Dear Parents

Well National Ride to School Day was a huge success. We had a good 90 odd bikes, a couple of scooters and some rip sticks turn up.

Unfortunately the Police Officer couldn’t attend, but we made the most of having all the bikes at school. Instead of doing our Cross Country training on foot, we had a myriad of bikes hooning around the track covering about 9kms instead of 3! The children had a ball!

Sue Kominek

**BIRTHDAYS**

Lockie - Today Tuesday 26th March
Angus - Thursday 28th March
Jordan - Thursday 28th March
**Maths and Handwriting Work Books**

Please could all families finalise their payment for the children’s workbooks before the end of term. Thanks.

$30 per child

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**International Competitions (ICAS)**

The forms need to be returned to school with payment by Friday 5th April. We encourage all children in Years 3-6 to “have a go”.

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**HOLIDAYS**

Because of the huge transition to the Australian Curriculum next year, all NSW Schools are getting 2 pupil free days at the beginning of next term. Children, therefore, won’t be returning to school in Term 2 until Wednesday, 1st May.

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**STUDENT BANKING**

Students can do banking through school each Tuesday. Anyone who would like to join School Banking, needs to either have a Commonwealth Bank account or please see Liz in the office for an application form you can take to the Bank. Every deposit earns tokens which then can be redeemed for reward.

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**ASSEMBLY**

I’m sure you’ll agree Ms Lamb’s K/1 Assembly item was gorgeous last week. Their paintings were fabulous and their action song was very cute. Congratulations to Elizabeth, Greta, Frida and Harmony who played in the flute quartet. They successfully played two pieces in parts.

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**Fundraiser**

On the last day of term (Friday, 12th April) we’ll be holding our Term 1 Fundraiser. Because of the recent, local bushfires we have decided to raise money for our own Gundaroo Rural Fire Service. We ask that everyone comes dressed as a fireman, fire truck, a fire, etc. and brings a gold coin donation (or more).

We’ll have a parade at 9am and then organise more activities throughout the day. Events Captains Danielle and Sam will be assisting in organising the day!

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**“Making Friends” Puppet Show**

On Wednesday, 10th April, we have the second show (in a series) entitled “Making Friends” Puppet Show. The P&C is most kindly paying for every child in the school to attend.

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**TAN BARK**

Today the school purchased $400 worth of sand to top up our sandpit. We also purchased $2,000 worth of tan bark as soft fall under the climbing equipment. This is a huge expense we incur every year, so we ask that the children don’t play on the mounds till it’s distributed.
ROSTRUM PUBLIC SPEAKING

Each year Gundaroo competes in the Rostrum Public Speaking Competition. Making a speech is part of our curriculum so we combine this with Rostrum.

Children in Years K-3 can make up their own topics (usually about themselves or something very familiar e.g. “My Pets”, “My Baby Brother”, “My Holidays” etc) and the Years 4,5,6 children choose a Rostrum topic.

Kinders speak for a maximum 1 minute  
Year 1 speak for a maximum 1 1/2  
Year 2 speak for a maximum 2 minutes  
Year 3 speak for a maximum 2 1/2  
ON ANY TOPIC

Years 4-6 speak for exactly 3 minutes. Their topics are:

“My Grandparents”  
“Water”  
“The Snake”  
“I wish I were ……”  
“Music to my Ears”  
“In the 1950”

HINTS FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

- NEVER say your name or what you will be talking about at the beginning of your speech. The chairperson has ALREADY said that and we don’t want to get bored!
- NEVER say thank you at the end of the speech. It is up to the audience to thank YOU for your efforts.
- NEVER use big pieces of paper for your notes. They are too distracting and usually block your voice.
- If you absolutely HAVE TO, use palm cards (5cm high X 7cm wide). Winners DON’T have cards. That’s why the Kinders do best – because they usually can’t read and therefore make good eye contact. DON’T use bright cardboard for palm cards. You’re not supposed to be able to see them.
- DON’T number your cards on the back. No one wants to know that we have 27 more cards to get through!
- ALWAYS acknowledge the chairperson first and look at them while you are doing it.
- DO speak in a loud, clear voice.
- DO make good eye contact all around the room.
- DON’T make “lists” in your speech. e.g. “Boxes come in all sorts of sizes. There are big ones and small ones, fat ones, tall ones, red ones, blue ones, etc. You’ll get marked down, in content, quite heavily for that because it is really boring.

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

After many long week-ends of work, our 2012 ASR (Annual School Report) is finished. You will now find it on our website. Even if you don’t feel like reading all of the wonderful statistics, do go in and enjoy the photos! (You may even like to re-acquaint yourself with previous ASRs!)
The Dazzle Dance Academy (where Grace Webber attends dancing classes) is collecting second-hand books, DVD’s, games, puzzles, etc as part of our fundraising efforts to help pay for attendances at workshops and other events.

NAPLAN

Children in Years 3 & 5 (and those in 7 & 9) will be sitting the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy And Numeracy) on the following dates:

14th May: Language Conventions and Writing tests
15th May: Reading Test
16th May: Numeracy Test

POTTERY IN THE KINDY CLASSROOM

A huge thank you to Leanne for coming in to do pottery with Kinder. They had a ball!

SOCIAL SOCCER to start 6 April 2013 at 10.30 am.
All welcome please come and register at Gundaroo Park.
The fee for this year is $40.00.
This will provide for balls, goals, nets and other equipment.
Come and participate and save yourself a trip into town!!!
For any questions please call Tony on 0416 584 267.

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