Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope everyone heard the resounding ‘YES!’ when I asked the students whether or not they had enjoyed Sports Day. I hope you felt, as I did, that the students’ obvious satisfaction with the day made our efforts worthwhile. That big ‘YES’ was payment enough!

Thankyou to everyone who attended Sports Day and contributed in some way, it really was the best example of a whole school community team effort, parents and staff together. Thankyou for

- line marking
- delivering sand
- transporting equipment to the oval (and back again)
- setting up activities
- scoring
- fetching balls

- organising lunches
- providing oranges
- joining in the games
- getting excited about a ribbon
- cheering us on.

Final scores were so close, with Gilbert, our green team, taking out line honours by just half a point; 43.8 to Wakefield’s 43.3. Well done everyone on a great day!

A few things from the Governing Council meeting last night:

- Christmas Raffle: each family has been asked to seek donations toward the raffle. Letters that can be taken to businesses are available from the school. Please return to school by the end of next week, 20th September.
- The Materials and Services Charge (school fees) have been set at $150 per annum. Governing Council recommended that the amount charged not be revisited for two years.
- There will be a working bee at the school on Thursday 19 September (next week) starting at 3.30 pm to remove bushes, etc, so that our donated roses can be planted.

Work will start on re-cladding the Admin building at the end of this term, after much discussion about colours! I, for one, am looking forward to seeing how good this building will look.

One of the things I did last night, while I waited for the Governing Council meeting to start, was to read the executive summary of a report on a study into student attendance and its effects on student performance. The study was conducted in Western Australia and on the data from all students who were enrolled at any point from 2008 – 2012, so it is very comprehensive. Given the nature of the study their findings are applicable to other states as well and I believe it is worthwhile sharing some of the findings I found particularly interesting.

A couple of things to whet your appetite for the full 251 pages of the report include:

- Average academic achievement on NAPLaN tests declined with any absence from school and continued to to decline as absence rates increased
- This relationship between absences and achievement – across all groups of students – (in their words) ‘strongly suggests that every day of attendance in school contributes towards a child’s learning, and that academic outcomes are enhanced by maximising attendance in school’
- There is no ‘safe’ threshold – any absence affects student achievement and outcomes.
- The effects of absence also accumulate over time and have an ongoing impact on students’ learning.

It bears thinking about, doesn’t it? Attending school every day is important, not just in the here and now, but for the future. And we all want the best for our children.

Tracy Griffin

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2013 NAPLaN Reports
Sites have been advised this morning that there was an error printing the individual student reports nationally. I am not sure at this stage whether reports will be available for parents before the end of term. I will keep you informed.
**Manoora Centenary Park Inc.**

**Notice of AGM**

To be held at Manoora Centenary Park Clubrooms, Tuesday September 17th.

Drinks and nibbles from 7pm, meeting to follow.

Bring a friend, come for a few drinks and support your community!

Any queries contact Nathan: 0419 816 779

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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- September 12th - Gilbert Valley Sports Day at Owen
- 13th - Choir performance at Festival Theatre
- 18th - J.P. Field Trip
- 19th - Parents’ Club Meeting 9am
  - Working Bee 3.30 pm
- 20th - Music Concert for Classes
- 23rd - Year 6/7 Leadership
- 24th - New York Dance at Saddleworth
- 26th - Assembly 2.45
  - Last Day of Term 3
- 27th - Student Free Day

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**BEETROOT FOR SALE**

Made from our Beetroot grown here at School.

$5 per large jar

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**SADDLEWORTH EARLY LEARNING CENTRE TENDERS**

SELC Cleaning Contract – 10 hours per fortnight during school terms, plus 6 hours over Christmas Holidays.

Contact Barbara Germein for Job Description Ph 88474245 or 88474080/

Applications close 13/9/2013  ABN number required.

No tender necessarily accepted.

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Family Advocacy is a free service for people with disability issues aged 0-65 yrs. We are independent of the department of education or other disability services. We provide assistance to achieve better opportunities for people with disabilities. Generally people need to be eligible for the services of Disability SA, Novita or Autism SA or seeking diagnosis for that level of support. In schools we often offer assistance through the family helping with Negotiated Education Plans (NEPs), or transitions such as seeking diagnosis, starting, changing or leaving school. We also help adult individuals in challenges they may be facing or groups to help improve systems. Our aim is to enable people with disabilities and their families who care for them, to fully participate in decision making and to work together as true partners to achieve better life opportunities. You are welcome to phone to discuss how we may assist. Ph Kerry 88422866 or 0419801535 or email faicountrynorth@familyadvocacy.org.au
On August 28th we went to Saddleworth Primary school for a cooking demonstration with the main ingredient being mushrooms. Dianne Allen came from Riverton High School and bought some students to help her cook. They made chilli jam mushrooms and mushroom, leek and pappadelle ragu.
Students could sample the foods if they wanted to. Most that did said they were yummy, although the chilli jam mushrooms were a little hot for some!

We also were given a bag of mushrooms for each dad on Fathers Day and we hope you enjoyed those.

Last Thursday we had Footy Colours Day at school. It was fantastic to see everyone dressed in their footy gear. We raised $45.50 which is a great effort. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Competition winners were:
R-3 Trivia- 1st Jesse  
4-7 Trivia- 1st Lachie  
R-3 Long kick- 1st Seb  
4-7 Long kick- 1st Lachie  
2nd Hayden & Jed  
2nd Alister & Sam  
2nd Hayden  
2nd Isaac

We spent our Maths lesson yesterday counting dried peas. The class has never been so quiet! The grand total was 8,440. Jesse was the winner with a guess of 8,994. Thank you to everyone who participated.

A word from the two captains regarding Sports Day.
Georgia: Some things I liked about Sports Day is that we did more team games with the parents. I also liked having Subway for lunch and being captain.

Lachie: I liked being team captain for Gilbert. I didn’t like the team colours. I liked getting 14 in the Pitchback. I liked winning the whole day.
Sports Day.
Nathan ran in a race.
   By Tim

On Sports Day, first we did Long Jump and our team was Gilbert. After Long Jump we did Accuracy Kick. Then we did T-Ball. I did a big hit and after that we did Triple Jump. Then we did Over and Under. After that we did Tunnel Ball. After Tunnel Ball we did Pass the Baton. After that we did Egg and Spoon race, and Megan was in a race. She won the race! Ms Griffin said who won and it was Gilbert!
   By Chloe

On Friday we had Sports Day. First Wakefield went to do Sprints. Gilbert went to do Long Jump. Before that we had Subway. Then we played football. After we played football we started Sports Day. After we did Sprints, Ms Griffin blew the fog horn, so we changed. After that we did Triple Jump. We went to Accuracy Throw. After we did all of them the adults did it. After the adults were done, we sat in a group next to Ms Griffin, and Ms Griffin announced the winner. It was Gilbert. Then we went home.
   By Lucy

On Manoora; Sports Day we were Wakefield. We had a draw, and we called ourselves ‘Wicked Wakefield’. When we had to change, Ms Griffin had a megaphone. We did Sprints, Long Jump, Accuracy Kick and Accuracy Throw.
   By Seb
MID NORTH JUNIOR GOLF

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
MONTHLY COMPETITION

Sunday 29th September 2013 at the Kapunda Golf Club
Registration for 9 and 18 hole players at 8:30 am
for 9:00 am tee off

$10 casual fee for non-members

Drinks and lunch are provided. Please confirm your attendance
for catering purposes via email to Al Hayter on
ajphayter@bigpond.com

For more information contact
Al Hayter – Mid North Junior Golf
Coordinator
Mobile 0439 381 086

More Info, Registration Forms etc. in the Front Office.