PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Meet The Teacher Sessions
Thank you to the parents who joined us last week for our, ‘Meet The Teacher Sessions’. In order to make the meetings more easily accessible we tried a slightly different organisation this year in running each session on a different afternoon. I’ve had some feedback that many of you found the meetings informative and useful. Please let us know what you think.

Staffing
During the next few weeks we will be conducting 2 merit selection panels to employ new teachers for our school. I will be leading a panel to select 3 new classroom teachers and Mr Vassila will lead a panel to employ a new librarian. Each panel consists of a convenor, a staff representative, a community representative and a parent representative. These panels will enable us to employ permanent teachers. If everything runs to schedule our new teachers should start by the beginning of term 2.

National Year of Reading 2012
2012 is the national year of reading and to celebrate, there is a host of literary-related events and competitions happening right around Australia. For an events calendar and more information go to: www.love2read.org.au. Why not make a late New Year resolution to read more yourself? And if you don’t already read regularly to your children, set aside some quality time to help instil a love of books and reading. We will be holding some celebrations about reading here at school later in the year - stay tuned.

Successful Past Students
In addition to the news I shared in our previous newsletter about our ex-student Sisilia Vai studying medicine at university, I’ve received information from Mr Charles, the principal of Auburn Girls High School about other ex-Auburn West students. It seems that some of our ex-students will be studying business, medical science, technology, science and education in 2012. We all congratulate them and wish them well for the next stage of their education.

PUNCTUALITY
Over the last two weeks we have been monitoring students who have arrived after the morning bell. Students are expected to be in school before 9.00am. On several occasions over the last few weeks we have had more than 50 students late to school. We believe that all students should be at school on time as arriving to school on time allows children to be part of daily school routines:
• to be part of the morning greeting.
• to know what is happening during the day.
• to start lessons on time and understand what to do in class.

Next week we will be starting a new ‘traffic light’ system to monitor attendance. Students will receive:
• a green pass if they are late once in a two week period;
• an orange pass if they are late twice in a two week period. This will be followed up with a phone call or letter from the school; and
• a red pass if they are late three times or more in a two week period. This will be followed up with a meeting with the Deputy Principal.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION
If you have changed your contact details recently could you please notify the school as soon as possible? Many people change either home phone numbers or mobile phone numbers for various reasons and forget to let the school know. It is very important that we are able to contact you in a case of emergency. If you have changed any of your phone numbers please send a note to the office or speak to the office staff about updating your details.

For changes of address, you must provide either your electricity bill, rates notice or lease agreement.

J Selby
TERM 1 2012 EVENTS

**Friday 2 March**
Parent group - Auburn Library: databases and craft

**Wednesday 7 March**
Auburn Zone Swimming Carnival

**Friday 9 March**
PSP survey with Fatima Amr

**Thursday 15 March**
Playgroup 25 year celebration - special morning tea

**Friday 16 March**
Craft

**Wednesday 28 March**
K-1 Hat Parade

**Thursday 5 April**
Last day of term 1

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**SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS, MATHS WORKBOOKS AND DICTIONARIES**
Thank you to all those families who have already paid school contributions (sometimes called school fees). The school contribution helps the school provide resources for your children including library books, mathematics and art materials, and sport equipment.

The school contribution is $33.00 per student with family discounts applying for three or more children. The payment of the school contribution is entirely voluntary, but greatly appreciated.

All students in years 1-6 are asked to purchase a maths workbook to support lessons in class. The workbooks are still $14.00 each.

Dictionaries are available for students in years 3-6 to help with class and home work and cost $15.

The office accepts payments for school contributions, maths workbooks and dictionaries every morning 8:30 am - 11:00 am.

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**LOST PROPERTY NEWS**
All school clothing (including hats) should be clearly labelled with your child’s full name.

Lost school hats must be handed in to the office staff. No hats will be kept in the laundry. Students may come to the office before school and during recess and lunch time only to ask for lost hats. No name, no hat!

Lost school jumpers, t shirts, shorts and skirts may be found in the laundry room (near the Kindergarten Courtyard). This area is out of bounds so students must ask permission before looking for any clothing.

School clothing clearly labelled with the child’s name will be returned via the school messengers.

Any unlabelled items will be washed and sold at a Used Uniform Sale after the Assembly on Wednesday 29 February. Unsold items will be donated to one of the local used clothing stores.

*I Saidel and M Alderson*