Dear Parents and Community members,

Amazingly the end of term has crept up on us very quickly. Next Friday is our last day for the term before we have 2 weeks holiday. Please note that school resumes on Tuesday 22nd April.

The past few weeks have been exceptionally busy with various activities happening in and around school.

The Year 6/7 students have been engaging in a variety of classroom and extra-curricula activities that have been keeping them exceptionally busy. I am happy to say that they represented our school proudly at the Choral Fest on Sunday and Monday. It was a fabulous opportunity for them to experience and I would like to thank Mrs Cheryl Mitchell, our Music teacher for teaching our students the songs so avidly.

During our parades on a Monday morning, we have been reviewing our school rules. All students are able to recite our 3 major rules (Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful) and they have all been doing a great job following the rules.
Reading at Home

Over the Easter break it is important for students to continue reading and practising their reading skills at home. When students are not reading over the holiday breaks, we often see a drop in their reading abilities and levels when they return to school, and this can be quite frustrating to both the teacher and the student when planning to work towards their individual reading goals.

Below are a few general reading hints for parents when reading with their children at home:

Before Reading

- Talk about the cover, illustrations and title.
- Ask your child if this reminds them of anything else.
- Ask your child what they can see on the cover.
- What do they think it is going to be about?
- Talk about the reading strategies they can use if they get stuck on a tricky word.

During Reading

- Read aloud to your child with expression and enthusiasm. Model what good readers do and how reading can be fun!
- Encourage your child to join in with any rhyme or repetition.
- When they are ready, ask your child to have a go at reading by themselves.
- Ask your child what they think might happen next.
- Talk about what is happening in the illustrations.

After Reading (ask your child one or two of these or something similar)

- Ask your child to retell the story.
- What was his / her favourite part of the story and / or character and why?
- Does the story remind him / her of anything else?
- Is there anything they would like to do as a result of their reading?
- Did anything happen that they did not expect?
- What could have happened differently and why?
- If your child could be one of the characters, who would they be and why?
- Did they learn anything new from reading?
- Did they like the book? Why / why not?
Congratulations to all families and students for the selling of chocolates so far! The P&C bank account will be growing in no time, which in turn will benefit the students. Please have your money back to the school office as soon as possible.

Congratulations to all students for their brilliant work ethic, dedication and effort they have displayed this term. Although we are just over a week until holidays, I can proudly admit that these beautiful kids continue to work and learn as is expected of them.

As this will be the last newsletter for the term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Easter and a safe holiday.

Kind regards,
Mrs Parkes

**TUCKSHOP** — Change of menu to the tuckshop being held this Friday 28th March. You can purchase a $5 meal deal which consists of: a hotdog, a drink and a Easter egg. Please bring along an envelope with your money and order.

**PLAYGROUP** — The community playgroup continues to be a popular activity for the smaller children in our community. It is lovely to see their smiley faces each Tuesday. The last playgroup for the term will be on Tuesday 1st March.

**PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS** — Report cards do not get issued until the end of Term 2 however interviews will be available on Monday 21st March and Tuesday 1st April. Times available are between 2:30 - 3:30pm each day. Please contact the office or see Mrs Parkes if you would like to make an appointment.

**LIBRARY BOOKS** — All library books need to be returned to school next Wednesday 2nd April.

**SCHOOL GROUNDS** — A big thank you to Angela for your wonderful “green thumb” work around the school grounds this week. Everyone’s help this term has been greatly appreciated.
Week 6 — Student of the Week — Alannah
For displaying Positive Behaviours and completing work in class

Week 7 — Student of the Week — Bridget
For 7 weeks of amazing work

Week 8 — Student of the Week — Ethan
For the way you care for younger students.
Student Awards

Alannah
Aqua M 200 words
Read books for 25 nights

Bridget
Purple M 200 words
Read books for 25 nights
Convicts of Van Diemen’s Land
By Liam Gesche

This description will tell us about work, leisure, housing, clothing, diet and treatment.

Housing and leisure:
Convicts often had very bad housing and beds. They stayed in archway prisons with no windows. The leisure they got was a ticket to travel for a short amount of time.

Work and clothing:
Convicts had old raggy clothes and dirty clothes. Their work included ploughing, cutting wood, cracking rock and building roads.

Diet and Treatment:
A convicts diet was poor. They had bread and dough. They were entitled to meat but got no fresh vegetables or fruit. Convicts weren’t treated very nicely, they got bossed around, flogged, whipped by the cat-o-nine tails and sometimes even shot. They were made to carry around heavy balls and chains.

Convicts of Van Diemen’s Land
By Abbey Deguara

Life for a convict in Van Diemen’s Land was tough, brutal and not pleasant. Convicts had poor housing, little food and they were treated cruelly. Convicts had ragged clothing and worked in a harsh environment.

Housing:
Most convicts slept outside with no shelter, or were put in dark, crowded, tiny caves. They hardly ever had a nice place to sleep and rarely had blankets or pillows. Convicts were hot and found it very uncomfortable to sleep.

Leisure:
Convicts didn’t have a lot of leisure, whether they were male or female. To leave, they needed a “ticket of leave” which gave them permission to travel. When they arrived at their destination, they had to hand in their ticket to the policeman. They were given 3-4 months to travel.

Work:
Convicts worked in harsh environments and did a lot of work. Women did jobs such as scooping chook poo, collecting vegetables, gardening, washing clothes, washing dishes. They also did whatever their master told them to do, and some women worked in factories. The male convicts were put in chain gangs when they were travelling to another work place so they wouldn’t run away. Male convicts would build houses and would excavate stone. Some men would hunt and cart important men up hills and through forests.
CHORAL FESTIVAL
Well Done - Abbey, Jasmine & Liam
Who is this bunny?
This term, Year 6 & 7 students have been required to design and construct a go-cart. The design brief states it must be predominately made of wood, must have a braking and steering system. A flag is also required.

A big thank-you to Mr Parkes and Mr Deguara for helping out!
This Term the Prep—2 students had to build a raft using only 20 paddle pop sticks and it had to include a sail and had to be able to float with a small toy on board.