Dear Parents and Caregivers

It was terrific to see so many parents supporting our information evening on Tuesday 18th February. Please remember that should you require a private meeting with your child’s teacher please speak to the teacher directly or contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient time. I would like to thank our staff who stayed after hours to meet with their parents.

We are always looking at ways to improve our communication to parents. Our web page is currently undergoing a total revamp so information may not be totally accurate. I will advise our community once it is up and running. You can always receive your newsletter by email if you prefer. Please contact Mrs Murphy at the front office or complete and return the slip in this newsletter and your details will be included on the data base. That way you will always have it in your In-box to refer back to. We are looking at trialling an app that we can use to communicate instantly with our school community should something arise or if we need to remind you about an upcoming event. The app is free for parents to download with both Apple and other smart phones. Watch this spot for more information.

Commencing this week, Mrs McDougall and myself will starting the training for our school to become an Independent Public School possibly in 2015. Parents of students in the primary section will know that we have been discussing the concept for several years and waiting for our school to get approval. We hope to gain that approval during the year. I will hold information sessions for parents new to the school later this term. There is a Q&A paper enclosed or more information can be gained by accessing the following web site.

Thank you to our school community for supporting the Heart Kids Appeal. By dressing in something red, our fabulous students and their families raised $554.45.

Just a reminder to parents that all students should be taken to the undercover area to be supervised before school commences. Teachers are busy people and they are preparing for the day first thing in the morning.

Also to reiterate that the staff car park is not to be used to pick up or drop off students. It is a busy and dangerous place and is for staff or visitors on official business. Please use the numerous carparks around the school or the Kiss and Drive facility.

Mrs Lesley Meyers
Principal
Congratulations to the following children who received Merit Awards at the assembly on 18th February 2014:

- Archer from Room 1
- Ava from Room 2
- Shyla from Room 7
- Madison from Room 8
- Blake from Room 9
- Lucy from Room 10
- Christopher from Room 12
- Abby from Room 15
- Rama from Room 16
- Ben from Room 17
- Steve from Room 18
- Kieu from Room 10 for Art
- Dario from Room 17 for Italian

ATTENDANCE

The Department of Education’s Student Attendance policy requires parents/guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the School Principal for any absence of their children. Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as ‘authorised’ by the Principal.

You may notify the school via the classroom teacher or front office of any absences from school. If you have access to a mobile phone, many parents find the school’s SMS service the easiest way to report absences. A simple message to 0409 682921 is all that is needed to relay an absence, eg:

Jane Citizen, sick, 11 Feb

Please ensure that your contact details are also up to date to ensure timely reminders are received.

LATES

If your child is late to school he or she not only distracts other students and staff who have already commenced the learning program, but also often has difficulty adjusting to lessons that are already underway. All students who arrive at school after the 8.40 a.m. siren must come through the office to receive a late card. If a child goes straight to class, the teacher will ask the child to come to the front office to be registered as late.

Frequent late arrivals will result in the Deputy Principal in charge of attendance requesting an interview with parents. All students are expected to have regular attendance and to be at school on time.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Yes I wish to receive my newsletter by email.

Child’s name: ___________________________ Parent’s name: ___________________________

Email address: ___________________________
PARENT TOUR

Ballajura Community College, an Independent Public School, is the school of first choice for the majority of local families in Alexander Heights and the College is proud of its students’ achievements.

An invitation is extended to all prospective families or interested community members to visit and see the College “in action”. The guided tours will be held on:

Term 1 :   Tuesday 25 February 2014  
Term 2 :   Tuesday 3 June 2014  
Term 3 :   Tuesday 26 August 2014  
Term 4 :   Tuesday 18 November 2014

For more information contact the College on 9262 7777.

ART RECYCLING

We have planned an exciting art curriculum for your child this year and are looking for donations of recycled items to help with art skills and our creative art classes. The following items will be useful:

- Jewellery / beads / chains and buttons
- Shells
- Cloth
- Wrapping paper and wall paper
- Broken and unwanted toys
- Yarns and wool
- Feathers
- Hats and handbags
- Unusable musical instruments
- Store window dummies
- Or anything else you think that would be useful for our creative arts program.

Thank you for helping making the art program successful and if you would like to assist at any time you are most welcome to become involved. Please feel free to contact me on 9342 3388.

Ms Debra Merson  
ART SPECIALIST

Student desks  
Chairs  
Computer Desks  
Please contact Fiona on 9342 3388 if you are interested.

Alinjarra Sports Flash

Congratulations to our worthy new Sports Captains for 2014. They have taken on their new roles with enthusiasm and a keen attitude to promote sport throughout the school.

Well done to the McVee girls. Sarina achieved her PB in javelin throw and Tahlee came first in under 11 shotput hurdles, long jump and 800m at the State Multi Athletics Championships. An amazing effort.

Don’t forget to claim your free t/shirt by logging onto hotshots.tennis.com.au/claim.

During the year we are hoping to run a course in ‘Anti-bullying’ and ‘Conflict Avoidance’ throughout the school, where children will be taught practical and fun self-defence techniques. More information to follow.
The area around school becomes extremely hazardous especially during the peak afternoon pick up period. This causes concern for parents and can be very distressing for the students.

Your co-operation and patience during the introduction and development of the Kiss and Drive system will provide your children with a safer, less traumatic environment.

Four bays in Adaia Drive will be designated Kiss & Drive vehicle bays especially set aside for the set-down and pick up of students. The process allows up to ten vehicles to use the same bay in the 10 to 15 minute peak period after school. Volunteer traffic wardens appointed with the approval of the City of Wanneroo will control traffic flow and ensure the operation is carried out with maximum safety.

**HOW THE KISS & DRIVE WORKS**

- Obey the directions of the voluntary Wardens.
- Move as near to the front of the Kiss & Drive bays as possible.
- Always be courteous to other road users.
- Children will wait (under supervision) in the school grounds near the Kiss & Drive bays.
- Bays to be used only for set down and pick up of students.
- If your child is not ready don’t stop– drive around the block and try again.
- No parking permitted in the pick up bays.
- Always indicate to enter and leave the Kiss & Drive bays.
- Ensure children entering the vehicle put on their seat restraint.

**BENEFITS**

- Shorter, safer operation to set down and pick up children.
- Less parking hassle.
- Less waiting.
- Leave home later - get home quicker.
- Decrease number of vehicles using the same bay x 10.

**HOW TO USE THE KISS & DRIVE AREA**

**Morning**
- Stop in Kiss & Drive bays (use forward most bays).
- Students alight from left of vehicle.
- Parents/Learers must remain in the vehicle.
- When students clear of vehicle indicate right and enter traffic flow.

**Afternoon**
- Queue in Avila Way (see attached map for traffic flow).
- Only enter Kiss & Drive area if your children are ready to be picked up.
- If children are not ready drive on around the school and rejoin the queue.
- It is extremely important that you:

Keep the engine running - Apply the hand brake - Stay in the vehicle.

**REMEMBER**
40Km School Zone
7:30-9Am/12:30-4Pm