Principal's Report

Mrs Debbie Asquith

Last week I stated, “The word appreciation means really seeing something for what it is an awareness of how special, how lucky, how unique, how blessed, how big, wonderful or awesome something is.” Paxton School community should appreciate:

PEER TUTORING

Peer tutoring was introduced to Paxton School in the 1990’s and is now embedded so deeply it is a core contributor to our caring and inclusive culture. In the first semester senior students are partnered with junior students to practice their sounds and sight words. In semester 2, students with similar reading skills are partnered to develop fluency and expression through repeated reads. I have instigated a Student Report section to the newsletter each week. Aiden and Nelson will provide more information on Peer tutoring.

Student Report by Aidan Harris and Nelson King

Last Thursday 4/5/6 students were divided into groups of four to speak about either the responsibilities of a tutor or advantages of peer tutoring. Some of the ideas were organisational skills, use pause prompt and praise, provide encouragement and understanding and respect the uniqueness of every child.

On Monday we were partnered with a younger student to help them to achieve higher levels in reading. At the end of the year every student will develop self-control and improve the results for our school.

A new student to peer tutoring, Olive Martin, stated, “Liam Dixon has helped with my sounding out.” Lucy recommended, “Peer tutoring is a fun way to learn and a great opportunity to learn with others and all schools should do it.”

Courtney Goody was asked what it is like to be a tutor. She replied, “Being a tutor is very hard. It is great fun to help little students. It is great to experience little kids reading.”

Ellen Beckett was asked what it is like to be a tutee. She answered, “I have a lot of fun doing peer tutoring and Caelli is a great tutor. I think peer tutoring is a great way to learn to read.”

This week the staff and I appreciated:

- Paxton Star safety behaviour of walking on the veranda and concrete
- The parental support at Best Start meetings
- Student leadership in whole School PE lessons.
- Support staff for their invaluable input in the learning and wellbeing of our students.
Our TREAT TUESDAY recipient for Week 4 is the 4/5/6 class for leading the school in orderly transitions between the playground and classrooms. They will receive the treat of an early mark for recess and lunch. Congratulations 4/5/6. We appreciate your leadership.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Thanks to Jye, Nelson, Olive and Noah for representing Paxton School admirably at yesterday’s Zone Swimming Carnival.

Parent Information Session

Parents are warmly invited to an information session on our Positive Behaviour and Learning (PBL) program on Wednesday 25th of February in the Library at 2.00. We will explain how the values of Safety, Teamwork, Achievement and Respect (STAR) are incorporated in our school welfare system, how positive, negative and communication incidences are recorded on an electronic system called Sentral and provide opportunities for the community feedback on refinements to our systems and practices.

Clean up Australia

Since 1992, school communities across Australia have demonstrated their support for caring for the environment through participating in Schools Clean Up Day. The next Schools Clean Up Day is on Friday 27 February 2015. Paxton School will participate by cleaning the school grounds in the afternoon. All children will be supervised and will be provided with gloves.

School Assembly Week 4

Whole school assembly will be held tomorrow at 2.30pm in the school library. Your attendance is appreciated.

School Fees

Thanks to the families that have already contributed in the way of school fees to support your children with stationery and school supplies.

Payment is still being accepted at the school office.

$20 per child
$30 per family

2015 School Photos

Gavin, our wonderful photographer, will once again be doing our school photos on Tuesday, 10th March and order envelopes will go home in early March.

Packages are $25 per child and include various sized individual photos and a class photo. Family photos are also available for $16.

K/1 – Have started their “Story Wall”.
2/3 – Are learning how to tell the time in both digital and analogue.
4/5/6 – We have been working on forming complex sentences to create a powerful image in the readers’ minds.

An interesting factsheet is one called “Too sick to go to school?” Sometimes it’s hard to know if your child is really coming down with something or just suffering a bout of Monday-itis.

For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.

For further information and a chart that will help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school is available at:
As Easter is fast approaching the P&C are seeking donations to go towards this year’s Easter raffle.

Items may include - chocolate eggs, gift baskets & bags, soft bunny toys, boxed chocolates, lollies, Easter gifts or toys.

All donations are most appreciated and can be left at the office.

A.G.M
(Annual General Meeting)

The A.G.M will take place on **Wednesday 4th March, 2015.**
9.30am – 10am at the school.

All positions become vacant at the A.G.M and a new committee will be nominated and voted in.

~ Everyone is welcome to attend ~

The position of Canteen Manager has become available. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please speak to Leah in the office or Carol Avery.

The P & C as well as the whole school community would like to thank Rebecca Andrews for all her hard work during 2014 as the canteen management.

Thank you Rebecca – We appreciate you!
Want to re-enter the workforce but need to brush up on your skills first?

Come and talk with the helpful staff of

CESSNOCK TAFE, FOUNDATION SKILLS AND PATHWAYS

OUR COURSES for Semester 1, 2015:

- **EFL Program (Literacy and Numeracy) - Skills for Education and Employment**
  10442/10443 — Free Course
  This course is for Centrelink referred clients to upgrade literacy, numeracy & employment skills.

- **Career Education & Employment for Women Certificate III (CLEW21) 10089 NAT**
  This course helps women re-enter the workforce or education after a long absence. Work placement included in the course.

- **Work’s Refresher for Education and Work (BSW21) 10088 NAT**
  This course helps men re-enter the workforce or education after a long absence. Work placement included in the course.

- **Tertiary Preparation Certificate IV (TPC) 29003**
  This is a Year 11 equivalent course, a pathway to uni &/or employment.

- **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**
  This course is for people from non-English speaking backgrounds to improve English language skills for work or further study.

- **Skills for Work and Training (BSW11) 10080B (Cert I)**
  This course is equivalent to a VR 0.1 level of skills and knowledge.

CONTACT: Brol Enge (Acting Head Teacher Cessnock Hunter TAFE) 4993 0492.