Hello everyone!

Our Grade 6 students look very spiffy in their new shirts. I hope they enjoy their final couple of weeks of school.

CONCERT INFORMATION

- 2-4 students will require a couple of “winter woolly” bits of clothing; such as, coat, scarf, beanie. It may be quite a warm night but the gear will only be on for a very short amount of time
- Due to our large student numbers (which also brings with it large numbers of extended family members.) I have sent word to Santa at the North Pole and asked him not to bring along any presents when he visits. He did agree to that (he understood that it could potentially be an extremely late night for our little students when we include all of the other things we have to do) but he still wanted to hand out a small treat to all the children present. We’ve compromised
- We will have our Christmas Hamper raffle at the concert. We ask all families to contribute something to the hamper – any donations will be gratefully received in the hamper basket in the school entrance

Our last transition day is tomorrow – I hope Charlie and Archie enjoy their day at secondary school – Paddy has returned from an exciting week of transition. Jack and Makaylie will be with us until after lunch tomorrow (unfortunately Imogen can’t make it tomorrow.) It’s all getting exciting now!!

Last Friday and today we held evacuation drills. We discussed and prepared our students for last Friday’s drill but sprung a surprise one on them today. They did extremely well. As we head into the fire season, now is the time for you to be discussing your own emergency plans with your children. Make sure they know what is required of them as you enact your plans. If you don’t get to evacuate then what will they need to do? Are you, your family and your home, fire ready?

Staffing for 2017 has been finalised. Congratulations to Miss Wilkinson who has had her contract extended for another 12 months, Mrs. Hilbig will be re-joining us for 2 days a week in the classroom and Lisa’s role as business manager has become on-going. Of course, Frau Stoffel and I are part of the furniture, as always. We will be moving to Chinese as our LOTE so we are looking to share a teacher with other schools. When this is finalised I will let you all know.

Have a great week!
Ja-San Trimble - Principal
WHY READ AT HOME EVERYDAY?

Reading is “brain food”

Our brains develop as we “feed” them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you’re the reader or the one being read to) activates and “exercises” many of the areas of the brain. The visual cortex works as your eyes track the words on the page and look at the illustrations. Your memory makes connections between what you already know about the topic of the story and its content. You integrate new information learned through reading further strengthening and growing your network of knowledge. Reading provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

Reading improves listening skills

What parent doesn’t want their child to be a good listener? The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language. Through reading they learn to recognize phonemes (the sound building blocks of language), learn new words to add to their oral vocabularies and connect written words to their real world applications.

Practice makes perfect

Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you’ll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading.

Reading improves academic performance

There is a strong correlation between a child’s ability to read and her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading improves relationships

Because we are often busy it can be difficult to have “quality” one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building a couple of minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.
Stawell Library 2017 Summer School Holiday Program

**TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY**
Make your own 4 Seasons dress-up calendar for 2017!
2.30pm start  Cost: $2

**THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY**
Make a felt creation with the help of felting expert Michelle Kloester
2.30pm start
Cost: $2

**TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY**
Coloured Sand Craft
2.30pm start
Cost: $2

**THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY**
Beach Theme Party
2.30pm start
Cost: $2

**WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY**
Drama, dance & sing! presented by SPACI
2pm: pre-schoolers
2.40: primary age kids
3.30: secondary age
Cost: $2

WIMMERA REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

PLEASE BOOK A PLACE FOR EACH EVENT BY CALLING 5358-1274
We are now taking uniform orders for next year, these orders will only be filled first week back to school or unless alternative arrangements have been made. Thanks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Music Prep Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marc Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>CONCERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Uniform Orders Due</td>
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</tbody>
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**UNIFORM ORDERS – January 2017**

Student Name/s: ______________________

Date of Order: ______________________

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<th>Uniform</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<td>Short Sleeve Polo Shirt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Sleeve Polo Shirt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polar Fleece Jumper</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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Sizes available: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, M

TOTAL: $ ______________________

Enclose payment with order please
Thank you!