**Southern Cross Newsletter**

**December 11, 2014**

An inspiring community where the students shine!

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**Mission Statement**

The school community of Southern Cross Primary believes in providing a quality learning environment that encourages children to be curious, inspired and successful in their learning. We strive to achieve an educationally safe and caring environment through our daily implementation of behaviours, programs and modelling that values, understands and respects individual abilities and cultural diversity.

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**Dates for your diary**

**December**

15th Monday    Prep – Gr 2 & selected Gr 5’s Taskworks Excursion
16th Tuesday   Grade 6 Graduation 7.00pm
19th Friday    Assembly – 9.15am

(Children may be collected from classrooms at 1.30pm or children dismissed at 2.30pm)

**January 2015**

29th Thursday  Gr. 1 - 6 students begin school
30th Friday   Foundation students begin

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**Planning for 2015**

Classroom planning for 2015 is currently being conducted. If any children at Southern Cross PS this year will not be returning in 2015, could you please let the Office know as soon as possible.

If you know of any of children in your area, or any siblings, of school age who would be coming to Southern Cross PS next year, please let us know as soon as possible.

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**For Your Information**

Items sent home will generally be colour coded.

- Pale Blue or White - General Notices
- Gold - Excursion Incursion
- Orange - Important Messages
- Bright Pink - Fundraising

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**School Assembly**

Friday 19th December, 9.15am

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**School Hours and Break Times**

Playgrounds supervised 8:45 – 9.00 a.m. and 3:30 -3:45 p.m.

Students arrive 8:50 a.m. Classes start promptly at 9.00 a.m.

Morning Recess is 11 – 11:30 a.m. Lunch 1:40. – 2:30 p.m.

School finishes at 3.30 p.m.

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Please read this newsletter, as it is an important communication between school and home.

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The Department of Education and Southern Cross Primary School do not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education or Southern Cross Primary School for accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.
School Review Recommendations.

I just thought I would let you all know that the School Reviewer who was on the Panel for our school has been recommending our school to other schools around the state as an exemplary school. He was most impressed with the high standards we achieve and the growth in student learning outcomes that occur in this school.

CHaTS Group Lunch.

Yesterday we celebrated over a shared lunch with all of the wonderful parents in the CHaTS Group. I would like to sincerely thank you again for all that you do for our school. It is lovely to see how this Group has become an important social event for many parents in our school. I look forward to working with you all again next year.

Graduation.

We are all looking forward to our Year Six Graduation next Tuesday night. Our students are excitedly planning and organising the event that I am sure parents will thoroughly enjoy. It is always a night of smiles and occasional tears as we experience the closing of one chapter in our children’s lives and the eminent opening of another in the new year. I look forward to sharing this very precious evening with you.

Library Books.

Could I please remind parents to help their children to find and return the outstanding library books. We still have several children who have not returned them and if lost a condition of borrowing them is that if lost they will be replaced. So please find them and return them as soon as possible. If you have any queries please phone Mrs Smith.

Grades and Teachers for 2015.

Firstly, I would like to thank Ms Wright, Mr. Gallagher and Mrs. Blackman for being part of our staff as they move on to other adventures in 2015. I wish them health and happiness in the years ahead. We are still finalising our Arabic classes for new year and we will announce that at the commencement of 2015.

Classes for next year will be:

Prep – Mrs. Krikas
Grades 1-2 – Mrs Singh, Ms De Netto and Ms Hunter
Grades 3-4 – Mrs Schouw and Mr Sandell
Grades 5-6 – Mrs. Lapthorne and Ms Flanagan
Literacy/Numeracy Support – Mrs. Crawford
Art / Performing Arts. – Mrs Graham
P. E. / French – Mr. Altube
Classroom/Office Support – Mrs. Smith & Mrs. McKenna

I wish you a happy and healthy week ahead,

Averil Nunn - Principal.
Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays

Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation. Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed and that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It's also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students’ learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a 'tap' to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn.

When they are not at school, however, that 'tap' is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose 'tap' stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose 'tap' may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers' Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn't be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge booklists, visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking has finished for this year. Tokens from this year can be saved for 2015.
Moonlit Sanctuary School Holidays
Young Ranger Program

Environmental Activities, Native Animal Care,
Fun and Games during Summer 2015.

Monday 5th, Wednesday 7th, Friday 9th January
Monday 12th, Wednesday 14th, Friday 16th January
Monday 19th, Wednesday 21st, Friday 23rd January

Cost: $45.00 per day, or $120 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days).
Bookings essential - suitable 7-14 years.
Hours: 10AM – 4PM
Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants and remember your hat.
Lunches: BYO or may be purchased in our cafe

Moonlit Sanctuary
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Ph. 5978-7935
Web: www.moonlit-sanctuary.com
Open daily between 10am and 5pm