Attendance

Our current attendance this year is **96.5%**. The only absences we have had so far have been a result of illness, which is a credit to our students and families. Congratulations everybody! This is a great attendance rate!

Our goal for attendance is to maintain at least 95% for the entire year. Each term students whose attendance is maintained at this level will be rewarded. Details of this process will be shared at the next P&C meeting.

With approximately 195 school days in a year, 95% attendance means that each child can only have a maximum of 9 days away due to illness. I will keep you updated with the number of days your child has had away from school as it realises it is not always easy to keep track.

Below is a table which outlines the accumulated impact of regular days away from school. When you see it written this way, it really hits home how important it is for every child to be at school every day. Even one day per fortnight can equate to missing a year and a half of school over the course of their education.

Keep up the great work, everybody!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses….</th>
<th>That equals….</th>
<th>Which is….. and over 13 years of schooling that's…</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week we celebrated the induction of Molly Forsyth as our school captain for 2015. Molly rose to the occasion beautifully, presenting her leader’s speech with confidence and poise. Molly was proudly supported by her classmates, who also performed a couple of musical pieces for the occasion.

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend this important event on our school calendar. It was wonderful to celebrate with a sausage sizzle and get together and I thank our honourable Mayor, Julie Groves and Bob O’Brien, our CEO for their support of the evening as well. Fiona Connor, Capability Coordinator of the Coalition of Western Small Schools came from Longreach for the occasion and gave me lovely feedback about the evening and the strong sense of community spirit in Jundah.

We are indeed very fortunate to have a new family in our school. The addition of a family is very welcome in a school of our size. I hope that our welcome barbeque sent a strong message of community support to the Miller family and also helped to affirm to our continuing families that when it comes to supporting our students’ learning we are united and will leave no stone unturned.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the PAC for their hard work in catering for last Thursday’s function, which was hosted by the Council. These catering functions require an enormous commitment from our parents and the funds raised are significant. I appreciate that catering for such numbers can also be quite stressful and with the support of the executive committee, I hope to support our hard working members in alleviating some of the stress involved this year. We are still waiting to receive our books from the auditor before the first PAC meeting is planned. I believe this should take place next month.

As we approach the half way mark of the term, it is important to remain focused on our learning. We have individual maths, reading and writing programs for all students and are working hard to maximise learning every hour of every day. In the coming weeks, I will invite parents to discuss their child’s individual programs and goals. Although only five students will sit NAPLAN this year, every day we prepare all our students for NAPLAN with the delivery of the National Curriculum. Students in years three to six have a particular focus on preparation as we address individual needs and misconceptions and develop their stamina in writing, reading and working mathematically.

If you have any questions about the upcoming NAPLAN testing for your child, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I will share each child’s progress when we meet to discuss individual learning goals.

As I have been away in Brisbane this week, I trust that all is well in Jundah. I will return to school on Thursday, 5th March but if you need to contact me please don’t hesitate. My mobile number is 0400 967 069.

Yours in learning,

Juanita
Welcome BBQ and Induction Ceremony

“If I knew you were coming, I’d have baked a cake!” The students having fun performing.

Our School Values

At Jundah State School, we have three core values:

- **Safety**
- **Responsibility**
- **Respect**

This term, we are having a sharp focus on the following behaviours:

**Safety**
- Tidy up after yourself

**Responsibility**
- Follow directions straight away
- Start your work immediately
- Do your best work at all times
- Complete set tasks
- Look after your belongings

**Respect**
- Speak politely to adults and students
- Use respectful self talk
- Wait your turn to speak
- Show a positive attitude towards yourself, your learning and others
- Show good sportsmanship

We have introduced a new Positive School Wide Behaviour Program where students receive a point for demonstrating targeted behaviour. Each student has a goal of achieving twenty points per week, two hundred over the term. With a clear focus on rewarding the positive behaviours, students who are on track to achieve their target will be involved in surprise rewards throughout the term. These may include an excursion, a water play afternoon, a movie afternoon with popcorn and even a sleep over at school. The students are very motivated by this idea and are working hard to demonstrate these values every day.

I look forward to sharing more information about the behaviour program at our next P&C meeting but in the meantime, if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me.