

Mrs Smoother's Update



Welcome. All students returned to school Refreshed and excited about their learning, ready to make this an awesome year.

Staff and students made plans and set goals around what they could do to achieve

awesomeness. Annie and Eli to who are in Kinder, are already very engaged learners.

Marty and Adam are setting a great example as our school leaders for this year.



Teaching and Learning. In English our theme is belonging. The students will read, view and create a range of texts to gain an understanding, acceptance and empathy for others who may be different from them in a variety of social settings. We have looked at texts such as *Stellaluna* by Janelle Canon, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and the song lyrics of *Black Fella White Fella* by Neil Murray. The students have produce information texts about bats and written about and created drawings of their secret garden. This theme of Belonging links well with the PDHPE topics of Bullying and Relationships.

In HSIE the topic of study is *Change through Time*. The students have looked at changes over time, drawn timelines of changes in their own lives, and looked at fashion and technology changes with Mrs Vimpany.

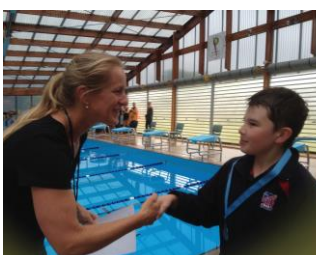
In Science and Technology the students are studying the Natural Environment. The content is based on the way living things have a variety of needs, and lifecycles.

Tanya Siddell will continue to teach Music to the students for one and a half hours per fortnight for this term. The students are continuing to learn the recorder, and the lessons are designed to teach musical concepts around the instrument.

School Photos. The beautiful shots of the children were again taken by Donna Davidson. Donna took a number of other photos of the students that will be used for a variety of publications across the year.

Swimming Carnival. The Snow Gums small schools swimming carnival last Friday was a great success. Congratulations to Adam

Jolly who was named the 11 yrs Boy Champion, and to Macey, Elsie, Ruben and Cody for their efforts in relays. Thank you to Linley Ryan and Nicole Rooke for their organisation and running of the carnival and to all the other staff, parents and friends that helped out on the day.



School Calendar

T1 Week 5

Thursday, 26th February 2015 - School Banking
Friday, 27th February 2015 - Library
Friday, 27th February 2015 - School Assembly 2.30pm



T1 Week 6

Monday, 2nd March 2015 - Vision Screening for Kinder Students
Thursday, 5th March 2015 - School Banking
Friday, 6th March 2015 - Library

T1 Week 7

Thursday, 12th March 2015 - School Banking
Friday, 13th March 2015 - Library

T1 Week 8

Wednesday, 18th March 2015 - Harmony Day (Black Mountain)
Thursday, 19th March 2015 - School Banking
Friday, 20th March 2015 - Library

T1 Week 9

Book Fair
Monday 23rd March 2015 - Outback Scripture
Thursday, 26th March 2015 - Finlayson Sports (Chandler)
Thursday, 26th March 2015 - School Banking
Friday, 27th March 2015 - Library

T1 Week 10

Thursday, 2nd April 2015 - School Banking
Thursday, 2nd April 2015 - Last Day Term 1
Friday, 3rd April 2015 - Good Friday

End of Year Presentation Afternoon - 03/12/2015

Book Fair. This year we are holding our Scholastic Book Fair much earlier to take advantage of voting in the state election that will be held on Saturday 28th March. The Fair will commence on Monday 23 March and be set up in the school hall. Students, parents, family and friends will be able to purchase a variety of books and other stationary throughout the week as well as on polling day. The theme for this year's book fair is Kings, Queens & Castles.

Every School Every Student. At the end of last year we received our allocation under this program to support students with additional needs. Our allocation dropped to one half day per week for the next three years.. With Carol O'Hara on long service leave, this position is being filled by Mrs Sally Purvis one day per fortnight. Sally has been working as a learning and support teacher for a number of years and she will continue to provide intensive one to one support for the students during her allocated time.

2015 homework planner. Children and families run more smoothly when there's a plan. The 2015 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year. Find out more <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-andstudy/homework-tips>

Campout with Kids. Last week I attended professional learning run by Uplifting Australia on how to facilitate *Campout with Kids*. *Campout with Kids* is an experiential program where a child and a parent camp overnight and engage in fun activities facilitated by school staff. Children and parents:

- Spend one- on – one time together
- Share stories and
- Participate in group activities.

Parents also:

- Participate in a safe, non-judgemental parenting strategies session and
- Acknowledge and celebrate qualities in their child.

Due to our low numbers we will be combining with some other small schools across the area to offer this program to the students in Years 3 and Year 4 early next term in Armidale over a Friday night, Saturday morning. Further information will be sent home closer to the event.

Denise Smoother
Principal



★★★★ School Awards ★★★★★

Merit Certificate	Adam Jolly – <i>Demonstrating Fantastic Leadership Skills</i>
Merit Certificate	Marty Ryan – <i>Demonstrating Fantastic Leadership Skills</i>
Merit Certificate	Eli Jolly – <i>Excellent attitude to his learning</i>
Merit Certificate	Macey Wake – <i>Excellent attitude to her learning</i>



Tips & Hints

All about apostrophes

Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here's an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership

Multiplication times tables

Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here's School A to Z's help sheet:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4024.pdf>

Sorting fact from fiction

Help your child develop their "dodgy website" antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/sorting-fact-from-fiction>