



# Newsletter

## Shellharbour Public School

*Sincerity Provides Strength*

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**A Word From The Principal**  
Dear Parents/Carers

**16 March, 2009**  
**Term 1, Week 8**



### PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Once again, students at this school are part of the Premier's Reading Challenge. It will be a challenge, not just for our students, but also for their parents. Bob Carr as Premier of New South Wales introduced the Challenge a

few years ago because he was concerned about the decline in the number of people, (not just children) who were reading novels and narratives (stories, poems, ballads). While no one would deny the power of computer based technology to inform and educate our children, there are implications if we allow it to dominate their reading activities. Technology is creating a different kind of literacy and a different kind of literate individual. Technology is creating a multitasking reader, expert in the use of continuous partial attention but who is losing the skill of deep, sustained intense attention. In a world now dominated by visual images, students are becoming good at comprehending digital texts, necessarily replete with visual images, but losing the ability to extract inferred meaning or understand imagery in plain text. It is no coincidence that the two criteria which usually determine a good NAPLAN score from a great one, are correct answers in these two areas. At the very heart of reading, the reader must learn how to go beyond the experience of the author to create or infer their own. To do this, the reader's attention must be trained by being exposed to sustained narratives. At this school in Years 5 and 6, this is achieved by having each class read two novels each year. Students are also expected to respond in writing to each novel in a variety of ways. Similar expectations are held for our students in Years 3 and 4. At home, you should ensure that you read narratives with your child, gently increasing the length and complexity of the narrative as they get older or as their reading ability increases. The Premier's Reading Challenge offers a structured selection of appropriate books for each grade K - 6 whilst providing incentives for successful completion. I hope you help your child accept the challenge!



### SPORTING OPTIONS ABOUND

Over the last few weeks students from this school have had the opportunity to compete in a range of inter school sporting competitions.

On Thursday, 5 March, Mrs Prisk organised for our senior girls who were interested in Hockey to be part of a Gala Day giving many of these girls their first experience with this sport. Last Monday, Mr Good took our Futsal Soccer teams away to compete at Berkeley. This was the first time we have competed in this competition, so Mr Good also organised some skills sessions with local players that were very much appreciated by our students. On Thursday, with the assistance of some parents, Mr Good also took 60 boys and girls to a Rugby League Carnival at Croom Road. All reports suggest that the kids all appreciated these days and have no doubt picked up a few new skills in the process. *My thanks to Mr Good and Mrs Prisk for providing Shellharbour PS students with these opportunities!*

### NEXT P & C MEETING

At the last P & C meeting, we received approval for the purchase of two more Interactive Whiteboards. These will be installed into the classrooms of 2/3T and 3M. At the next meeting (and by special request) we are pleased to present **Miss Puglisi** and **Mrs MacDonald**, as they demonstrate some of the capabilities of this new technology. This meeting will take place in our Connected Classroom, next to the Library on Wednesday, 8 April. The meeting will start at 6.30pm.

### 'HUMAN RACE' PRESENTATION

We are always keen to embellish our teaching programs with worthy presentations. The 'Human Race' is an award winning performance which challenges students to find out what qualities we need to create positive relationships at school, in the community and ultimately citizens of the world. The performance will cost **\$4.50 per child** and will take place **this Friday, 20 March**.

*John MacDonald, Principal*

### LONG SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS

We are now taking orders for long sleeved polo shirts (the same as the short sleeved polo but with long sleeves for winter). The cost of this shirt is **\$19.00**. If you are interested in ordering, please fill in the order form below and return with full payment to the school office **by Thursday, 9 April 2009 (last day of Term 1)**.

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE SENDING IN ONE ORDER ONLY, SO IF YOUR ORDER IS NOT IN BY THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2009, YOU WILL UNFORTUNATELY MISS OUT!**

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**SHELLHARBOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL—ORDER FORM FOR LONG SLEEVED POLO SHIRT**

Child's name & class: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity



Size(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**BOOK CLUB**

Please note that all Book Club orders for this current issue are due in **by tomorrow, TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2009**. We hope with future issues to allow more time in placing your orders. **Please ensure that all orders are filled out correctly with your child's name and class and the correct amount enclosed with the order.** If your order is not filled out correctly or in by the due date, unfortunately it will be returned to you and you will miss out on ordering from that current issue—*Kylie Hillcoat & Val Sierhuis, Book Club Co-Ordinators*

### **RAISING MONEY FOR BUSHFIRE AND FLOOD APPEALS**

At our March Village Market, we raised money for the Victorian bushfires and Queensland flood appeal. We had a clean up at home and sold all the stuff that we didn't want or need such as books, clothes, videos and DVD's, even some shoes. We raised \$52.20. We only expected to raise around \$10-\$15.00, but in 10 minutes we already had around about \$15.00. It was a cold day but the atmosphere around us heated us up (although most of the heat was from the barbecue). We were very proud of how much money we had raised. We are so glad to be helping out a good cause. It feels great!! - *Written by Isabella, Tayla and Emily*

### **REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

All reports from the Regional Swimming Carnival confirmed how well our students performed and that their sportsmanship was fantastic. Well done to **Katie**, **Jye** and **Max** for representing our District and placing overall

as follows:

**Katie:** 6th Freestyle & Backstroke, 7th Butterfly and 16th Open Freestyle

**Jye:** 17th Breaststroke

**Max:** 9th Freestyle

### **PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS**

We congratulate the following students who received awards at our Presentation Assembly held on **Thursday, 12 March 2009:**

#### **BANNERS**

Lachlan Hillcoat

Tayla Lloyd

Jessica Cook

#### **PENNANTS**

Lachlan

Chloe

Jack

Kaylah

Hannah

Katelin

Leteesha

Timmarra

Joel

Caleb

Jessica

### **KID'S CAFÉ ROSTER REMINDER TUESDAY, 17 MARCH**

Karen Mathews, Kim Burrows & Vicky

### **WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH**

Chris Natrass, Trish Pousderkos & Vicky

### **THURSDAY, 19 MARCH**

Melissa Plant, Kylie Hillcoat & Vesna

### **FRIDAY, 20 MARCH**

Brooke Stanford & Vesna—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **MONDAY, 23 MARCH**

Val Moon & Vicky—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **TUESDAY, 24 MARCH**

Emma McIlquham, Rebecca Rosewarn & Vicky

### **WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH**

Ann Olsson, Melinda Ryan & Vesna

### **THURSDAY, 26 MARCH**

Melissa Plant, Melanie Kelly & Vesna

### **FRIDAY, 27 MARCH**

Donna Dal Molin & Vesna—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **MONDAY, 30 MARCH**

Val Moon, Sue Shephard & Vicky



