Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 3. I hope everyone had a great break and are ready to take on a term which is packed with sport’s training, sport’s days and swimming as well as all our regular classes. We have loads to fit in, which can be problematic in a term in which colds seem to affect everyone. Whilst we encourage you to minimise the days your child is away from school, if they are ill, please keep them home.

Last term, we all had a great time on our Rewards Day. The movie was hilarious and all students loved having their own popcorn and soft drink. Many thanks to Warwick Twin Cinemas for making it so memorable. The pizza in the park was a hit, as was the pool. Behaviour was excellent and everyone had a lovely day. Some of the happy snaps even made it into the Warwick Daily News. We are busy discussing our excursion for this term. It seems some sort of jumping castle, trampoline activity is high on the list of suggestions. Once we know more it will be discussed at the P&C Meeting.

Thank you for responding to our survey about having tuckshop every second week. The students are in favour of every week but some have said they don’t have it every week because it is a treat or their behaviour at home has not been acceptable. We do not intend to put pressure on the families to have it every week and try and make it as reasonable as possible. The responses to date have been an even split between having it every week and each fortnight. This will be on the agenda for next meeting.

I am aware of a number of students disappointed by some of their academic achievements for last semester. In subjects such as science, history and geography, the results may be affected by the difficulty of the unit completed as well as the level of interest the student has in that particular area. I understand it is difficult not to focus on the level of achievement, however the effort a child makes is of more importance. Every student has areas where they excel and those in which they have to really make an effort. The rating for effort is based on behaviour, interaction in class, neatness and organisational skills. The latter is particularly important for the older students. If they have been asked to complete a table on a computer, draw a diagram with labels or complete a planning sheet as part of the task, we expect them to do that. We provide ample time, reminders, models of what we expect as well as suggestions on how to improve their work, but we don’t do it for them. I have spoken to my class about their report cards and if any parents have concerns please let me know and we can make a plan to catch up for a chat.

Enjoy the rest of your week. Stay warm!

Laura Watson Principal
School Opinion Survey

It is School Opinion Survey time again and it is online. A letter is attached to this newsletter with an access codes, web address and easy to follow instructions.

Students complete a similar on-line survey so this one is based on your opinion as a parent. We would appreciate your support in setting aside some of your valuable time to complete the survey.

Our results have been excellent for the last four years. This data is available to prospective parents to consider and the feedback given informs our School Annual Plan. If you have any questions, please let me know. If internet access is a problem, we can arranged for you to use one of the school computers.

Head Lice

Parents, head lice are again doing the rounds of schools in the area. Please take a little time daily to check your child’s hair as treatment is simple when caught early. Treatments are available from chemists and are easy to use. Tea tree oil has also been known to have great results.

Woolworths Earn & Learn is back

Attached to the newsletter is the sticker sheet for those who wish to help by collecting stickers every time they shop at Woolworths.
In and Around the year 4-6 Classroom.

Historical Narratives written by students for their History Assessment.

Georgia wrote:

My name is Sarah Bellamy and I am a Convict. I lived in Worcester in England during the industrial revolution, I was 17 years old. My crime was stealing a purse containing cash and notes. My punishment for my crime was to be sent on the convict ship, The Lady Penhyn, which was headed for a new land called Australia. The conditions on the ship were terrible. Food was rationed and we were cramped in filthy stinky rooms under the deck of the ship. To make things worse I was missing my family in England, wondering if I would ever see them again!

Joseph wrote:

I could not believe we made the 252 day long journey. I know we had arrived safely when I heard the anchors drop into the water. I saw some weird looking people. Someone told me they were Aboriginal people. We first slept under the branches we made into shelters. Later we added mud and clay. It was hot and humid but we planted our winter crops. It was exhausting work. The tools kept breaking, the ground was harder than in England. Men built houses and roads while women collected oysters or worked as servants. For bad behaviour we were flogged by the cat-o-nine-tails. For good behaviour we were granted a ticket-of-leave, which meant we could choose where we lived and worked, but couldn’t leave the country. Life was better here and although the food rations are still in place and I’m constantly hungry, it feels like a safe and peaceful place to live.

Maddy wrote:

The ship stopped again and to my relief, I felt the sand grating against the hull. I was hefted up on the deck, chains clanking. For the first time I saw New Holland. It was a splendid sight, rolling green hills, tall, pleasant smelling trees. I felt as free as a bird! I thought I could soar above the ships, the trees, the mountains! Then I felt the cold metal chains around my neck, my ankles and my hands, binding them, restraining them. The happy feeling I had but a few moments ago was gone, replaced with dread. I realized that this place was exactly like the prison at Worchester, only bigger. I was thrown in among 6 or 7 unpleasant faces and rowed into harbour. I watched Governor Phillip raise the Union Jack, I saw it all. We stomped inland and unpacked. I was made a servant to one of the wealthier nobles who came for a ‘bit of fun’. Over the years I was granted a ticket-of-leave and had 8 children. My beautiful first born, James died on the 17th of October 1840, I stayed with him the whole time. On the 24th of February, 1843, as I lay in bed, I thought about my life, all the ups and downs, until I sank into darkness.