Greetings all,

With the Easter Holidays beginning with the upcoming Easter long weekend, tomorrow will be our last Friday of the term and consequently our last swimming and AusKick sessions.

Next week is shaping up as being extremely busy with the excursion to the Caloundra RollerDrome taking place on Monday and then our school cross country taking place on Thursday, which is also the final day of term 1.

For students turning 10-13 this year, our cross country is a selection trial for the Gympie Zone Cross Country Selection trials which will be held on the 5th May. In order to qualify for this event, athletes must run under the 5min/km qualifying time. For 10 year olds this means better than 10 minutes for 2km and for our older athletes this equates to better than 15 minutes for the 3km.

All students will compete in a race with the Prep’s completing an obstacle course, Grade 1’s running 1 lap of our oval, grade 2’s running 1 lap of our 500m cross country course, grade 3 running two laps of the course, grade 4’s running 3 laps of the course, 10 year olds completing 4 laps (2km), and 11/12/13 year olds completing 6 laps (3km).

Just a reminder about our Roller skating excursion next Monday 30th March. Please ensure that you have returned your permission form as these will need to be returned before you leave.

Looking forward to a great day out.
Kandanga State School Plant Drive

In preparation for our Centenary Celebrations later this year, we are looking to ‘beautify’ our school gardens. We are seeking donations of cuttings, seeds or seedlings to fill our garden beds with fresh new greenery. These can be anything from shrubs, natives, flowers or fruit and vegetables. We are unable to plant any foliage that has small berries, or is toxic by nature. Please send along any donations to the school, these will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks everyone.

Community News

Free healthy lifestyle program now available in Gympie – get your kids active and eating well!
A new free healthy lifestyle program called PEACH™ - Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health - is commencing term 2, for families in Gympie. It is available to families who have a child aged 5-11 years who is above a healthy weight for their age. The program takes a family-focused approach by helping parents and carers make healthy eating and activity a part of every-day life.
It is a group program running on a Thursday afternoon from 3.30- 5pm commencing 23rd April and running until the end of term 2. Ongoing individualised family support is offered through the second half of the program ending with one final group session.
Some of the topics covered include nutrition skills, relationships with food and eating, changing family lifestyle behaviours and making healthy eating affordable. While the parent sessions are taking place, children enjoy active play with a trained child physical activity facilitator.
The program is funded by the Queensland government and being delivered in Gympie by the Child Healthy Weight Team from the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.
Limited spots are available for each program. If you would like to reserve a spot on the next program please call 1800 263 519 or 5450 4766 or visit www.peachqld.com.au

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful experience of having an international ‘big brother’ or ‘big sister’ by hosting one of our exceptional, carefully-screened international students for a 3, 5 or 10 month program. We have students aged 15-18 arriving from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Scandinavia in July 2015 seeking welcoming families all over Australia, in both rural and urban communities. They will live like a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Capture the spirit of family and friendship - visit us on Facebook or at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 to request a booklet of international student.
Reading is the word at Kandanga State School. The focus has been upon setting up quality teaching practices in all classrooms. Not only do the teachers model reading strategies, but all teachers have set up small guided reading groups to cater for each student’s particular reading needs.

This year we have purchased a new set of guided reading books which both the students and teachers love using. A huge thank you must be extended to the Independent Riders Australia (Fraser Coast) who assisted us to purchase these fantastic books.

Decoding strategies
In the early years, the teachers introduce special reading characters that remind students how to work out tricky words. The P/1 class have been learning about Igor Eagle Eye (who uses picture clues), Lips the Fish (who uses the first sound of words) and some students have worked with Miss B to learn about Chunky Monkey (who finds little chunks in larger words).

Comprehension strategies
As students become more fluent readers, the next important step is to understand what they read. When reading with your child during the holidays, you may wish to practice the strategy that they recently learnt.

P/1 have been learning to make connections. You could ask:
> Does this remind you of something that has happened to you?
> Does this remind you of a book or movie you’ve seen before?
> Does your connection help you make a prediction OR understand how the character is feeling?

Yr 2-6 students have been learning to quickly skim and scan. You could ask:
> After looking at this title/contents page/heading, what do you think you could learn?
> Where would be the best place in this book OR on this page to find out about ____________? Why?
> Can you quickly skim over this page and see if you can find the key word ______________? Please feel free to catch me on a Tuesday if you’d like to chat about any of these reading strategies or would like some ideas about supporting your child’s reading at home. Happy holiday reading!

Miss Bachmann

P&C Meeting

Our next P&C Meeting will be held at 4:00pm at the school. Everyone is most welcome to attend.