Principal’s Report February 6th 2015

Spelling Matters

Last week we participated in a two day conference. The focus was to gain greater understanding of Spelling and Vocabulary building. As a staff, we will always endeavour to build our capacity and understanding to embrace new research and anchor this in our practice.

It was made clear that students do not learn to become proficient spellers from memorising the spelling of individual words from a list. Given that the average person can spell 48,000 words and the capacity of learning 10 words per week, which is often the case, makes such an undertaking foolish.

We can however build in our students a variety of strategies to use in their spelling repertoire. It is this focus on strategies (including visual memory) that we are now motivated to pursue further. A list of words to be learnt, on its own, will not be sufficient to serve the students’ needs. As we develop our quality teaching of spelling curriculum we will share it with parents and our wider community. From the outset we are aiming for a balanced approach, one that will improve outcomes for our students.

Throughout the year further information will be available.

As such, students will not receive “spelling homework” until we have developed greater understanding and consistency of practice. We hope that you will hear lots from your children about what they are doing in class with words and understanding.

Education is important, "It’s not ok to be away", or to be late!!

Please phone student absences in by 9am 5342 4487
February 2015

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<td><strong>2</strong> Parent &amp; student teacher interviews.</td>
<td><strong>3</strong> Classes commence.</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong> Waterpark excursion grades 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td><strong>10</strong> Swimming P/K &amp; 1/2D</td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong> Swimming P/O &amp; 1/2K</td>
<td><strong>13</strong> Swimming Grades3-4 Book club due back.</td>
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<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong> Swimming P/K &amp; 1/2D</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong> Swimming P/O &amp; 1/2K</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Swimming Grades3-4</td>
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<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong> Photo Day Swimming P/K &amp; 1/2D</td>
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<td><strong>26</strong> Swimming P/O &amp; 1/2K</td>
<td><strong>27</strong> Swimming Grades3-4</td>
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Haddon Primary School Twilight Sports Monday March 2

From a suggestion made at the parent forum held last year, this year’s athletic sports will be a twilight event. This may allow a lot of working parents and relatives to attend as well as keeping children out of the sun. The twilight sports will be held on March 2 with School starting at 2:30 pm for all students. Children will assemble in House groups on the asphalt at 2:45 and march to the oval to commence the first event at 3:00pm.

The field events will run for two hours then 1 hour tea break 5:00pm -6:00pm (parents and friends will do some catering on the evening). The track events will run from 6:00 -7:30pm.

There will be no school bus on this day. All parents are invited to attend. Please note this an alcohol/ smoke free event.

The Midlands District Amateur Swimming Association will be hosting two swimming events for Ballarat and District Schools in February. The 50m Primary Schools Swimming Sports will be held at the Eureka Aquatic Centre, in Stawell Street Ballarat, on Sunday the 22nd of February, commencing at 10.15am warm up at 9.45. The Nine and Under 25 metre events will be held at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre Pool on Wednesday the 25th of February, starting at 7.00pm.

Cost involved is $4 per swimmer per event (a swimmer can enter 2 individual events plus one freestyle relay and one medley relay), and $2 entry for spectators. Students wishing to participate in these events need to see Mr. Jackson as soon as possible so that entries can be registered. Entries close on Friday the 13th of February.
SWIMMING PREP- 4

Grades Prep to 4 will commence swimming lessons next week.

Medical information, swimming experience and permission forms have been sent home and are now overdue. If your child is not taking part in the swimming program please notify the office ASAP.

Children not swimming will remain at school or be collected by parents. Prep-2 students will be placed in other classes in the ELC and year 3/4 students will be placed in 4/5F. Payment is to be made prior to the commencement of swimming. In line with school council policy, students will not be permitted to commence lessons until payment has been made.

Swimming Days

In a separate swimming bag, students will require bathers, towel and sandals/crocs (to wear to or from swimming) and goggles (optional). All items must be clearly named.

On the class swimming day, students will have an early lunch 12:30-1:30pm. No lunch orders are to be placed on swimming days.

Students will leave Haddon at 1:30 pm and travel to the Ballarat Aquatic Centre commence lessons at 2:00pm. Lessons will be for 45 minutes and up to 10 students in a group. The small group option was not available this year for school classes. Parents are most welcome to attend to view the sessions.

Prep K and 1/2 D commence Tuesday, February 10 at 2pm.

Prep O and 1/2K commence Thursday February 12 at 2pm.

Year 3-4 Lessons commence Friday February 13 at 2:00 pm.