Dear Parents & Caregivers

SURVEYS
Last week I sent home two surveys on Spelling and Planning. They only take a short time to complete and the results play a most significant role in our future planning.
Results of these surveys, as well as those taken by staff and students will be used in 2014-2016 planning to further enhance school programs.
At this stage I only have about half a dozen parent/caregiver surveys returned. If you’ve misplaced your copy they are available on the newsletter file on our website or please see Veda in the office. Your assistance with the completion and return of these surveys is VERY much appreciated.

YOUNG LEADERS
Last Monday Year 5 and 6 students and I battled the traffic to attend the National Young Leaders Day conference in Brisbane. 3300 young leaders from many other schools were in attendance. This annual event was created in 1997 by the Halogen Foundation to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians.
We had the opportunity to hear from some memorable speakers including Lorin Nicholson – first person with vision impairment to ride over 4,000km across Australia; Karni Liddle – Paralympian; Andy Griffiths – Best selling children’s author; and Wes Mannion – Director of Australia Zoo.

The children enjoyed the performance by group JTR and Brody was put under the spotlight when selected to ask one of the presenters a question.

P&C
I am looking forward to our second P&C meeting for this year on Wednesday at 6pm. Please come along to find out about what is happening at Dungay.

PANCAKE DAY
Year 5 and 6 would like to say thank you to everyone who supported our pancake day on Thursday. It was such a success and a lot of fun so we will definitely be having another one later in the year.

FILM FESTIVAL
Students in years 5 and 6 attended the Byron Bay Film Festival at the Regent in Murwillumbah on Wednesday last week. We watched 8 short films and will be able to incorporate many of the techniques used in our own filmmaking here at school with Mr Simpson.

Family Details Update
A few families have yet to return the parent/carer details update. If you have this attached to your newsletter please check all the details, make any amendments and return it to the school office ASAP. If there are no changes simply put a signature at the top of the page and return it to the office.

Kindy photo
Our kindy students will be photographed by The Daily News TOMORROW, Tuesday 11 March.

(Continued on page 2)
DUNGAY SWIMMING RELAY TEAM

Congratulations to our amazing relay team. Kaitlyn, Shiloh, Tabitha and Kaelin will be off to Lismore this Wednesday after a second place at the Far North Coast carnival last week. We wish them great success after training hard as a team.

STUDENT ABSENCES

The Home School Liaison Officer will be visiting our school this week to perform a roll check. Areas he will be looking at include parent explanation of a student’s absence.

Parents are legally required to send children to school every day that the school is open for instruction or participation in school activities, such as sports days. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- has to go to special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school, or has an infectious illness.

Failure to explain an absence within seven days will be recorded as an unjustified absence on a student’s record. It is these unexplained absences that our new HSLO will be following up on.

Have a great week.

Marg Burgess
Principal

School A to Z

Great books for tweens to read

Favourite books from the Premier’s Reading Challenge team that will inspire kids aged between nine and 13 to read read read!


The Premier’s Reading Challenge is now open for registration. The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. Participation by students is voluntary. Register at www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

From our Community

“Adult Cat Adopt-a-thon”

Friends of the Pound Tweed will be holding this event for two days over the weekend of 22-23 March, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at their Re-homing Booth inside 100% Pets shop, Harvey Norman Homemakers Centre, Greenway Drive South Tweed Heads.

Please remember to take your cat carrier with you.

School photos

Attached to this newsletter is your order form for school photos. Photos will be taken on Wednesday 30 April, which is the first week back after the holidays.

All orders need to be received at school by the end of this term.
Our first Red Day was a great success. The canteen took approximately $180. So thank you to all those who purchased a hot dog. For all those who missed out its ok we will have another hot dog lunch soon.

Easter

Just a reminder that Easter Raffle tickets were sent out last week. All children who bring back a sold book will receive a Special Chance Card for a special draw, drawn at the hat parade on Tuesday 8 April.

We are also asking for donations of Easter Eggs, gift baskets, gift boxes, blocks of chocolate etc for the raffle. Once again for every donation that your child brings in they will receive a Special Chance Card for entry into the special draw.

Attached is a note for Hot Cross Buns, we are having this delicious treat Monday 7 April for recess.

Meeting

The next P & C Meeting is on this Wednesday 12 March at 6pm, we would love to see everyone there. Don’t forget to bring your fantastic ideas. Coffee and a sweet treat will be supplied.

Don’t forget to check this spot for what’s coming up.

Thank you

Dungay P & C

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**Hot Cross Bun Order**

On Monday 7 April we are having a Hot Cross Bun Day for Recess (11am) to get into the spirit of Easter. The kids will receive a Hot Cross Bun & a Hot Chocolate for only $3.00.

Single buns are available for $1.50 each. You may also purchase a take home bag of 6 Hot Cross Buns for $4.50 per pack.

Please select an option and amount of buns

Child’s Name & Class ____________________________________________________________

Hot Cross Bun with a Hot Chocolate ___________________________ @$3.00

Single Hot Cross Bun _________________________________ @$1.50ea

Take home 6 pack __________________________________________ @ $4.50 per pack

Total enc $ ____________________

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP & PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE BEFORE TUESDAY 1 April 2014**

*Remember by supporting the Dungay P & C you are supporting your child. Thank you.*
Dungay Public School
Spelling Parent Survey

This survey is designed to investigate how you view the teaching and learning of spelling at our school. The survey is anonymous and your feedback is very much appreciated.

My child/children is/are in:
☐ Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)
☐ Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
☐ Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)
☐ Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)

Rate each question on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 = not familiar, 5 = very familiar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How familiar are you with how we teach spelling in the classroom at Dungay?</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tr>
<th>How familiar are you with the following spelling terms?</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Phonological Knowledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Visual Knowledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Morphemic Knowledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Etymological Knowledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

What things would you expect to see when children are learning to spell in the classroom?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Does our school provide useful information about your child's progress in spelling? Yes / No

If no, do you have any suggestions for how we can build on what we already do?
_____________________________________________________________________________________

My child/children learn to spell best by: ______________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

When learning to spell the biggest problem my child/children has/have is: __________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any concerns about your child/children's spelling?  Yes / No

If yes what are they? 
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

How important do you think the use of spelling lists are to support children's spelling knowledge?
Why? 
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Do you think spelling homework is essential to ensure children become good spellers?  Yes / No
Why? 
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

How do you think our students are assessed in their spelling knowledge?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Are you confident in assisting your child/children with their spelling knowledge and what do you do at home that you have found has helped them become better spellers?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

What would you like to learn more about in regards to children becoming good spellers?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

What would you like to learn more about in regards to spelling in the classroom?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Would you like to add anything else?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
As part of our school’s self-evaluation we would like to know the opinions of parents and caregivers on different areas of school life.

Your response is confidential and will be stored securely.

Survey completion in voluntary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Almost Always</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
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<tr>
<td>What students are asked to learn is important.</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>The school has involved staff, students and parents in decisions about</td>
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<td>its published statement of school purpose.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The published statement of school purpose reflects the needs of</td>
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<tr>
<td>students.</td>
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<td>The schools activities match its statement of school purpose.</td>
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<td>The annual school report identifies the reasons for school</td>
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<tr>
<td>targets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The main purpose of school targets is to improve student</td>
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<td>learning outcomes.</td>
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<td>School planning documents are developed with the support of staff,</td>
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<td>students and parents.</td>
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<td>The school implements a comprehensive management plan.</td>
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<td>The school’s planning processes are responsive to emerging needs.</td>
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<td>We are told what the school is buying and why.</td>
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Thank you for completing the survey