



## Newsletter 5 Term 2 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

We trust that you all enjoyed a delightful **MOTHERS' Day** Sunday before last and were treated and feted and generally loved up beautifully!

**BAKOOLBA** kids will attend, **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017**, a Flag Raising Event organised by City of Cockburn, as part of **Reconciliation Week**. Samantha Mourish, Aboriginal Community Development Officer for the City of Cockburn alerted us to this event. Opening with a Welcome to Country, and amid a Sea of Hands, a traditional dance will be performed and children will enjoy morning tea of cultural and non-cultural foods. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the Referendum and guest speakers will acknowledge this - the right to vote for Aboriginal people. It also marks twenty five years since the Mabo decision.

The flyer, on the noticeboard, states: *The week reminds us that big changes take persistence and courage, so let's celebrate together and take the next steps.* Craig, Denise, Eddie, Karen L and Viv will accompany the kids. Please let Denise know if you would like to, too.

Bakoolbans will participate in this rather than the proposed attendance to a **Sorry Day** event in Kwinana this coming Friday. Thankyou to those of you indicated your willingness to make yourselves available to transport kids to this. We have chosen the more immediately local event and hope for sunshine in which to walk 'up the road'. Viv is looking forward to meeting Noongar elders of this area.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H34Y00HrkUU>

I am glad that I just walked into the BUNGANA classroom as this was being played. It is a powerful rendition of Took The Children Away as part of Schools Spectacular 2016. Sorry Day acknowledges the report of these children as the Stolen Generations.

BAKOOLBANS celebrated at last week's Whole School Meeting the response they had received from local builders to whom they had written regarding clearing away the rubbish they had left in Piara. Well done kids for speaking up and speaking out – taking the conversation where it could be productive.

**BUNGANA** thank you for your participation in the surveys for **MegaMaths** learning on data collection! Some analyses of data will be presented to Whole School Meetings.



**SURFING** lessons have gone well so far with Bunganans taking up the challenge convincingly and confidently.

Well done surfers! Yes, that's them all out there with Doug, Josh and Craig.

Karen L, on behalf of Bunganans, approached the P&C to support their enterprise of establishing a greenhouse to propagate native trees to revegetate areas locally (eg replanting Roe 8 area) and on school site. The project is designed as part of **Education for Sustainability**, a school priority, and to support their understanding of Economics and Business and Civics and Citizenship requirements of the Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum as well as that of Biological Sciences. The expectation is that the greenhouse will be built this year with some stock ready early 2018.

Karen was successful in applying for and receiving funds (\$4000) from the City of Cockburn towards the enterprise and the P&C have agreed to contribute a further \$2500. Thank YOU.

**All** of our kids will participate in a workshop with facilitators from the **WORLD of MATHS** on **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June**. We will love for you to come and support the kids – particularly the youngest. These kids will be in groups of three and require at least one adult per group. Please let us know if you can assist in this. It will be fun and informative.

**NAROOMANS** would like your eggshells please to place in their veggie patch to deter the snails!

### **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Multiplying**

If you missed this CC and if you were wondering at the Facebook post the following day: ask Eddie G about chickens, how did Sonia P beat the teach, what was Wayne C's way and Maya G thinks in Japanese first – and who knew you could have fund learning Maths;

you will certainly know that you missed a brilliantly entertaining and incredibly informative evening of the multiple strategies around the learning of multiplication.

As parents stated to Craig, Jo, Kris and Lorraine....."brilliant" "thanks for taking the time out of your nights to inform and educate us" "thanks for your SASsy passion" "we appreciate you!" "you dedicated teachers make learning fun" "we have very dedicated teachers at our SASsy school"

### **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Reporting to Parents**

Maybe not so much fun and more difficult to Gangnam Style dance to....the next Community Conversation is on receiving, reading, interpreting and responding to the formal reports that you will receive at the end of this term) and again at end of second semester.

Teachers representing from PP – 6, will present to you Wednesday afternoon, beginning as soon as possible after 2:30pm, **21<sup>st</sup> June**.

Reports for parents, PP-Yr 6, will be available to be collected from the office on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. You will have scheduled yourself in for a Learning Conversation [plus, from Year 2, your child] with class teachers.

### **P & C**

What a fabulous meeting last week! It was well attended by enthusiastic members of community. The Facebook conversation that took place preceding the AGM, with acknowledgement of then currently serving executive and search for 2017 office bearers was positive and productive.

CONGRATULATIONS to our new P & C President, Sonia Pesich.

CONGRATULATIONS to the executive office bearers who will work with Sonia, and all together, to maintain, sustain, inspire and provoke all of us, the community of SAS, to great things: Justin Parsons, Vice President; Katherine Moore, Treasurer; Kelly Parsons, Secretary; Lora Guarino, Eddie Giuntini and Jacquelyn Booth, general executive members: generating the collective energy and enthusiasm for us all to get alongside!

It is a fabulous blend of new and seasoned energies. Thankyou to each of you.

Thankyou to those of you who attended and contributed to making it an excellent turn out last night. And thankyou to the considerable number of you who informed the meeting, with your apology,

that you hold the group in mind and have the intention to be engaged.

THANKYOU to outgoing President, Sara Sabella, to outgoing VP, Narrelle Robertson, outgoing secretary Kristie Rostant and outgoing general member of executive, Danielle Murphy. You established some purposeful and effective new traditions for us to continue, you contributed insight, foresight and positive productive energy for all of us to be inspired, be engaged and make our own contribution in some way. Thankyou for being this driving force, generously and graciously. THANKYOU.

### **CLASS PARENT REPS**

Peta, Amy, Eddie and Deb are each organising a get together for their representative classes. Responses to the survey put out following Camp Construct-Ed indicated that parents would enjoy a parents' dinner and catch up. This is quite some undertaking as they negotiate dates and times and different possibilities. They are not organising, at this stage, a whole of school event, but individual Narooma, Coinda, Bakoolba and Bungana parent get togethers.

### **HARMONY GROUPS**

Thanks to those of you who have indicated your availability to support the work of HGs on Wednesday afternoons. Currently the kids are transferring their design work (symbols and images depicting what their HG means to them) into actual products – including 'campfire' mats.

### **TEST & TAG**

As advised via Facebook: please bring in to school any electrical item that you consider you will use at school as part of any project / busy bee etc. We cannot have any electrical item that is not tagged used here at school and possibly compromising services. Items must be checked every 12 months so, bring it in, have it tested, get it tagged as 'good to go'. Dean Cole will be here at SAS to do this next Monday morning, **29<sup>th</sup> May**. Please have your items here no later than 9:00am. They can be collected at the end of the day.

### **TUNING into KIDS**

Meerilinga staff will be here to conduct this parent workshop beginning **Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** through to and including Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting in the Library **9:30 – 11:30am**. It sounds a fabulous course.

The feedback from the previous course offered by Meerilinga, Circle of Security, was very positive.

Thankyou Feonagh for organising these opportunities for parents.

## SCHOOL BOARD

The most recently held meeting of our board was mainly focused on the DES Review and the information presented as part of this process.

The next school board meeting will focus on the next three year cycle of SAS as an Independent Public School and we want to announce now, so that you can put it on your calendar, that it will be an open public meeting and you are invited and encouraged to attend: **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.**

### Department of Education Services SAS IPS REVIEW

THANKYOU everybody for your part to play in the review process - our first review as an Independent Public School. Lesley and Joy were impressed with our kids, teachers, teaching and learning programs and the delivery of these and the learning environment (physical and psychological). I am impressed by these too!!!

Thankyou to those of you who spoke with them - as a parent or as a member of the School Board and thankyou to the kids who took part in the conversation with the reviewers too. They were delighted with the way the kids had such individual and unique perspectives and that they could clearly outline aspects of SAS that they asked them about.

A report will be received - and it will have recommendations and commendations. This will be shared with the Board and then with general community.

### YIRRA YAAKIN

We were delighted to have been successful in our application for a **PALS grant** from the Government of WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

PALS = **Partnership** between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; **Acceptance** of difference as unique and to be respected; **Learning** more about ourselves and each other, and, **Sharing** a common journey along the path of healing and reconciliation towards a more harmonious and optimistic future.

We applied in the category Arts and Culture: *embracing Aboriginal culture through performing, musical and visual arts* and these funds paid for the Yirra Yaakin performance of Boorda Kaatijin that the children appreciated last Friday afternoon.

The price per student was reduced further due to SAS being a Water Wise school.

## LEANNE COOLE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

These will be announced at the Whole School Meeting the day before and OPENed on **22<sup>nd</sup> June** (Leanne's birth date) for all of our young writers. They will close on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July.**

For those of you for whom this is new.....the LCYWAs encourage our kids to write to one (or all) of four categories: Beautiful Bold Brave Brilliant

Thankyou to Deb and Georgia who initiated this program for our kids; in honour of our Leanne; and who continue to fund the awards in each of the categories (\$40 book vouchers). Fremantle Press staff have also been involved in judging the work of the kids and we are hoping that one of Leanne's children will be present at the time of winners being announced. We are grateful.

### SOUP

Thank you to the soup makers and those who lovingly serve up bowls of deliciousness each Tuesday. We have had many and varied absolutely scrumptious soups to warm and nourish us these cooler days. Sitting around communal tables in Kadijini sharing these is an additional delight in this tradition.

### PLANNING DAY

Teaching staff will participate in whole school planning on **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June.** Relief teaching staff will be in classes on this day.

The spate of recent **THEFT** from our school grounds is somewhat disheartening. The removal of first a lovely citrus tree, followed by many art pieces Mand had placed for our kids and us to find and enjoy, the mighty mushrooms of Narooma and this past weekend the bench from the verandah (that Ignazio had secured to the verandah just last week following the theft of all the cushions atop it the previous week) seems to be keeping someone occupied. It is sad that anyone feels the need to steal these things. Our grounds are open and inviting to many who come into and enjoy what is on offer – the grounds, the play equipment – and sadly also open to criminal elements, too. The police, Education Department security and now local newspapers have all been advised of this.

### NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Newsletters are now being uploaded to our SAS website [spearwoodalternative.wa.edu.au](http://spearwoodalternative.wa.edu.au) and will no longer be posted on Facebook. You will however be alerted on Facebook to the uploading of each.

## ANZAC Day – SAS recognition and report

Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Bungana kids, with Ali, Denise and Martine, attended the City of Cockburn and RSL ANZAC Youth Parade. As we stepped off the bus (supplied by C of C) we were greeted by the widest grin – worn on the face of SAS graduate of 2014 Ryan Read resplendent in his cadet uniform. We noted servicemen and servicewoman mounted on horses, a pipe band, police on motorbikes, people bedecked with medals and LOTS of other kids.

The kids were asked to organise themselves into four ranks. Someone wondered how that was different to a line and one of the RSL veterans informed us that when in rank you stand side by side. They were each supplied with a program and a small Australian flag to carry.



While waiting for other schools to arrive and the parade to start D took some video of the kids responding to I See I Think I Wonder.

Another wondering that someone had was what the medals might be about that the veterans wore. One of the kids invited over a veteran who happened to be Peter Tinley, MLA, Minister for Veterans Issues and Youth (also Housing), who explained his service medals to our group. Many of these represented the countries in which he had served – Afghanistan, Borneo, Iraq, Syria. Peter gave the explanation for one as ... “that one’s like “for being best on field””.

Led by the band, out of our earshot, we followed other groups along the parade course that took us to Memorial Park. Once there a program of prayers, speeches, song and ceremony unfolded: Bunganans were suitably engaged, silent and respectful throughout.

I was wondering what a catafalque party was – and now know and was suitably impressed by the four naval officers who took this role at this ANZAC service. I hope that kids brought any unanswered questions to you at home.

Following the service kids were supplied with a bottle of water each and fruit. While enjoying this SASsy kids responded to my request for them to pick up the rubbish that others (tutting sounds!) had left behind – discarded programs and flags (many of which had had their plastic handhold broken into multiple small pieces). The kids did so uncomplainingly and the City of Cockburn Youth Officer was grateful to them.

You would have good cause to be very proud of our Bunganans and the manner in which they conducted themselves in this experience. I certainly was.

In Harmony Groups, the day following ANZAC day, each group was assigned a particular book to read and to respond to in some way. The manner in which they did so was decided by their elder and six different approaches became evident. The kids themselves determined how they might share their thinking with everyone else the following week. Week 2 of term 2 the kids, of each HG, had ten minutes to prepare to present their learning to all of the others. They did so in a splendid variety of ways. Some of the documentation representing this learning is on display in the office area along with copies of the books that were the provocation for this. Come and take a look.



Given the kids’ response to each of these experiences, and their feedback, we plan to participate in this way of recognising ANZAC day and all that it means and can mean, in 2018. **LEST WE FORGET**

