Dear Parents

ENGAGE YOUR CHILD IN POWERFUL CONVERSATIONS

We read for all sorts of reasons – for pleasure, to find out things, to follow directions, to keep in contact with others through social networking. The purpose of reading is to make sense of what we read, whether it is a book, computer, a recipe, a road sign etc. We all interpret what we are reading in different ways, according to our ideas, experiences and the way we feel. Reading a book is rather like meeting a person; we all get slightly different impressions and would describe the person in a variety of different ways. Books mean different things to different people. We need to encourage children to make connections between what they are reading and their own experience, knowledge and ideas.

We know that comprehension improves when we engage students in rich discussions that allow them to integrate knowledge, experience, strategies and what the text may be saying to them. When we open the door to powerful conversations we create a sense of celebration around the wide range of responses that children have to texts. We create the expectation that conversations are filled with accountable, relevant thoughts, and that thinking is supported with evidence from the text. Children are therefore encouraged to share their responses but also to justify their thinking.

At home parents have rich opportunities to engage their children in powerful conversations when reading. Children need support with conversation starters to help them have a shared responsibility for committed engagement.

When your child reads something with you invite them through questions to become active listeners and knowledgeable speakers. Following are some starters for you to try with your child.

“I wonder…”  “I noticed…”  “I liked…”
“Tell me more about your thinking on that…”
“What did you notice about…?”
“What might the author want us to believe?”
“What are you wondering about with this story?”
“Has something like this happened in your life?”

Enjoy!

Jennifer Veness
Assistant Principal
Library Borrowing

Each grade is allocated a day for the children to borrow books from the school library. Each child must have a library bag. This bag cannot be a plastic shopping bag but it can be an old pillow slip. The school office sells Library bags for $9.50ea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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Sports Days

Children are required to wear their sports uniform on their allocated days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Tuesday and Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Monday and Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Tuesday and Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Tuesday and Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Wednesday and Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Monday and Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Friday only</td>
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Tuckshop Roster

Term 3 Week 5/6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Teacher(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday August 18</td>
<td>L. Saliba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday August 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday August 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday August 23</td>
<td>H. Maroun, L. McLeay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday August 24</td>
<td>A. Boulous, P. Georges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BIRTHDAYS

Jalil Chakti      Muskan Khadka      Raymond Younan      Adel Mayom
Aryan Gupta       Nicholas Youssef    Joseph Taouk         Olivia Bleeker
Serena Saad       Adit Ayac          Anthony Lim          Patrick Slaibi
Joey Issac        Jacoub Isaac       Charbel Halabi       Claudia Laoulach
Kate-Marie Tannous Rashane Joseph    Charbel Sahyoun       Elias Othman
Caleb Neculman    Charbel Elias      

Congratulations to all those children who celebrate their birthday around this time.
EARN AND LEARN

Our school is taking part in Woolworths Earn & Learn community program. This year they are giving away more than $5 million worth of educational resources for Primary and Secondary schools all over Australia, including ours!

From 18th July to 18th September 2011, Woolworths will give you one Earn & Learn point for every $10.00 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards). Points will automatically appear on your shopping dockets. All you need to do is save those dockets and bring them to school (Woolies have given us a special collection box). You will be able to track our progress on our points barometer poster at school or online www.woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

At the end of the 9-week program we can redeem our collection of points against a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources. The list is extensive and includes library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more…….

There’s no limit to the number of points we can collect, so your participation will really make a difference. The more points we earn, the more resources we can order!

Sports for Schools Promotion

We are participating and collecting vouchers for much needed sports equipment.

Vouchers are available in all Coles stores from 11th August to 19th October and we ask that you get involved to help collect vouchers for our school.

We are appealing to parents and guardians to collect as many vouchers as you can. By donating and encouraging friends and family to do the same, you are helping to provide a healthy and active education for our children.

Please visit coles.com.au/sportsforschools for more information about the program. A collection box will be located at the school office so please feel free to drop the vouchers in the box or give them to your children to hand into class.

The Solo Parent Ministry

The Solo Parent Ministry, will be running a Understanding the Legal System Information Night.

Date: Wednesday the 31st August
Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm Start
Venue: 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown

This workshop is designed to help those of you who are working through the painful process of family breakdown, by focusing with you on legal issues that arise in the midst of this crisis time. We will have two guest speakers.

For registration and further information please contact Sue Robertson on 9933 0205 or email eileen.quade@ccss.org.au

NSW Cricket

Are you looking to get your child into an exciting and fun sport this Summer? Then junior, club cricket is your answer!
The season kicks-off mid September and runs through until March (with a break over Christmas) and provides hours of physical activity and enjoyment. Run on Saturday mornings; junior, club cricket gives children a chance to have fun with friends in a safe and friendly environment.
If you are interested in playing cricket simply go to the club finder section at www.cricketnsw.com and put in your postcode to find you local club.
Parent to Parent

P&F Meeting
The Minutes from the last P&F meeting are available from the school office. We would like to say thank you to all those who attended the meeting.

Father’s Day Stall

Father's Day is upon us once again and we have a great Father's Day Stall set to knock dad's socks off.

On Thursday 25th August we'll be wrapping the great gifts and we'll need lots of helpers on this day. If you could spare just a couple of hours from 9:00am to help wrapping, it would be very much appreciated.

On Friday 2nd September after the Father's Day Liturgy, there will be the Father's Day Stall for the students to purchase a gift for dad. Throughout the day, students will be taken to the hall with their teacher to purchase a gift.

Gifts range from $1 - $8 this year so you can get Dad 2 gifts this year with a huge range from photo frames, key covers, car money boxes, CD covers, pen caddy, shower packs, magnets, mugs, drink bottles and loads more. This year we even have something for the Grandfathers in our families. So Mum's don't forget to send money with your children to spoil Dad this time.

We will also need help on this day to help sell the gifts from 9:00am - 2:00pm, any time you could spare would be appreciated.

If you could help on either one of these days or on both, or if you are unable to help but would like to send a plate of food for Friday 2nd September, please fill in the slip below and return it to the office before Thursday 25th August.

Hannah Maroun
Parents & Friends President.

Father's Day Wrapping & Father's Day Stall

Name: ______________________________ Telephone No______________________

Child's Name:___________________________ Class: ___________

☐ I am able to help with the wrapping of the gifts on Thursday 25th August 2011.
  Time:_________________

☐ I am able to help with selling at the Father's Day Stall on Friday 2nd September 2011.
  Time:_______________