**Principal's News**

Welcome back to all our returning families and welcome to our two new families. Welcome back also to our returning teacher Mrs Scarpinato.

We have many exciting things happening for the students this term - athletics, Raw Art, and of course our Education and Book Week celebrations combined in the Winter Fair. These are celebrations of our learning.

There are also the upcoming Naplan tests for Years 3 and 5 and on-going assessments across all grades. This will culminate with our student led conferences at the end of the term. Please ensure that your students miss as little of school as possible. This is critically important for those students who seem to arrive later and later as we move closer to winter. The beginning of the day is crucial to the organisation of the rest of the day. Unless little minds are organised about what they are expected to do during the day they often are unable to switch onto their learning and catch up. This makes the whole day difficult for them. We want the best for all our students and need your help in that crucial time at the beginning of the day to ensure students are awake, well hydrated and fed and at school on time. Thank you for your support.

**YEAR 3—6 SPORT** begins tomorrow. If your child has chosen a sport that includes bus travel, please ensure $30 is paid by tomorrow. Students will be unable to participate until bus travel is paid. Students must also bring their sport entry fee with them each Friday.

**BUTTERFLY BADGES** will be available for purchase each Wednesday at lunch time for $3 each. Butterfly badges will raise money for the Deafness Foundation.

**RAW ART** will be visiting our school this term. RAW Art conducts hands-on, creative workshops where students create art that they can take home. The timetable has been revised to accommodate paid sport, NAPLAN etc and updated information has been sent home this week. Please return permission note and payment by tomorrow, Friday, 2nd May (if you haven't already done so).

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL** is on next Thursday, 8th May at Smyth Field, Maitland. A note was sent home with all Years 3-6 students at the end of Term 1. Students in Year 2 who turn 8 this year and compete in Little Athletics may also attend. Contact the school office for a permission note or go to our website. All notes and payment are due by tomorrow, Friday, 2nd May, 2014.

**MATH-A-THON** is a P&C fundraiser and will be held at our school on Thursday, 29th May. Additional information and a sponsorship card has been sent home with students today.

**INTERRELATE**, a high quality sexuality and relationship education program, will be running two evening programs for students and their parents on Thursday, 29th May. Additional information is included in this newsletter.

**EDUCATION WEEK WINTER FAIR** arrangements are well underway. Information is included in this newsletter and more details will be sent home each week. Students in 5C will be running a plant stall for the fair. Any donations of cuttings, seedlings, pots etc would be greatly appreciated. Please leave donations at the school office.

*Have a successful week, Narelle and Staff.*
STUDENT MEDICAL COVER A reminder that all NSW Government school students are covered by Ambulance Cover when they participate in activities at school or on an organised school excursion. There will be no cost to parents or the school if an ambulance is required. However, personal injury insurance is not provided by the Department of Education and Communities in relation to injuries sustained during school activities. Parents may arrange personal accident insurance cover which is available through normal retail insurance outlets.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the students who ran in the Zone Cross Country at Tocal last term. It was a very hot day and all students ran very well. Three students have made it to the Regional Cross Country next week—Terri-Lee, Jayden and Hayden. Congratulations. A huge thank you to the parents who transported children to and from the carnival at the last minute. It was very much appreciated.

APPLICATION FOR OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT IN YEAR 5 (2015) Parents of students currently enrolled in a NSW public school with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student’s) should apply for opportunity placement online by going to www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement.

Online applications opened on Monday, 28th April. All other applicants must complete an official printed application form. Late applications will not be accepted after the closing date of 16th May, 2014 except in areas where there is a shortage of suitable candidates.

Uniform Shop News

Winter uniform orders have arrived and are now ready to be collected or sent home with students. Please finalise outstanding payments as soon as possible so orders can be distributed. The Uniform Shop has very limited space to store orders. Students are to begin wearing winter uniform on Monday, 12th May.

Canteen News

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If anyone is available to help on a Wednesday or a Friday please ring Kathy Jay 0448 058 755.

Mother’s Day stall

It’s your chance to say “Thanks Mum, Grandma or my Special Carer” for all the special things you do for me.

Wednesday, 7th May – under COLA

Gifts will be available from $1 - $8

Please send a few dollars to school with your child on this day so they can make a careful choice for your much deserved gift!

If you could volunteer an hour or two of your time on this day to help serve our little shoppers, please let the office staff know.

Please bring in plastic shopping bags to help the kids carry the goodies too!

Many thanks,

The fundraising committee
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<td>Zone</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>(Yr 3-6)</td>
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<td>RAW ART (KA, KJ, KN)</td>
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<td>AFL Gala Day</td>
<td>RAW ART (2P, 2B, 2S, 1T, 1M)</td>
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<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 HVGS Sport Session</td>
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<td>Sport Session</td>
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<td>Students begin wearing winter uniform</td>
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<td>RAW ART (4E, 4J, 4S)</td>
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<td>Knights Knockout</td>
<td>Back up date for Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Star Struck Drama rehearsal</td>
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<td>Girls Soccer Day</td>
<td>Star Struck Drama rehearsal</td>
<td>Maths-a-thon</td>
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<td>Full school assembly</td>
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<td>6pm Interrelate Program</td>
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<td>Boys Soccer Day</td>
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<td>Grandparents Day</td>
<td>Hunter Girls Softball</td>
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<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Yr 3 &amp; 4 Soccer Gala</td>
<td>RAW ART (5C)</td>
<td>RAW ART (3/4H, 3F, 3M, 3P, 5K)</td>
<td>Hunter Rugby League</td>
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**STUDENT LED CONFERENCES—WEEK 9**

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<th>RAW ART (6H, 5G)</th>
<th>RAW ART (6J, 6M)</th>
<th>Hunter Boys Softball</th>
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Government Child Dental Benefits Schedule

New government dental scheme – one thousand reasons to smile!

Have you heard about the new government dental scheme “Child Dental Benefits Schedule”? From January 1st 2014, it is providing eligible kids with $1000 to spend on selected dental services over a 2 calendar year period. This great initiative expects to help around 3.4 million Australian kids between the ages of 2-17 years.

To benefit from this scheme, children must be eligible for Medicare and the family must be in receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A or receive a relevant Government payment. Services that will be covered include: examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. Benefits will not be available for services carried out in hospital, or for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work.

To see if your kids are eligible, call your local Dentist who can look up the information for you.

Information provided by Pacific Smiles Dental: visit pacificsmilesdental.com.au
When sexuality is the question...

interrelate has the answers!

Interrelate is a specialist organisation with over 85 years experience teaching sexuality education in NSW schools. Interrelate educators are highly trained and skilful presenters.

The topic of sexuality will be handled with sensitivity, openness and humour. The programs offer an interactive approach to learning, with a variety of audio-visual materials, discussion and games. A range of books on sexuality education and parenting will be for sale.

Evening programs provide age-specific sessions of about one hour’s duration.

Interrelate will be offering the program at
Ashtonfield Public School
Thursday, 29th May, 2014
- Primary 1 session 6pm
- Primary 2 session 7.15pm

*Keep a look out for flyers (coming home with your child before the program) outlining session content

interrelate Strengthening family relationships... since 1926
When kids ask “the” questions . . .

Interrelate has the answers!

Interrelate’s high quality sexuality and relationship education program is coming to your school! With more than 85 years’ experience in this field, Interrelate has a reputation for providing excellence in sexuality and relationship education. Today over 35,000 students and family members participate in Interrelate school and family programs each year.

Many parents find it hard to discuss or answer questions relating to sexuality education . . . We know how to ‘help break the ice’. Interrelate programs are interactive, family focused and presented in the context of caring relationships. Our fully trained and experienced educators, who adhere to a strict code of ethics, conduct the program.

Session 1: “Where Did I Come From?”
1 hour – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
In this session children are eager to learn more about how their bodies work and the differences between males and females. This session extends their understanding of conception, fertilisation, foetal development and the birth process.

Session 2: “Preparing for Puberty”
1 hour – Years 5 & 6
This session helps to prepare children and parents/caregivers for the physical, social and emotional changes associated with puberty. Changing emotions and relationships with families and peers are addressed. Information is also presented on menstruation and wet dreams.

You and your child will benefit from the information presented in this program. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive. What parents have said about us:

“The educator has a great way of putting things simply”
“Provided me with a solid foundation”
“Covered areas I hadn’t thought of talking about”
“Entertaining and informative”

Interrelate SCHOOL SERVICES presents
A SPECIAL EVENING PROGRAM
FAMILY ADMISSION COST: 1 session $25 per family • 2 sessions $30 per family (GST exclusive)

Where: ASHTONFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL
When: Thursday, 29th May, 2014
Time: 6.00 pm SHARP (“Where Did I Come From?”) 7:15 pm (“Preparing for Puberty”)

Please Note: Speciality books are available for purchase on the night.

- - - - - Please complete and return to the school office, with payment in an envelope labelled with student’s name and class - - - - -

A SPECIAL EVENING PROGRAM

Name of Family: ........................................................................................................

No. attending: □ Session 1: “Where Did I Come From?” □ Session 2: “Preparing for Puberty”

Amount enclosed: $ .......................... □ Cash □ Cheque (please make cheques payable to school)

Tel: (02) 8882 7875 • Fax: (02) 8882 7890 • schoolservices@interrelate.org.au • www.interrelate.org.au

interrelate family centres Strengthening Family Relationships...since 1926
ANNOUNCEMENT—PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY!!!

EDUCATION WEEK 2014
WINTER FAIR

This year during Education Week our major event will be a Winter Fair. The focus Key Learning Area will be creative arts, with an exhibition of the children’s artwork.

The aim of the event is to showcase creative arts and to raise much needed funds for additional resources, specifically literacy supplies.

Date: Thursday, 31st July, 2014
Time: 1pm—5pm

The Winter Fair will begin with a fun “Meal Deal” lunch followed by a fabulous fun fair:

Teddy Bear judging competition

A café

Play zone for the children and a jumping castle

Novelty stalls—body art and hair spray

Cake stall

Fairy floss

Craft stall

Lolly buffet

AND LOTS, LOTS MORE!!!

PLUS

“Interpreting the Masters” Art Exhibition, with prizes for each stage.

Every class will operate a stall and information will be sent home shortly to inform you of which stall your child’s class will be responsible for running.

This will be a wonderful day for the school community, especially the children. However, events such as these can only be a success with the support of the parent body.

We appreciate any assistance you can give your class such as:

- A parent co-ordinator for the class.
- Helpers to prepare items for the stall.
- Helpers to set up on the day of the stall.
- Helpers to work on the stall in 30 minute to 1 hour time slots.

Please contact your child’s teacher if you can assist in any way.
2013-2014 Family Energy Rebate

$125* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!
Apply before 5pm Friday 13 June 2014

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 – 2014 the rebate gives:

- A $125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer.
- A $137.50 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012-2013 and have received a relevant payment; and
- Be the primary account holder of an electricity retailer, OR a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile park home, whose name appears on the electricity bills supplied by the park operator.

YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE

- ONLINE – it takes a few minutes to submit and processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au