Strength in Unity

Whitton Murrami Public School

8 Melbergen St
Whitton, NSW, 2705

Phone: (02) 6955 2631
Fax: (02) 6955 2806
Email: whitton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.whitton-p.school.det.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Duncan Adams

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It has been another busy but successful week with students finishing their initial class assessments and starting new units of work in all curriculum areas. I would like to give a warm welcome to Mason Diggs who is in Year 4 to our school. I am sure it won’t take long for Mason to settle in to our wonderful and friendly school.

It has been a week of unrelenting hot weather and the School Swimming and Water Safety Program has certainly provided a welcome relief each day for the students.

Duncan Adams
Principal
Bus Zone
Over the next couple of weeks the Leeton City Council will be zoning and sign posting a Bus Zone outside the front of the school. Until the Bus Zone is completed, the school would appreciate the 45 degree angle parking outside the front of the school to remain clear during drop off and pick up times in order for the children to safely disembark the school bus.

Financial Assistance
Please remember that if you require financial assistance to help pay for any school activity this year, to come and see me. We have a number of ways in which to help and please rest assured, all details are kept totally confidential. We would like to see all students involved in our planned activities and if finance is a problem please make contact.

School Assemblies
Our school assemblies this term will be as follows:
Friday 27th February (Leadership Inductions)
Friday 20th March (Normal School Assembly)
Thursday 2nd April (Easter Assembly)
Please feel welcome to attend. They generally commence at 2:30pm and run through until the end of the day.

Health Care Plans
If you have indicated on the enrolment forms that your child has a medical issue further information is required by the school to help assist your child. Please complete the attached Health Care Plan and return to the school with any medication your child may need administered including antihistamines, Ventolin and puffers.

Lunch Orders
Lunch Orders from ‘Robin’s Nest’ (the general store) will continue to service Whitton Murrami Public School with lunch orders. A flier and a menu is attached to this week’s newsletter. Lunch bags will also go out to all students. Parents are asked to write out their child’s lunch order with the required money enclosed (change will be given) and to hand into the school office. Please note: students are still able to order through the shop as normal.

If you do not wish your child to participate in the ‘water play’ activities, please let Mrs Greatz or myself know.

Swimming Carnival
The sporting calendar has already started to fill with the primary students looking forward to competing in the Small Schools Swimming Carnival at the Whitton Pool this Friday 13th February. A reminder that all students need to hand in their permission note by tomorrow morning.

Crunch ‘n Sip
The crunch ‘n sip time is not only a time to introduce children to fresh fruit and vegies it is also an opportunity to encourage the habit of drinking water. Research indicates that children rarely drink enough water and often forget to drink unless reminded.

Whitton Murrami Facebook Page
Don’t forget to regularly check our Whitton Murrami Facebook Page for school updates.

Banking
School banking will be on a Wednesday. Students are asked to drop in their banking to Jodie in the front Office on Wednesday mornings.

K-2 ‘Water Play’ Afternoon
Next Friday the K-2 students will be involved in a ‘water play’ afternoon while the primary students are at the swimming carnival. Students are asked to bring in buckets, water-pistols, swimmers, hat, towel and sunscreen on the day.
AFL Clinic
Last Thursday students had a visit from the AFL development officers for our area. Students were taught how to kick a ‘drop punt’, ‘handball’ and ‘mark’ an Australian Rules football. All students really enjoyed the new skills that they learnt with many practising them at lunchtime.

Tree Removal
The identified ‘dangerous’ tree in the staff car park was fully removed on Tuesday. Staff will now be able to park in the school car park which will free up spaces at the front of the school. The bike rack has now been moved to the back of the school. The removal of the tree has also supplied our school free mulch for our garden!

P&C meeting
Thank you to all parents and citizens who attended Wednesday night’s P&C meeting. It was a very positive and productive start to the year with approximately 20 people in attendance. Our next P&C meeting will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is set down for Monday 9th March at 5.00pm. At this meeting we will elect our new P&C executive for the 2015.

Early Action for Success (EA4S)
We have been successful in transferring the EA4S initiative and attached funds to our school. This will enable the school to have additional support through our Instructional Leader – Karen Date. Karen has expertise in literacy and numeracy and is a qualified Reading Recovery teacher and L3 Trainer. Karen’s role is spread across 5 small schools in our area – Whitton Murrami, Yanco, Yoogali, Rankins Springs and Wyalong.

Early Action for Success (EA4S) is a two year commitment by the Department of Education and communities to improve students’ performance through a targeted approach in the early years in primary schools.

Through this initiative Kate Greatz will receive L3 Training (Language, Learning and Literacy) on a fortnightly basis.

The Kitchen Garden Program
The Kitchen Garden Program has started with Simone Murphy been employed through the funds sourced from the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. Mrs Simone Murphy will be working on Mondays. During this time, she will be working with the school, on a work plan that addresses the needs of the students. Simone has tertiary qualifications, qualifications in counselling, has been a School Learning Support Officer at a number of schools throughout our area and has also had extensive practical experience working with children and adults with disabilities and special needs.

The activities that Simone will be involved in at Murrami PS include:
- assisting in the set up and operation of a vegetable/ kitchen garden that will incorporate education in nutrition, environmental education and sustainability.
- cooking activities that involve writing procedures, applying knowledge of measurement concepts, research and cultural awareness.
- providing additional educational support in the classroom for the students in their daily learning.
- supporting teachers in resource and lesson preparation.

Simone, with the support of Mark Thomas and the students have already started to weed and clear the garden beds ready to plant and grow our first crop of fruit and vegetables.

Swimming Carnival Helpers
For the swimming carnival to be successful there needs to be at least one parent helper from each school to assist on the day. If you are able to help, please contact me at the school. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Technology
New data points and power points are currently being installed to cope with the increase in computer technology in the school. New IPads are being researched and quoted on for purchase later in the year.
Name: Mason Bennett

What is the best thing about Whitton Murrami Public School?

Painting and drawing.

If you were Principal for a day what would you do?

Tell kids to follow me around.

What is the best thing about being a child today?

Eating and playing the PlayStation 2.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Work in a shark shop.