

# St Philomena's School, Moree

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

55 Boston Street, Moree NSW 2400

Term 2, Week 4



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On a daily and weekly basis, so much happens educationally within the fence perimeter of our school! As a way to celebrate education, **next week** May 25<sup>th</sup> – May 29<sup>th</sup>, **Education Week** has been scheduled across NSW schools. To celebrate this event, we will prepare a *special feature spread* to accompany the newsletter, celebrating each class K-10 and on Thursday provide an **Open Day** opportunity for parents to visit their children's classrooms, at any point during the day. Parents may wish to consider packing an additional morning tea or lunch and staying on a little longer to share the break. Student workbooks will be available and lessons will continue as usual. Next week, we will publish a class overview so that parents are aware of the day's events.

Embracing opportunities when they are offered presents challenge to move out of our comfort zones or to maximise skills and talents that have been fostered. In this capacity, all our Years 3-6 students will present their speeches next week, at the **Primary Public Speaking Competition**, a focus of talking and listening that we have been developing over a number of years. Additionally, congratulations to our Year 10 students who participated in **MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly)** Conference in Narrabri, over the weekend. Their preparedness and enthusiasm, as you will see in more detail, allowed them to 'talk the talk' and have an opinion, based on fact.

Due to rain, our Years 3-6 PSSA Zone Cross Country runners have gained a rest period, until the rescheduled participation date of 28<sup>th</sup> May. In the event of doubt surrounding events such as this taking place, 2VM provides concise information of cancellations.

As always in our parent community, there are those who need our support. Please keep the Ledingham family in your prayers: Mark, Katie, Adam, Henry and Claire. We offer our prayers as Mark undergoes treatment in Sydney.

**Karen Jagers**

## SECONDARY NEWS

### SECONDARY ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

Last Friday the Assessment Calendar for Term 2 was distributed to all Secondary students. The Assessment Calendar outlines the due dates (e.g. for assignment work) or date of examination (e.g. for topic tests, semester examinations etc.). It should be kept in a prominent area (e.g. the fridge at home, or on your son's/daughter's study desk) so that students can plan their time efficiently to ensure the effective completion and/or preparation for assessment tasks.

Week 6 is the Semester Examination Week for most Year 9 and Year 10 key learning areas (KLAs or subjects). Some Year 7 and Year 8 KLAs will also be completing Semester Examinations or Topic Tests (which are usually based on one or two units of work only) at this time. Students should commence revision for Semester Examinations NOW.

**Alana Goldman**

### ESSA RESULTS

Today, all Year 9 students will be receiving their results for the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) which was conducted state wide during November last year. ESSA is an assessment program that provides information about the scientific knowledge, skills and attitudes of 14-year-old students. The test became mandatory for Year 8 students in NSW schools in 2007.

The aim of ESSA is to enhance teaching and learning in science and to support the integration of assessment into the teaching-learning cycle. Test items were presented in a test booklet accompanied by a coloured stimulus magazine. The test consisted of: three extended tasks (which provided the opportunity to assess higher order thinking and deep understanding); and seventy five short response and multiple choice items. Assessment items were framed in real-life situations related to self, the family and the community. The items gave students the opportunity to demonstrate their understandings at both local and global levels.

The focus of the assessment were the mandatory outcomes and their associated essential content as described in the NSW Board of Studies *Science Years 7-10 Syllabus*, 2003. Students were tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgments and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas using a variety of strategies

Each student has been provided with a thorough summary of their abilities within each area examined.

**Alana Goldman**

### MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly)

On Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the MUNA Conference in Narrabri with two Year 10 students, Kieran Lincoln and Tom Sharples. The MUNA Conference is attended by students from Years 10, 11 and 12 throughout northern New South Wales. Pairs of students are allocated a country of the world and attend the conference as that country and take part in debates over the two days. Tom and Keiran attended as the United Arab Emirates.

The boys were designated speakers in three debates. The topics were:

\*Recognising the worldwide economic importance of oil, to call upon member nations to support an initiative which places caps on oil prices in conjunction with:

- increasingly stricter standards for the consumption of oil by vehicles and machines; and
- developing alternative sources of energy

\*That regarding the resolution of the ongoing instability of Afghanistan, the UN develop a proposal to dismember this artificially created country, and unite the differing ethnic/language groups with their kin in the relevant overlapping regions of Pakistan, Tajikistan and Iran, and in so doing restore ancient borders.

\*That the dictatorial government of Sudan be condemned for its crimes against humanity; including those against the people of the Darfur region; and those against the predominantly non Arab/non Muslim people of southern Sudan.

As you can see, the topics for debate covered big issues in our world today and Keiran and Tom did a terrific job presenting their opinion. MUNA is a wonderful opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zone, improve their self confidence and public speaking skills and meet other enthusiastic students from NSW. Well done boys!

### Year 10 Geography Fieldwork

Tomorrow our year 10 students will be attending their compulsory fieldwork excursion. Students cover water, waste, land and air quality management. On Wednesday students will complete a tour of the new Waste Management Facility followed by a tour of Auscott. At Auscott students will be introduced to the measures introduced by the staff there to limit water use, decrease waste and improve the quality of soil and air. This fieldwork trip has been undertaken by students for the past 4 years and prepares them well for the School Certificate exam.

### Michael Murray Talk

Last Thursday Michael Murray spoke to year 10 Geography students about the management of the Gwydir River Catchment. Mr Murray outlined to students the system of water licenses, the cost of the water and how the Gwydir River Catchment is managed. He also outlined the system of water allocations and how our local farmers have been affected over the last 3 years with very little water in Copeton Dam. Mr Murray finished his presentation with some predictions for the Gwydir Catchment over the next ten years. On behalf of year 10 I would like to thank Mr Murray for his valuable presentation to our 10 students.

Sean Baldwin

### Bingara All Schools Carnival

A reminder to students and parents that our Year 8 and Year 10 netball teams as well as our 13yrs rugby league team will be competing at the Bingara Carnival on Saturday May 30th. Parents and players will be notified of game times as soon as the draw arrives. Notes will be

Our Mission is to provide students with a Catholic Education in a caring, disciplined environment where striving for excellence and respect for others are promoted.

received today.

### Diocesan Cross Country/Golf/Tennis

Our mass participation Diocesan Day will be held in Moree on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>. The cross country will be run around the walking track of the Mehi river. The track makes a perfect 3 kilometre circuit. Races will commence and conclude at the Tourist Information Centre. The golf and tennis championships will be played at their respective venues in Moree. We will also be conducting debating and chess competitions on the day, if supported by our diocesan schools. All students in the secondary will play a role in one of the activities on the day. If any parents would like to help please don't hesitate to contact Mrs McCowan or myself at school.

Sean Baldwin

## PRIMARY NEWS

### K-6 Uniforms

This time of the year always offers a mixture of weather. From now on students may wear either summer or winter uniform. For those students who elect to wear the winter uniform the following must apply:

Girls: The school tie must be worn with the long sleeved shirt, buttoned up at the neck.

Boys: Long sleeved shirt buttoned up at the neck, school tie and long trousers.

*The official changeover date to winter uniform is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June.*

Amanda McLeod

### K-6 STUDENT PORTFOLIOS

Thank you for those which have been returned. If you still have a portfolio at home, please send it back to school.

Amanda McLeod

### 1R2R and 2SO Guided Reading

Guided reading in 1R2R and 2SO will recommence this week. The sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 – 11:00. If you are able to assist us with this program, please come to the session that suits you best. Thank you in advance.

Dayna Raulston, Trish Siddins and Catrina O'Mullane

### Banning Junk Food Advertising

The Cancer Council of NSW is holding a campaign concerning the impact of unhealthy food marketing on the health of children. The Cancer Council is asking any parents who support a ban on unhealthy food advertising during times that children are watching television, to write an email to the Commonwealth Minister for Health, calling for tighter restrictions. If you are interested and would like to know more, visit [www.burgercorp.com.au](http://www.burgercorp.com.au)

Dayna Raulston - K-6 Coordinator

### ATHLETICS TRAINING

There will be **no athletics training** this week.

### Years 5-6 Rugby League Training

Rugby League training is on Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm on the school oval for all boys interested in playing in the Legends of League Carnivals. All boys must wear appropriate clothing and a mouth guard is essential.

Toni Munro

## UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

**TUESDAY** 2.00PM—4.00PM

**THURSDAY** 8.30AM—10.30AM

## CANTEEN HELPERS & NEWS

**Wednesday:** Kate Ledingham, Bernadette Fernance, Lyn Hamilton, Louise Alchin

**Thursday:** Penny Jones, Helen Livingston, Felicity Manchee, Sara Greer, Cath Cannington, Karen Gall, Ruth Matthews

**Friday:** Fiona Bowden, Angela Ward, Kelly Rae, Melissa Croser, Jane Angus, Jane Davis

**Monday:** Helen O'Neill, Nerida Finlayson, Zeljana Cikota, Margeurite Wyatt

**Tuesday:** Katrina Squires, Colleen Kuypers, Colleen Knox, Sara Sampson, Terry-anne Turner

**FISH BURGERS ARE AVAILABLE THIS THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY ONLY!!**

**Fish Burger \$2.80**  
**Fish and Salad Burger \$2.80**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

\*P&F meeting

\*Yr 10 HSIE Fieldwork Excursion - Waste Management facility/Auscott

\*Bill Turner Cup Soccer **CANCELLED**—Gunnedah has forfeited the match

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

\*Yr 10 Science Excursion Narrabri Cotton Centre/Gin/Farm

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

\*Education Week

\*Primary Public Speaking Competitions

\*Yr 4 Reconciliation

\*Wii Gaay Excursion

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

\*Stage 4 Mass

\*Primary Public Speaking Competitions

\*Wii Gaay Excursion

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

\*Prefect Afternoon Tea

\*Secondary CCC Hockey Tournament (Grafton)

\*School Board Meeting

\*Primary Public Speaking

\*ICAS Computer Competition

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### PIUS X ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Pius X Aboriginal Corporation is conducting a competition for the design of a new Corporation logo.

The logo will:

- Involve the name of Pius X Aboriginal Corporation
- Show Pius X Aboriginal Corporation's involvement in health, education, mental and dental health
- Show clearly that the Corporation is Aboriginal, and
- Depict Aboriginal unity

**Closing date: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2009**

All staff and committee members of Pius X Aboriginal Corporation are ineligible to participate in this competition.

No limit on the number of entries per person. No entry fee.

All entries submitted as part of this competition remain the property of Pius X Aboriginal Corporation.

For further information please contact: Mrs Kim Connors on 67521099 or [admin@piusx.com.au](mailto:admin@piusx.com.au)  
A prize will be given to the successful design.

## P&F NEWS

The next P&F meeting will be held tomorrow night, 20<sup>th</sup> May, at 7pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Lidia Mathews