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From the Principal’s Desk

I cannot believe how quickly this term is zipping by! What an incredible term it has been so far. We have welcomed another new student and extend a warm welcome to our new families and neighbours. If you haven’t yet had a chance to check out the Fassifern Guardian from last week, please read our article in the Schools on Show section. We have much to be proud of at Aratula State School.

Fassifern Learning Conference

I had a chance to catch up with staff and parents after the conference yesterday. By all accounts, this was an incredibly worthwhile day. Dr Justin Coulson provided practical tips that we can each apply to live a happy, fulfilling life at home and at work. If you were unable to attend the conference this year, I urge you to save the date for 2017.

District Sports Day

All the best to our athletes who are participating in the District Sports Carnival at Walloon on Wednesday and Friday this week. A program has been sent home with students. If you require a copy of the program, please contact the office.

Bookweek 2016

Information about our bookweek parade was sent home with families yesterday. Next Monday, 22nd August, students are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character. We will be engaging in a variety of activities next week to celebrate children’s literature. Parents and community members are invited to join with us next Monday at 2:30pm to watch the parade.

FiZZ!

On Tuesday September 6th, we will be visited by artists from Opera Queensland and the Shake & Stir Theatre Co. FiZZ! pops the big issues facing little people today – self confidence, bullying, honesty and friendship. This modern adaption of Donizetti’s The Elixir of Love is presented against a dynamic multimedia backdrop and performed by three effervescent young opera performers and an on-screen cast of some of the state’s most experienced singers.

We are very lucky to have a performance here at Aratula State School. Tickets are $8 per person. Parents, carers and community members are welcome to attend and may also purchase a ticket for $8. Tickets must be pre-purchased and are available at the office on Thursday or Friday from now until September 2nd. Funds may be transferred to the school account. If you require information about paying electronically, please contact the office.

No hat - no play

It is a requirement that all students wear their school hat during playtimes. In the interest of health and hygiene, we are not able to provide spare hats for students who have forgotten theirs. Although the school playground has a shade, this does not provide adequate UV protection. Students who do not have a hat will be required to sit in the undercover eating area and will not be permitted to play.
Every day counts!
Attendance at school every day is essential to ensure that every child has every opportunity to learn and succeed. Many of us have been ill and our absenteeism has been very high as a consequence. Thank you to all families for notifying of your child’s absence. We are well and truly on target to have 100 per cent of our absences explained. It is our goal to have 93.6 per cent attendance for the term with 100 per cent of absences explained. We are currently achieving 92.4 per cent attendance for this term which given the amount of illness we have had is fantastic!

Feedback
If you ever have any feedback you would like to provide, or any ideas or suggestions for our school, I would love to hear from you! Please come to see me, call to make an appointment or email me anytime at aarms55@eq.edu.au.

Have a fabulous fortnight!
Angela Armstrong
Principal

PE News from Mrs McKenna
Specialist Physical Education Lessons Term 3.
After two units based on individual sports, cross country running and athletics, it is well and truly time for a team sport unit. The students will participate in a Sport Education Unit based around Striking Games. Some typical striking games include vigoro, cricket, softball and baseball. The assessment tasks will be based around the sport of Tee Ball.
The Prep to Year 3 students will practise more fundamental movement skills. The locomotor skills being taught this term are: balance and run. The object control skills being taught are: throwing, catching and striking. They will also practise movement sequences using different body parts, e.g. striking a ball with a bat, running to a base and touching the base with their foot. Students will cooperate with others when participating in physical activities. In the striking games unit this will involve working with a partner to practise throwing and catching, using words and body language to communicate what they would like in a respectful and clear manner during minor games and making positive choices for themselves and the group regarding participation. Prep to Year 3 students will test possible solutions to movement challenges through trial and error, e.g. using different width bats and figuring which is best for them; ‘aiming up’ at a ball on a tee, experimenting with running speeds coming into a base, changing the type of throw to suit the target distance.
Years 4 students will refine fundamental movement skills in a variety of movement sequences and situations. For example the locomotor skills of running, dodging, stopping and balancing combine to complete the movement task of running between bases. Locomotor and object control skills will be combined to complete movement challenges. E.g. running to the outfield to field a ball, deciding on a target and throwing the ball; striking a ball in a particular direction to help advance base runners and self to the next base without getting out.
Years 5 and 6 students will practise specialised movement skills required for the game of Tee Ball. This means not just hitting the ball, but hitting the ball to a predetermined target; catching the ball on the run and efficient base running, to name just a few. These skills will be applied in a variety of movement sequences and situations presented in Tee Ball games.
Year 4-6 students will also propose and apply movement strategies. For example they will demonstrate offensive and defensive play in striking games. Students will demonstrate how they adjust the force and speed of a hit/throw ball to improve accuracy and control. Year 4-6 students will participate positively in groups and teams. This will be demonstrated by students applying basic rules and scoring systems, demonstrating fair play and encouraging others while they negotiate roles and responsibilities.
The unit will conclude in week 5 of term 4 and form the main assessment piece for Semester Two report cards. Some assessment of the unit will begin after six lessons. Assessment will be year level appropriate and include performing movement skills independent of games situations and in games situations.
If you have any questions, please contact me via your school administration team.

Janet McKenna
P.E. teacher based at Harrisville SS
Bakers needed!
We are having a fundraising cake stall in Boonah on Friday 2nd September. We urgently need bakers to help create the goodies to sell. P&C can supply ingredients for you. We have volunteers to pack and label the baked goods with ingredients lists so we really just need some super bakers!

Fathers’ Day Raffle
We would be grateful if people could take books of tickets to sell. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 2nd September at the conclusion of the cake stall. Tickets for the raffle are $1 each.

If you can assist in any way, please phone Sandra on 0437 534 782.

Next meeting: 12th September, 2016, 5:30pm.