I'm Back! (In body at least!)

I thank everyone responsible for ensuring the school ticked along in my absence: the staff who stepped up and assumed added responsibilities and to Mrs Kelly-Bounds and Mr Forsyth for so capably looking after the school. It sounds as though last term ended with some fun activities and this term is already looking busy! The Hagley camp sounds as though it was a great experience!

Just one observation after my trip away: we are so lucky to have the space, the grounds, the greenery, the trees, the play equipment, the facilities here at Bowen Road. I visited schools all over Europe and nowhere did I see anything resembling our school grounds. Most are concrete and brick buildings with small courtyards. Many schools have little or no equipment because of fear of accidents and legal issues as well as not having the space to put it. We can consider ourselves very lucky indeed!

The major report for the year comes out on Friday 3rd of August and Parent Teacher interviews will begin on Monday the 13th August. The reports will be slightly different to past years but you will be given explanations as to changes enforced by the Federal Government. Meanwhile I urge families to encourage their children to spend some quiet time each evening reading and then briefly talking about what they have read, having stories or chapters read to them, learning number facts where appropriate, researching topics of interest to them.... It is so important that adults show they value learning.

Scooter Safety:

A staff member recently saw three grade 4/5 boys riding dangerously in traffic, on scooters, without helmets. Three cars had to stop suddenly to avoid hitting them. The boys have been spoken to but we must impress upon everyone the need to be safe on the roads. One of our parents could have been the one to hit them with their car!

No helmet, no scooters or bikes. Be safe!

Facebook Issues Once Again

We ask parents to closely monitor their children on computers at home for obvious reasons. There is a simple way of avoiding cyber bullying: block people who cause trouble! We still have underage children being allowed access by their parents to Facebook or using Facebook without their parents’ knowledge. We encourage anyone who receives a threat to print it off and take it further.

HELP US HELP OUR SCHOOL

The recent Gonski Review of school funding would see approximately an extra $1500 per student invested in our school if the Federal Government acted on the recommendations. That would amount to about $429000. With that we could offer a wider variety of educational programs, employ more staff and provide more resources for learning. Our School Association is urging the Government to finalise legislation by the end of August to ensure more funding for public schools. Please help us by registering your support at the website: www.igivagonski.com.au

SHOW THAT YOU ‘GIVE A GONSKI’ ON JULY 24!

Ogilvie High Transition

Grade 6 girls will bring home a permission form today which begins the transition program to grade 7. Ogilvie High has invited the girls to visit the school on 19th July.

Parents/Carers please fill out the attached permission slip and hand back to your child’s class teacher by July 17.

Breakfast Club

Each Wednesday/Thursday/Friday morning the school offers children the opportunity to enjoy a healthy breakfast prepared in our kitchen. This program is operated by volunteers. We have a vacancy for a volunteer for Wednesdays and Thursdays. This program runs for approximately 30 mins from 8.30 each morning. Members of our school community are invited to become involved in this important school program. If you are able to spend a little time helping our children in this way. Please contact the school.
Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)

Our school is taking part in a national collection of data on young children’s development. It is called the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI). The AEDI is an Australian Government initiative which provides information about how populations of Australian children are developing by the time they reach school.

The next collection will occur between May and July this year. Your child’s teacher will complete a checklist – like a survey or questionnaire – based on their knowledge and observations of your child. The AEDI is not a test and it does not require your child to be taken out of class.

Collated AEDI data will be released publicly. While individual names and details are supplied for data collection individual children cannot be identified in the AEDI results. Additionally, the web-based data entry system is a secure site for data entry. Your child’s information will be kept secure at all times and apart from its use as described in this letter, will not be used for any other purpose. You can see how the 2009 data were presented by visiting www.aedi.org.au. It is expected that the results from the 2012 collection will be presented in a similar way.

The AEDI will be used for policy and planning, data analysis and statistical and research purposes. Data may also be combined with information from other organisations to improve programs and policies for young children.

If you would like more information about the AEDI, please refer to the enclosed frequently asked questions, contact the school, visit www.aedi.org.au, or phone 1800 092 548.

Term 2 Grade 5-6 camp

Further to the article from last week’s newsletter the school would like to thank Jane Patterson, Heather Bond and Wendy Brelis for driving their cars up to Hagley, this enabled us to transport extra equipment and students to the camp. We would also like to acknowledge all the help and support leading up to and on camp that the office staff and Teachers put in to enable the camp to be such a great success.

Linking with Newtown High

Every Wednesday grade 4/5S and 3/4 Cole work with a group from the high school. Today we went to the top and bottom courts an played two games. The first game we played was a sort of basket ball game. The other game was basically like Poison Alley but instead we got into groups. It was so fun. In the other game one team had to through the ball into the basket while the other team ran around the court. It was very fun.

A report from Isabella and Brody-Lee

Winter Sports

Started today if you would like a copy of the roster please contact the office.

Wanted

Do you have any photos of you fishing? The library is putting on a display about fishing and they would like some photos to put up. If you can help please write your name on the back of the photo and drop into the office by Tuesday 3rd July.