Welcome back to an exciting year of learning and fun

It was evident from the smiling faces that all our students had an enjoyable holiday with their families and that they were excited about returning to school. I would like to wish staff, students and parents a happy, successful and rewarding school year. Over the past two days I have been visiting classrooms and it is very pleasing to see all students settled and working well.

Induction of School leaders

Next Thursday we are holding an assembly to induct the school leaders for 2013 at the RSL Theatrette at 12.00 pm. Parents of our school leaders are invited to come along to the assembly and pin on their child’s badge of office. Invitations will be sent home this week.

New Staff Members

On behalf of the school community I would like to welcome class teachers Brooke Ferguson (S1F), Belinda Sayers (Kinder Red), Brad Flick (S2B) and Daniel Ebert (S3D) to Dubbo Public School. Welcome also to Matt Hare (S1H) who is returning to the school.

Maths Classes

The staff at Dubbo Public School are constantly working towards maximising the educational outcomes for their students. It has been decided to change the way in which maths classes are organised in 2013 from streamed maths groups, as in previous years, to having maths lessons delivered in the students’ home classes by their regular teachers. We have found separate Maths groups to be increasingly unsuccessful for several reasons:

- The time for maths is inflexible
- If a teacher is away and cannot be replaced Maths lessons have to be cancelled
- We often miss maths due to assemblies or special days
- Research shows streamed Maths classes result in no advantage to any students.

The advantages of having Maths in home classes are:

- Teachers can change times of maths to suit their class
- Teachers have more knowledge of the child’s progress. This enables them to report on progress towards achieving Maths goals at Three Way Conferences.

Class Make Up

Staff put in a great deal of time and effort when determining class composition for each year to ensure that classes are as happy, harmonious and productive as we can possibly make them. We aim to have an even distribution of academic abilities and boys and girls across classes. Classes are checked and double checked by all class teachers and myself.

Staff Development – Anaphylaxis Training

Last Tuesday staff members completed an online anaphylaxis course to ensure that we know how to treat children in the case of them experiencing an anaphylactic reaction. Some important information about anaphylaxis appears on page 2 and I would encourage all parents to read this carefully as an anaphylactic reaction can be life threatening.

Kindergarten Best Start Program

Kindergarten students have been coming to school this week to complete their Best Start Assessment. Their first full day of school will be Monday, 4 February.

Pool Day

We were pleased to see the number of students who took part in the Holiday Reading program. Like any other skill reading must be practised regularly so if children do not read a book for 6 weeks over the holidays their reading levels may regress. Children who participated in the Holiday Reading program will continue to improve. Everyone had a great time at the pool and we hope this will encourage more students to take up the offer next year.

Out of Uniform Day

The SRC is holding an out of uniform day and crazy hair day on Tuesday, 5 February to raise money for victims of the Warrumbungles and Coonabarabran area bushfires. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

Dates for Your Diary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4</td>
<td>Kinder students start school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5</td>
<td>Out of Uniform/Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 7</td>
<td>School Leaders’ Induction Assembly, RSL Theatrette, 12.00 pm</td>
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Stage Levy - $40
The Stage Levy payment is now due. The cost this year is $40 for the year per child. The Stage Levy covers items such as scripture books, photocopy paper, text books, maths materials, book covers and much more. Notes will be sent home shortly and need to be returned to class teachers along with payment.

Voluntary Contributions - $40
Voluntary contributions are not compulsory and payment is a matter for decision by parents. Our school requests contributions to enhance the school’s educational and sporting programs. School contributions are $40 per child.

School News
Anaphylaxis (Severe allergic reaction)
Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction which can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect sting). Reactions usually start within minutes of exposure and may progress rapidly over 2 hours or more. Anaphylaxis is a very serious condition as it is potentially life-threatening and has been known to occur in some cases, where there is no history of known allergies. The school has a nut and egg free food policy, as we have students at the school who are anaphylactic to nuts and eggs.

Nut and Egg Free Food Policy
We have some students at our school who have severe allergies to nuts and eggs. If they were to accidentally eat or come into contact with foods that contain nuts or egg they may have a very severe or potentially life threatening anaphylactic reaction. Parents and carers are asked to not send foods containing nuts, nut products or eggs to school. We would like to make our school a safe and happy place for all.

THINGS WE CAN DO
- Always try to bring in ‘safe food’ from home
- Remember not to share our food
- Wash our hands after eating and playing
- Remember our manners when eating

SAFE FOODS INCLUDE
- Fruit, fruit sticks, fruit roll ups
- Cheese sticks and triangles
- Cheese and biscuits
- Plain biscuits
- Potato chips
- Fairy bread
- Sandwich fillings such as vegemite, honey, jam, cheese, cold meats, salad, salmon and tuna.
- Cakes and muffins/ slices/ biscuits that are nut free
- Cakes/ muffins/ biscuits/ slices that have eggs as an ingredient are not considered a risk
- ‘May contain nuts’ statements are not considered a risk

UNSAFE FOODS
- Peanuts, mixed nuts
- Peanut butter, Nutella, Milky Way spread
- Hazelnut dips with biscuits (e.g. packaged nut and dip combinations)
- Muesli bars that have nuts listed as an ingredient
- Chocolate that contains nuts
- Any foods which have nuts as an ingredient
- Egg sandwiches
- Hard boiled eggs

Library Borrowing
Library borrowing will start next week (Week 2) for students in Years 1 to 6 and in Week 3 for Kindergarten. Students in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 must have a library bag for their books. Please ensure that all library bags are clearly marked with the child’s name.

School Uniform Fabric
Adele Oulton, owner of Orana School Uniforms, is willing to purchase a roll of DPS school uniform fabric. Parents who might be interested in purchasing some of this material are asked to contact the school office.

P & C Facebook Page
Parents who are connected to Facebook can keep up with school and P&C news via social media. Simply look up the group Dubbo Public School P&C and request to join.