**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 21st May</td>
<td>Star Struck Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29th May</td>
<td>Garden Working Bee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 20th June</td>
<td>Trivia Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Morning arrival times-reminder**

Please note, due to our 4/5/6 room being out of action for some time, I ask that all families do not drop off their children before 8.30 am in the morning. The other classrooms are rather small, making our areas for supervision very limited. Families may approach me for special consideration.

**Star Struck**

Our Star Struck practices will continue each Thursday afternoon from 3.15 – 3.50, continuing each Thursday until the Star Struck Week in Week 8. Please see Ms Tully if you have any questions.

**Entertainment Books**

Entertainment books went home last week. If you do not wish to purchase the book or if you would like to order an electronic version, please return the book ASAP. Payment is required by 10th June for any books purchased. Books not returned or paid for by 10th June will be invoiced to your account.

**Point Wolstoncroft Excursion- 4/5/6 - Reminder**

4/5/6 will be attending Point Wolstoncroft in Term 4, so we now need to know numbers—children and parents who wish to go. We are not sure how many parents we can take, that will depend on how many children are going, but if you want to go, please put your name down. The dates for the camp are: Tuesday, 17th November through to Friday, 20th November. The cost per child is approximately $320 (all inclusive). Parents would be around $350. A non-refundable deposit of $50 will confirm your child’s place.

**Football Gala Day**

Our Football (soccer) team will be playing in a Football Gala Day next Monday at Maitland Park. They will be there all day with Ms Tully acting as the Team Manager and Mrs Irwin the team coach. I am not going as I need some time at school. (You know I would really like to be at the soccer!) We wish the team luck as they have had no training due to the state of the playground during and after the floods. We are playing in this event as it is great practice before we play in the Small Schools State Knockout Competition. All team members were given their soccer uniforms to take home, and socks if they needed them. *Every player must wear shin-guards. Without them they will not be allowed on the field.*
Principals Conference
As mentioned last week, I am attending a Principal’s Conference at Pokolbin today, Thursday and tomorrow, Friday.

Working Bee
On Friday, 29th May, from 9.15am, the P&C has organised a working bee to focus on the front of the school. We are asking for everyone to consider donating their time as we begin our renewal of our school grounds following the recent floods. Please bring gardening tools, gloves and wheelbarrows (if possible) as we lost all ours in the flood.

P&C Trivia Night
The P&C are organizing a fundraising Trivia Night, to be held at Woodville Hall on Saturday, 20th June. This will be an adults only evening. Tickets are $10 each, and there will be 8 people to a table. Please note the date on your calendar, and start organising a table of clever friends. Please fill in the information sheet in the office to let the P&C know how many tables/tickets you will need.

Interrelate at Largs-reminder
Attached to last week’s newsletter was some information about an Interrelate program being held at Largs P.S. on Monday evening, 1st June beginning at 6.00 pm. The first session is “Where did I come from?” and the second session is “Preparing for Puberty”. The cost to the family is $25 with two sessions costing $30. The flier explains what each session is about, but having been involved with the Interrelate Program for many years, it is certainly worthwhile knowing, especially having some specialist present the information about these areas of growing up. We need to know some numbers, so we can inform Largs to ensure this program can go ahead.

School Update
We have settled in quite well at school since the floods. The company which was responsible for the clean-up of our school, has also been given the contract to clean up our sand pit area. They hope to visit our school site later this week and assess how this can be done, given the softness of our grounds. Hopefully, this will be done soon. The classroom is next on our “hot list!”

Naplan Letter
Below is an anonymous letter that came my way, written by a teacher before they were to sit for their Naplan tests. It makes great reading!

To our dear Year 3 and Year 5 students
Tomorrow you will sit your NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know.

This test does not assess all of what makes each of you special and unique.

The people who score these tests don’t know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that you make your friends happy when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad. They do not know that you are caring and that every day you do your best, because these qualities cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can’t tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can’t tell you that you make your teacher smile. They can’t tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to “test” all of the wonderful things that make you, YOU!

Bookclub
All orders and payments need to be returned to school by Wednesday 3rd June.
Environmental Committee
As part of our new three-year plan, we would like to set up a committee of interested parents to work with Ms Hamer on environmental improvements and programs in the school. If you would be interested in being on the committee, please let Mrs Mahony know. It is expected that we would meet once or twice a term, but parents could possibly be involved in projects and ongoing programs and work in the grounds when it suits their personal schedules.

African Aids Foundation Fundraiser
As mentioned last week, Sarah Bayley has organised a chocolate fundraiser which supports our sister school, Ngunjini in Africa. Her family will be travelling to the school in a few weeks and Sarah hopes to be able to help the school to fit out a new classroom. If your family is able to assist by selling a box of chocolates, please contact the school.

Choir – St Peters Music Festival
Our choir performed beautifully in the Church last night, even with our slightly reduced numbers. We were very proud of them, especially Georgia, who told the audience a little of the history of the school, and introduced our songs. As always, our students demonstrated exemplary behaviour and were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Interest Groups
I am asking for expressions of interest from parents, grandparents, friends and any community members who have an artistic skill. This could be anything from sewing, painting, drawing, woodwork, collage, fabric design…anything! I am hoping to run ‘interest groups’ during Term 3 where you will be able to share this skill with a group of 6 students. This will hopefully run for 4 weeks (4 afternoons—probably Thursdays). Please discuss this with friends as it is a perfect opportunity for students to learn a new skill AND become familiar with the wider community. Anyone interested must have a current Working with Children check. If you are interested please see Ms Tully.

PERMISSION NOTE – Tocal Excursion
I give permission for my child __________________________

to attend the Tocal Excursion on Tuesday, 26th May involving travel by bus.

Signed _______________________________ Date _______________
FAMILY TIES: Colin Goodenough of Dora Creek and Amy Summerville of Woodville who ran in tribute to their grandparents.

Every step Amy Summerville took along her pilgrimage through Tocal Agricultural College was in homage of her late grandfather.

It’s been three years since Bill Barrett lost his battle with liver cancer and yesterday his young granddaughter paid respect to his strength and courage during the annual Friends of Palliative Care Walk-A-Thon.

“A couple of years ago my pop passed away from cancer so last year I did the five kilometre run but this year I took on the 10 kilometres,” Amy, 11, of Woodville, said.

“And it does feel good to be able to do something in memory of pop.”

Amy’s mother Jennie Summerville said the walk was an important event on the Maitland community calendar.

“Everybody has a story when it comes to cancer and I think you’d be hard pressed to find one family anywhere who hasn’t been affected,” Ms Summerville said.

Joining Amy on the journey was Colin Goodenough who has also lost his grandmother to the disease.

“This is for such a great cause and my grandma died from it 15 years ago so it is something that has always stayed with me,” Mr Goodenough said.