Dear Parents and Caregivers

The Woolies ‘Earn and Learn’ promotion has officially finished and we are now asking for all completed sheets to be returned to school, please, along with any loose stickers or incomplete sheets. We are in the process of tallying them up, ready to send into Woolworths.

So how did we do? Much better than anyone would have thought, I suspect! We have in the vicinity of 85 completed sheets, with a few more on the go, waiting to be filled. Thanks to the Parent Club’s initiative, the box placed in Woolworths in Clare was full of stickers, which Pat Quick kindly volunteered husband John to stick on the sheets for us! Thankyou so much for your efforts, John, as I am sure the students will enjoy and benefit from the things we order as a result.

So, what are we going to order with our windfall of ‘Earn and Learn’ points? I thought we might look at sports equipment after a comment made by a student last week. This child had brought a vortex from home to use (we were on a ‘break’ from football) and when I said that there were probably more in the sports shed, the reply came that they were all broken. As far as what to use the points for, I won’t be the one coming up with the ideas, as my intention is to hand that one back to the students. They can do an audit of what’s in the shed, work out what’s needed and prioritise their list. Knowing kids, and if they’re anything like the students that I supported in a similar process at Robertstown Primary, they will have it worked out in a flash and their list will be well thought out and comprehensive.

I will let you know how we get on with that process and what we end up ordering. Again, our thanks to everyone who got involved, it was a real community effort and the students will certainly benefit.

In other news, Ms Shellee Harradine will the acting Principal for the first four weeks next term while I am on leave. Shellee is currently working as an Australian Curriculum Advisor based at the Clare Regional Office. Shellee has worked with staff on a number of occasions through the Horrocks Hill Hub, most recently at the Student Free Day on using ‘PAT-R’ (reading) tests with students and how to best extract useful information about students’ progress from the data. Staff have appreciated the level of competence Shellee brings to her curriculum role and the quality of the information and resources she has shared and made available.

Shellee is looking forward to the experience of being the Principal at Manoora and I am confident, as are staff, that she will be able to make valuable contributions to progress our site learning plan and to the life of the school as a whole. As well as the admin role, Shellee will also pick up my teaching role within each classroom for the four weeks. A ‘handover’ has been planned for Friday 28 June, with Shellee spending the day here to meet and greet staff and students and to get to know the school. It is also the day we farewell Mrs Nagamma Hill after her five week stint as Year 4 – 7 class teacher and the day that students will also be planting some trees and bushes around the yard to enhance the look of the school. It will be a busy day, I think!

Finally, I would like to say thankyou to Nagamma for her work and efforts as the Year 4 – 7 class teacher over the last four weeks and also for next week, her last week with us. In this time the class has run smoothly and students have been engaged with the learning opportunities that she has offered. Nagamma has put in a lot of her own time to ensure that the classroom programme was relevant and interesting and followed on from what the students were doing previously. Well done, Nagamma, and all the best!

Tracy Griffin
Need a boost to your mid-year school budget?

The second payment of the Schoolkids Bonus is coming in July. If you are eligible you could receive up to $205 for each primary student and up to $410 for each secondary student.

You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school and receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or you are a primary or secondary student receiving an income support payment.

If you think you are eligible and you haven’t already updated your child’s education details with Centrelink, then visit Online Services by 29 June 2013 to ensure you receive the correct amount and are paid on time.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund in January 2013 so eligible families cannot claim education expenses in their 2012-13 income tax return.

To ensure you receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment in July, check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus