Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the start of the 2013 school year! My first ‘job’ yesterday was yard duty and it was great to see the students arrive at school with smiles on their faces, excited about catching up with their friends and teachers, however much they might have groaned about returning to school the night before at home!

We began the day with a short assembly in the church to meet and greet everyone and to talk about what was happening for the term, before moving off to class. The happy chatter continued throughout the day as students learnt or revisited classroom routines, organised equipment and timetables and began lessons. I particularly enjoyed my visits to the classes to see how everyone was settling in, teachers included!

Twenty-three students are currently enrolled at Manoora Primary School, with no further enrolments expected for the remainder of the year. There are 12 students in Banksia (Reception – Year 3) with 11 students in Years 4 – 7 in Waratah. Our student population is drawn from a total of 13 families at present.

Our staff this year are:

-Ms Tracy Griffin  Principal
-Teaching R – 2 (History and Design and Tech) and Years 4 – 7 (Art and Science)
-Miss Kayla Siviour  Year 4 – 7 class teacher
-Mrs Sharryn Johnson  Reception – Year 2 class teacher (except Wed.)
-Mrs Belinda Nichols  Reception – Year 2 class teacher (Wednesdays)
-Mrs Lyn Friebel  Finance Officer (Wednesdays and Fridays)
-Mrs Marie Schwarz  Admin Officer, classroom support and library
-Mr Linden Calley  Groundsperson (Tuesdays and Fridays).

There are a few new names on the list and everyone has made every effort to answer all our questions and to ensure that we feel a part of the staff team. Speaking for myself, I can honestly say it has been one of the best starts I have ever had to a year and the staff here have been a very big part of that, so thank you.

A few things for the diary: we have swimming lessons next week at the Riverton Pool, leaving school around 11.30 am and returning about 2 pm. Students will need to bring their lunch, recess and drink bottle each day as well as their bathers, a towel, sunscreen and a plastic bag for their wet gear afterwards. Consent forms are included with this newsletter and it would be appreciated if they could be returned to school by Friday, please.

The Parent Information Evening will be on Wednesday 13 February (Week 3) followed by a combined staff/parent BBQ. Further details about this event will follow next week.

The Governing Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 19 February (Week 4). The school’s Annual Report will be presented at this meeting, as well as the election of members to the Governing Council. If you are not already a member of the Council and would like to become involved in the school for the benefit of all the students, then you might like to give consideration to nominating yourself to become a member of the group. Nomination forms will be included in the next newsletter or you can nominate in person at the meeting - your interest and support is welcomed.

I have also enjoyed meeting those parents and community members over the last two days who have been able to drop in and say hello and look forward to meeting everyone else over the coming weeks, whether it’s during my yard duties in the morning or at meetings such as the Parent Information session or the upcoming AGM. As I teach most afternoons, mornings are also a good time to catch up, either in person or by phone, if you have something you would like to talk about in relation to your child and what is happening here at school.

Enjoy the remainder of your week, I know I will, and hopefully the weather will continue to warm up a bit for swimming next week!

Tracy Griffin
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 4th – 8th - Swimming lessons at Riverton Pool
February 13th – Parent Information Sessions
February 15th – Ashton Scholastic due back at School

Bushfire Policy
Given that we in the middle of the fire season, a reminder of the school’s procedures for catastrophic days and bush fires in our district is appropriate.

Catastrophic Days
Our school is in the Mid North fire district, and the school is rated R2 for bushfire safety. This means that on days when the CFS declares that the Mid North fire district’s fire danger rating is catastrophic, the school will be closed on that day. Also no school buses, regardless of which school they service in the mid north, will run on that day.
The CFS releases the warnings after 4.00pm the day prior and nominated staff from the school will be notified. Through our emergency contact network, all parents will be informed that the school will be closed during the afternoon or evening prior to the closure occurring. On these catastrophic days no persons are permitted on site at the school.

Local Bushfires
In the event that there is a serious bushfire in the district on a day when the school is open and the fire may impact on the school, the students and staff will move into the school library, which is our nominated bushfire ready building. Here they will remain until the fire has passed, or the CFS declares that it is safe to leave the building.

Riverton Swim School for 2013 Season
Swim School lessons will start Tuesday January 29th, 2013 at Riverton Pool.
Lessons are for half hour duration between 5.00 and 7.00 Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for the first four weeks of Term 1.
Lessons are $7 per child per lesson.
Children aged from 4 yrs to High School are taught stroke techniques for local qualified instructors.
For all enquiries please contact Shirley Lands on 88474201 or 0439 884 742.

YOGA
Commencing February 6th
Wednesday nights
7.30
Manoora Hall
All welcome
For details phone Paul
88492 060
Mobile 0417 492 065