

CORINDA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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IMPORTANT DATES

9 May	Reggie Dabbs Year 6 & 7
12 May	Tallebudgera Excursion 4H & 4S
19 May	P & C Meeting
13-15 May	NAPLAN
9 June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
18 June	School Photos
25 June	Sports Day

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Newsletter

1 May 2014

PRINCIPAL – Mr Kim Tvede

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – Mrs Wendy Wessling

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Dear Parents/Carers

Term 3 has begun. The three-day week provided an opportunity that does not occur every year for everyone to ease into our term period. Now we are fully geared up and ready for another busy Term. School reports for Semester 1 will be issued at the end of this term.

ANZAC Commemoration

The ANZAC ceremony last week was beautifully done by our students and they are commended for their participation as audience and the presenters and technical support for making some hectic rehearsals come together.



Our student leaders also acquitted themselves very well in their excursion to represent our school and the student ANZAC Square commemoration at the City Cenotaph and Eternal Flame. Travelling by car, train and foot. These students displayed exemplary behaviour and were good ambassadors for our school. They also had the opportunity to participate in a



very large event in public. They reported finding the experience very interesting.

District Cross-Country

A number of eligible cross-country students who met criteria of age group, placing, timing and behaviour were invited to participate in the District Cross-Country event last week. The races were at 2 or 3 kilometre distances depending on age group. All students gave a creditable performance against the best students the other district schools had to offer. We were proud to be there and have our students put in a great effort. Numbers of them came in the top 20 places of the hundred or so in each event. A difficult achievement given the stiff competition.



NAPLAN

The annual National Assessment Program of Literacy and Numeracy is scheduled for the week beginning 12 May. Our teachers in Years 3, 5 and 7 are working to prepare our students who will sit this test. As part of this, over the term thus far, our students have been made familiar with the format of the test items to aid their understanding and to reduce uncertainty of what is expected.

It is most important that we give students the best opportunity to use the skills and abilities they have to complete the various tests of

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reading, writing and maths. A habit of a good sleep at night, a healthy breakfast, and only a useful level of stimulation to focus thinking are all important. We plan to also provide fruit for our students in the morning before NAPLAN. This is to give students food to aid thinking. Thank you to the parents who help their students in this way on a regular basis.

This year, for the first time, we are unsure what writing task our students will perform. This change is in support of schools employing good teaching and not simply preparing students for a particular test item. Our students, like those in other schools, have been working on covering these requirements. Results take about three months to come back to us. It would be useful to have this information at an earlier time, and the NAPLAN in future is expected to be delivered on-line so as to allow more rapid processing and return of results.

Parade

We have some concerns about our morning parade time from 9.00-9:30am taking away prime teaching time in the day and impacting on timetables if we start and finish later than planned. Accordingly, our parade times are changing to Tuesday afternoon, 2:30 to 3pm from next week.

Excursions

The postponed Year 4 excursion to Tallebudgera is planned to proceed this term. A number of other excursions linked to various class learning programs are also planned for this term and later in the year. The reason we are planning these excursions and school visits, 'incursions', is to enrich student understanding and vocabulary in areas such as Science, Geography and History, and English through real experiences connected to understanding our community. We encourage parents to support their children's participation in these events.

Excursion Disclaimers

Some parents have expressed concern over the disclaimer placed on excursion forms regarding insurance. Please note this is a requirement informing parents that the Department of

Education does not have insurance and that any claims are dealt with through legal processes, not insurance claims, whether occurring at school or on excursions. Excursion planning involves risk management as part of the approval process, and duty of care is treated seriously. Excursions are offered to enrich learning and link to our school programs. We encourage parents to discuss any concerns with their child's teacher or the school administration.

Sports Day

Our School Sports Day is scheduled for Wednesday 25th June, weather permitting. Parents might like to place this in their calendar.

Camp

The 2014, Term 3 camp at Currimundi for Years 6 and 7 has been booked. Parents intending to make payments over time can commence making deposits from now. Please contact the office reception for details.



Explicit Teaching

You may have heard from your children, or through the media, that in Queensland we are working towards enhancing our students' performance through explicit teaching. At our school we have been working on building staff skills in this practice school-wide. For many of our more experienced staff, this is simply a case of re-emphasising and improving on various skills developed over time. For all staff it is a matter of intentionally practicing the key elements of this approach so as to produce improved student outcomes.

Explicit teaching works through keeping students focused, understanding clearly what the intent of a lesson is, and what success should look like. This sounds simple, and it can be. Sometimes however, students can be more focussed on completing a task than understanding what they are learning. When students are clear about what they are learning, they can be more involved themselves in connecting their current learning to knowledge, skills and understanding they have learned before. This is good, solid teaching, and what

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has become the basic structure of our lessons. It is displayed as a reminder for us all in every classroom on the *How We Learn* posters developed by staff.

Parent Support of Child Learning

A big influence on children's readiness to read at school is the **number of words they know, understand and use**. Taking time to explain things that are going on around them, exposing them to experiences such as **shopping**, home **activities**, and various **trips** around the community can help a lot in children **understanding and use of words to communicate** and to **understand**.

When shopping, talking to children about **what** we are buying, and what we choose not to buy, and explaining **why**, can help a child begin to make sense of the world. Having them help **find** the right product on the shelves by recognising the packaging, and our description of it as to what is important in finding it helps children **behave responsibly, learn to look for detail, and understand how** their family works and fits into the community.



To do this, children also have to be taught by parents how to **behave in public, follow directions, and complete a task** – all valuable lessons for success in school as well. This family activity can support our school purpose of *supporting and challenging our students today, to create a brighter future for our community tomorrow*.

ANZAC Commemoration

On Wednesday 23rd April all of the student leaders met at Oxley Train station and headed to the City for the Anzac Commemoration ceremony for students. There were over a hundred schools present, making it hard for us to find a seat. A highlight of the ceremony was that we sang both the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems. Most schools had the opportunity to lay down a wreath to remember the lost soldiers of



Australia and New Zealand. After the Anzac Commemoration we went for lunch, it was a nice change of scenery for us. Special thank you to Mrs Wessling for organising the outing. Lest We Forget. Samson Fuli 6H



Chocolate Fundraising

It is once again time when our upper school students have their Cadbury Fundraising chocolate drive to raise funds for our school camp, end of year excursions and Year 6 /7 Graduation. Permission forms have been sent home. If you wish for your student to participate please return the permission forms to the office by Friday 2 May.

P & C News

The Next P & C meeting is on Monday 19 May at 9.10am in the Parent Room. All welcome. Please come along and hear what is happening in our school.

Mother's Day Stall

The Mother's Day stall is on for the next two weeks before, school in the undercover area. Come and buy a lovely gift for mum to say thank you. We are also holding a raffle. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for \$1.00. Tickets are on sale Wednesday 30/4, Thursday 1/5, Friday 2/5, Wednesday 7/5, Thursday 8/5 and Friday 9/5.

Amy Johnson
P & C President



Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is located in the Parent Room.

Opening hours are:

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	8.15am – 9.15am
Thursday	8.15am – 9.15am
Friday	8.15am – 9.15am

Winter uniforms are now in stock.

Teena Zeitsch
Uniform Shop Manager

Dental Clinic

To make a dental appointment with Metro South Oral Health please call 1300 300 850.

