Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the midpoint of term 1! Time has certainly flashed by this term and the school agenda of events is still continuing to fill at a rapid pace. Please ensure that you keep an eye on the newsletter calendar and our web site calendar to ensure you have all the events noted.

Trees in Schools

As you would be aware from media reports last week, a tragic incident occurred involving a tree branch falling on several students and a teacher in Pitt Town Public School. I would like to assure all of our parents and carers that Shoal Bay Public School undertakes a continual cycle of maintenance for the trees within the grounds. While it is virtually impossible to eliminate risk completely, our pro-active approach will provide as much protection as possible. To assist with the minimisation of risk and injury from trees, a new inspection has been carried out on all trees within the school by a highly qualified Arborist. Recommendations from this report will assist with future maintenance of trees and suitable replacement / replanting of trees that may be beyond their lifespan. We have beautiful grounds in this school and every effort will be made to ensure the grounds remain this way but also with the confidence we have made every effort to minimise the risk of harm to our students, teachers, parents and community members.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy is scheduled to occur in week 3 next term (13th May – 16th May 2014). All students from years 3 and 5 will participate in the test which will cover Language conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. A separate letter will accompany this newsletter with further details for all students who will be undertaking the assessment. Alternatively, further information for parents and carers is available on-line from:


Anti-Bullying Day and Harmony Day

The official National day of action against bullying and violence is set for the 21st March 2014. This national day is also scheduled with Harmony Day which celebrates all cultures that call Australia home. Further information about activities the students will be participating in will be added to the newsletter as we move closer to the date. To read more about these events please visit:


Enjoy your week everyone!

M Freeman
Principal (Rel)
P&C Important Information

To all parents and community members.

I encourage all of you to come along to the AGM next Tuesday night and volunteer on the P&C to make a difference to our kids school. Their will be a number of key position vacant, including mine. I would like to thank all of the volunteers, donors and staff at Shoal Bay for your efforts and contributions over the last three years especially on the Shoal Bay Summer Bash. The experience has been rewarding and the challenges worthwhile, ultimately delivering Smartboards, the iPad dock and many other things for the kids.

Roland Neilands
P&C President

From the Library …

Issue 2 of Book Club is coming home this week. Orders are due at the office by no later than Thursday the 13th of March. Please remember that if you want to keep your order a surprise, just let us know and we will keep it at school for you and give you a ring when your order arrives!

Also this week (3rd March) marks the beginning of the Premiers Reading Challenge which runs until the 22nd of August. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 will complete the challenge at school but students in Grades 3 -6 will be completing it as either part of homework or as an added class reading task. Individual class teachers will give you the details for your child’s class. For more details please have a look at the Premiers Reading Challenge website:


Or checkout the link on the school website under Notes for Parents. Spare forms are also available there. Thank you everyone.

Gai Swartz    Teacher Librarian

Auslan Key Signs Course at TAFE

Key Word sign is the use of manual signs and natural gesture to support communication. The main features of Key Word Sign include:

- Use of sign and speech concurrently
- Sign the key words but say the whole sentence
- Use of visual strategies including body language, facial expression and directionality
- The use of symbols where appropriate
- Some use of finger spelling

The course commences on 13th March and goes from 6.30-8pm and costs $62 for four weeks. Call now on 4984 1011 to Enrol.

FOUND Items

We have a purple and black umbrella that was found on the bus that has been handed in to the office and also two keys on a red coil.

Merit Awards

KC Geography, Grace, Hunter
KH

KP

1S Quelyn, Jensen, Toby
1W Dontay, Caleb, Jessie
1/2B Joshua S, Josh J, Evie
2L
2R

3A Jye, Nguyen, Jenna
3W

4B
4D

5C

4/6H Tygh, Cody, Isabel

6B Josh, Mikayla, Tamara, Kai

1W, 2L and 2R Class Pages

If you check out our website you will see some great photos of these classes either hard at work or their fabulous artwork. Here is a photo from 2R.