MRS FORREST’S NEWS

Nouvelles de la classe de français

(News from the French class)

Bonjour à tous

Hello everyone!

Students from Prep through to Year 6 are enjoying learning the French language and culture in 30-minute lessons each week.

Prep Year One have been introduced to Monsieur Pierre, a toy frog who lives in the music room. He says some simple words in French to the children like hello, how are you, my name is and so on. They like talking with him. We have also been learning some names of vegetables and fruit and singing songs in French. It was lovely to have Felicity help out to lead the singing of Frère Jacques. Of course, she has a lovely accent because of her Québécois mum!

The 2/3 students also like to talk with Pierre and are learning the song Dites-moi (Tell me from South Pacific). It is very cute. They try hard to repeat the greetings with Pierre.

Year 4/5/6 have a 30-minute lesson on language and 30 minute lesson learning about the culture and monuments of France. Last week we took up the challenge to write and draw table settings in French e.g. knives and forks and lots of food names. Students are realising that 30% of the English language is French (the French pronounce it differently though).

We also sang with gusto Sur le pont d’Avignon (On the D’Avignon bridge). We might start putting up names of things around the school. Students are enjoying the research of things like La Tour Eiffel, L’ouvre and la cathédrale de Notre Dame. Au revoir Madame Forêt et Monsieur Pierre
Dear Parents,

What a great way to end the week – a nice casual BBQ with fabulous people!!!

It was great to see the generous hospitality of our school community making our new families feel at home. Thank you and I am glad we organised the opportunity. Although I guess I knew it would always be a success considering the quality of discussion encountered at our P&C meetings. Last Wednesday night was another productive meeting to set the wheels in motion for another successful year. Thank you P&C. You are a great bunch of people.

One of the items discussed was the school’s Camp Program. Therefore from this year, students in the year 4/5/6 class will be offered a camping opportunity every year. For your knowledge, we have already begun organising this year’s camp. It may be very local and include the same age students from Federal State School joining us. Unfortunately, it was agreed there would be no camping program for students in P-3 or an opportunity to camp after the Annual School Awards.

Another item presented was the possibility of upgrading the school’s kitchen with the intent to take advantage of commercial hire. However, the item was passed over for discussion at the School Council meeting tonight as it aligns with a strategic direction to create a cooking school attached to our facility. I have also added another twist to this direction for discussion that has the interest of the students. I guess you already know, I believe any idea is possible and I would rather investigate its feasibility than just dismiss the idea.

Last Friday was very successful in how we supported Childhood Cancer Foundation. Well Done Student Council!!! The event raised $80 for the foundation. And thank you also to students and staff for supporting this worthy cause.

Luckily I had time to change out of character to meet with colleagues to discuss the school’s improvement agenda for 2106. They were overwhelmed with the level of dedication our teachers have demonstrated by completing intense integral actions that will ensure this is another successful year. I am always appreciative of the professionalism our teachers exhaust in the best interest of our students though it was very gratifying to hear the accolades from these colleagues. Thank you Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Smith and Mrs Webb. Your professionalism makes my job very enjoyable.

This week we have another regional colleague visiting our school, although he is here to ensure our operational practices and processes abide by departmental mandates. This internal auditor visited our school two years ago and the office staff made a genuine effort to address his recommendations. So we are very keen to hear his summary of where we are at and what needs to happen next.

Don’t forget this Friday we acknowledge the tremendous effort our Rural Fire Brigade exhaust to ensure we remain safe. It is labeled ‘Red Day’ and red balloons will available for purchase @ 25c. This is not a day for dressing in red so please come to school in normal school uniform.

Cheers,

Trent

General News

“You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself Any direction you choose!”

–Dr Seuss–

Easter Raffle— Can you please send in some Easter Eggs to begin the great Easter Raffle for 2016. Donations are gratefully accepted. We will keep them under lock and key (in the office). Kearin and Pam can look after them (he! he!) until the P & C start wrapping them up. Raffle tickets will be sent home soon!

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Tarsha for being a Democratic Citizen who is giving her best effort to complete tasks in class.

Joshua S. for being a Democratic Citizen who is learning class rules and showing kindness to others.

Will A. for being an Informed Citizen who has made great progress at the start of his new school year.

Annabelle for being an Informed Citizen who has made great progress at the start of his new school year.

Pippa for being a Healthy Citizen who has made a great return back to school, settling in beautifully and always trying her best.

Corby for being an Informed Citizen who has been really trying hard to do what is best for self, place and others.

Friday 26th Feb—National Red Balloon Day—to recognise our Fireys. Balloons for sale 25c each.

Friday 4th Mar—Clean up Australia Day—the school will be involved in cleaning up their school and local area. Discussion after the event about what was collected and the correct bin to put the rubbish in.

Monday 21 Mar—Harmony Day—Our school celebrates Harmony Day and Closing the Gap Day as one to raise awareness of respecting each other so we can all live in peace. Closing the Gap Day is officially recognised to raise awareness of differences between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous health.

Tuesday 22 Mar—School Cross Country—parent helpers required. Please notify office if you are able to help.

Wed 23 Mar—Bike on Skills Day—Please return permission forms.

Thurs 24th Mar—Easter Hat Parade/Last day of Term 1
Getting in early for mental health and wellbeing

Keeping children healthy and happy involves looking after their mental health as well as their physical health. Mental health is how we think or feel about ourselves and what is going on around us, and how we cope with the ups and downs of life.

Good mental health helps us to form positive relationships with others, handle challenges and be able to generally enjoy life. With good mental health, children think positively about themselves and learn and achieve better results at school. Good mental health in childhood lays the foundations for positive mental health and wellbeing, now and into the future.

Mental health difficulties in children

Mental health difficulties affects children’s behaviour, feelings, ability to learn, social relationships, as well as their physical health and wellbeing. About half of all serious mental health problems in adulthood begin before the age of 14 years. In Australia it is estimated that approximately one in seven children experience mental health difficulties. There are many ways that parents, carers and school staff can support children who are experiencing mental health difficulties. Some of these may be parents, carers and school staff working in partnership to come up with ways of supporting the child, attending information sessions on particular childhood mental health difficulties or getting a referral to a mental health professional.

Although there are many effective supports for children experiencing mental health difficulties, many children do not receive the help they need. This can happen because families are unsure of whether their child has a difficulty, or they do not know where to go or what to do to get mental health support. Schools can be an ideal place for families to access information about supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their children. Sometimes parents and carers may feel concerned about raising mental health concerns due to misunderstandings and negativity that they feel may exist about mental health difficulties.

The positive way in which families and schools support each other in relation to mental health and wellbeing will help parents and carers to seek support and assistance in a timely way.
Everyone has difficulties at times

Most people will experience mental health difficulties at some point in their life, including children. Getting help early for children's mental health difficulties is important. When children don't get help for mental health difficulties they can end up feeling bad about themselves.

They might have trouble getting on with others or struggle with their school work. It can also lead to health problems and family conflict. Problems that are not addressed can get bigger and affect children as they grow up. The earlier in life mental health difficulties are addressed, the better chance a child has at improving their long-term mental health and wellbeing.

Your child's school will have further information and resources that can help parents and carers understand more about children's mental health and wellbeing. School staff can also help you find out what children's mental health services are available in your local area.

To help parents, carers and teaching staff understand about children's mental health difficulties, KidsMatter Primary has developed a series of information sheets. Available at www.kidsmatter.edu.au, these resources provide information about children's mental health difficulties, how you can help and how you can find professional help when needed.

Mental health professionals have developed a number of very successful ways for helping children with mental health difficulties and their families. Just like taking your child to the doctor with physical health problems, it is important to get help and advice for mental health difficulties.

Helping children to be mentally healthy is a major part of caring for kids. Caring families, schools and communities working together offer strong support for children's mental health and wellbeing. Sharing knowledge about what to do and where to go for help can make a big difference to children's lives.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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Superhero day photos
Kin Kin Community

PLANTING DAY

When:  Sunday 6 March 2016 – Market Day

Time:  9am – 10am

Place:  Kin Kin Sportsground

(planting site near Community Centre building – canteen).

This is the last community planting day under this project. Please bring a hat and water. Light refreshments provided.

This project is supported by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's – Everyone’s Environment Grant Funding.

This is a project of the Kin Kin Community Group Inc. in conjunction with Pomona District Landcare thanks to the support of Everyone’s Environment Grant. Enquiries: Jo-Anne 5485 4200