TERM 1
WEEK 2

5th February 2013

Wednesday 6th February
Kinder rest day

Thursday 7th February
Swimming for Sport – Ganmain Pool

Upcoming events – Friday 15th February
Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival

Book Club order due – 26th February

Matong Public School leaders 2013 –
Kiarah Lenord and Rosie Currie
Principal’s News

Friday’s school memorial service for Mr Lucas celebrated his achievements as a wonderful leader, teacher, colleague and friend and paid tribute to everything he did to make our small school what it is today. Thank you to all parents, carers, family and community members who were able to join us for this special, though solemn, occasion. Special mention and thanks to Neena Evans for her organisation.

As the true spirit of family and community prevails here at Matong PS, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has offered their condolences and support. Together, we will find a way to forge forward into the new school year.

By all accounts, and judging by the happy, smiling faces on the front cover of today’s newsletter, our contingent of new students is settling in well. I am looking forward to getting to know all of our new families.

Kindergarten Best Start assessments were completed last Thursday. Once data entry is finalised, a report will be forwarded detailing suggestions for ways parents and carers can support their child’s learning.

Students are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle to class each day. A hydrated brain is an active brain. More information on the benefits of good hydration can be read in the article included in this week’s newsletter. Thanks to Jannelle Beard for providing this article.

On Monday, all students were issued with their first round of homework for 2013. Homework should be completed, a little each day, and handed to the class teacher on Friday morning. This year, we are using a new system of recording daily home reading on the back of the homework sheet. More about homework and home reading will be explained at the upcoming information evening.

The P & C Welcome BBQ and Information Evening will be held next Tuesday 12th February, commencing at 5 p.m. Please come along for a fun, social get-together and brief information session that will set the tone for us to work together to support your child’s education.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Welcome BBQ and Information Evening.

Regards,
Valerie McKelvie

Lunch Orders

Remember lunch orders are due in by Thursday each week. Volunteers are still required, so please give Rosie Rowland a call on 69277845 if you can help out.

Kindergarten Rest Day Wednesdays

A reminder to the parents of all Kinder students that Wednesdays are a “rest” day to enable them to recharge their batteries for the second half of the week. Let them have a good sleep in and enjoy a relaxing day. This will be the format for the first weeks of this term with Wednesday 13th March being Kinder’s first official Wednesday.

Stage One Homework 2013

You may have noticed that the Stage one homework issued yesterday was in a different format than last year. Acting on feedback from parents last year, it was decided that we would revert back to the format used in previous years with compulsory literacy and numeracy components that are based on what we are learning in class that week.

This year students are asked to write out their spelling words daily and also complete the maths task by Friday each week, doing a little each night. Some parents liked the homework learning activities offered last year, so the school decided to leave that option there for those students and parents who wish to complete the extra work offered. This week home readers and news were listed as ‘Must do’ tasks in the homework choices/learning activities. To avoid confusion next week home readers and news will be compulsory parts of homework. The homework choices will be four optional activities which will also be based on what we are learning in class in our HSIE, Science and PD/H/PE lessons.

The school decided not to purchase the daily reading records this year as the number of students actually completing and using the records was minimal.

I apologise that the homework sheets for Years 1 and 2 were on separate sheets of paper. This was due to scanning/printing issues and it will be a double sided sheet next week.
Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you are unsure of anything, or have any concerns.

Regards
Miss Walsh

Permission Notes / Voluntary School Contributions / Family Details

Many thanks to those who have already returned their permission notes, family details and medical updates and voluntary school contributions as explained in last week’s newsletter. For those who have not yet done so, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned as soon as possible. Voluntary School Contributions are: $30 for one student, $50 for two students or $60 for three or more students. It would be appreciated if this contribution could be paid as soon as personal funds permit, either as a whole payment or in instalments.

To minimise disruption to class routines all permission notes and money are to be placed in the green mailbox located at the front office. Students are asked to do this as soon as they arrive at school.

Arrival and Departure

Supervision is provided from 8:55 a.m. Children arriving prior to this time must be accompanied by a supervising parent/ carer who will stay with the child/ren until 8:55 a.m. Early bus arrivals must sit quietly in the playground until supervision commences.

Students assemble under the COLA between 3:10 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. in their relevant lines for transport home. For safety reasons, students who travel by bus will normally be dismissed first, followed by those who travel by car. Walkers and riders will be dismissed last, once as many vehicles as possible have departed. To expedite this process and optimise safety, it would be appreciated if cars could depart as quickly as possible. If you need to stay a little longer, you may like to park in the school car park. On occasions that you need to get away quickly (before buses depart) please come into the school grounds to collect your child from lines, ensuring you have notified a staff member. Supervision beyond dismissal time is not available as there are many occasions on which staff need to leave the school to reach meetings and professional inservices on time. Your understanding and assistance with this matter is appreciated.

Wanted

If you can donate any of the following items to school, it would be greatly appreciated.

- clean, empty plastic 2L drink bottles with lids. Labels removed
- clean, empty glass or plastic jars with lids. Labels removed eg vegemite or jam jars. Please avoid peanut butter containers.

Swimming for Sport – This Thursday –

Students turning eight years or older in 2013 who intend competing at the Small School’s Swimming Carnival will be swimming for sport again this Thursday 7th February, 2013. Travelling by Mahoney’s bus, we will depart the school at 11:45 a.m. and return in time for lunch. Please note if your child is not confident to swim 50 metres unaided, we have been advised they should enter the 25 metre novelty events if they wish to compete. Due to Departmental policy, non-confident swimmers should not be in water out of their depth. Non-confident swimmers will spend their Thursday swimming sport session with Mrs Evans developing their water confidence and basic swimming skills. Those competing in the 50 metre events will be swimming laps.

What to bring: Participating students will need to bring their swimmers, rash shirts, towel and goggles (if worn). Girls are to wear one piece swimming costumes and rash shirt or similar top. Please ensure all gear is clearly labelled with your child’s name.

Outstanding permission notes and money

There are quite a few outstanding permission notes and money for school swimming. Please send this in to school ASAP. Please note the cost was $5 bus and $2 pool entry for each student each week. If you are paying weekly, please send this week’s payments in to the office in a marked envelope.

Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival

The Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival hosted by Beckom Public School will be held at the Ardlethan Pool on Friday 15th February, 2013. Travel will be by private
transport. We are waiting on more information and will send home a note as soon as more information is received.

**Riddle of the week**

You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

**P & C News**

A BBQ to welcome new students, families and staff will be held in the school grounds on Tuesday, 12th February at 5 p.m. A sausage sizzle will be provided at the cost of $5 per family. Families are asked to provide a plate to share for supper.

The Carols in the Park and Chocolate Wheel held last year was very successful with $600 being raised for the P. and C.

Thank you to everyone who donated money in collection for the Menzies families. $460 was raised and Dave Currie will present a voucher from Whitby’s Betta Electrics to the family in the near future.

**Triathlon report by Rosie Currie**

Sunday…. it was early in the morning at the Ganmain Triathlon. Weather conditions were perfect for the great event. There was an excellent turnout and support from our students and parents, with Rosie, Digby, Connor, Tyler, Baxter, Daneka, George, Kiarah, Ethan, Neena and Warren Evans, Brad Smith, David Currie and Bill Lucas all competing.

In honour of Mr Lucas, the siren sounded at 1 hour and 15 minutes in the Open event, which was the time Mr Lucas was hoping to beat. People wore blue singlets and black armbands in remembrance of Mr Lucas.

In conclusion, the event was a terrific success and a credit to the Ganmain Public School P. and C.

**Parent/ Carer Tips: Helping at home**

**Doing well in class**


**Eight ways to get your kids organised**


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**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.**

The school dental clinic is available for all children aged from 0 to 18 yrs of age. (teen vouchers welcome)

- We encourage all parents to make an appointment for your child to have a full dental check.
- Treatment at our clinic is FREE to all children who have a Medicare card.
- To make an appointment please telephone our call centre on

1800 450 046

Appointments are available in Narrandera on Wednesday February 6th.

Just remember you only need to brush the teeth you want to keep!!!!