love in ways they’ll understand right from the beginning.”
This seminar will provide you with the skills to understand the way your child wants to be loved.

When: Monday 30 March 2015 - 6.15 - 8.30pm
Where: Sanori House, 1st floor, 126 Grand Boulevard, Joondalup
Cost: $27.50 / $18.50 concession
Ring: Ann 9263 2121 to register or email education@anglicarewa.org.au