A message from the Principal

Empowering Local Schools – 229 Schools
As you are aware Campbellfield is an Empowering Local School, ie. 1 of the 229 Schools trialling the NSW Government’s local school autonomy initiative. There has recently been a significant number of training days that either the principal, the school administrative manager, an executive or all three have been expected to attend. This is because we are getting significantly closer to the ‘Go-Live’ date for LMBR.

I apologise for the regular absence from school of either myself, Mrs Neal or Mrs Holt, however, we are committed to local school autonomy and the training days have been necessary.

Resource Allocation Model - RAM
The RAM is the new device that Public Schools NSW will utilise to fund all public schools across from 2015. As a 229 school we will pilot this funding in 2014, well from November 18 2013 to be exact. Yesterday Mrs Holt, Mrs Neal and I attended a training session on the RAM. It was an interesting session that opened up some of the areas previously not fully understood.

The RAM will provide a fairer allocation of equity funds to schools across the state. In 2014 Campbellfield’s overall equity budget remains very similar to 2013. I am expecting our slice of the equity budget to be reduced in the years 2015 and beyond. However, while our funds will reduce, schools similar to ours who have previously received no equity funding will receive an increase in funding. The RAM therefore provides a fairer system that supports greater numbers of students across the state.

English as Second Language – ESL
Mrs Hines has been a temporary teacher with us this year. In addition to supporting the MCU Mrs Hines has taken on the role of ESL Teacher, a role previously filled by Mr Thomas. I thank Mrs Hines for her commitment to the ESL role and she has learned a great deal about our students from a Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE).

In 2014 ESL Teaching & Learning will undertake numerous changes to bring it into line with the National Curriculum. One change is that ESL will become EALD (English As second Language or Dialect). I have asked Staffing to appoint a qualified EALD teacher to Campbellfield in 2014 to cover the 3 day position that remains vacant after Mr Thomas’ retirement. More news on this situation as it unfolds.

Mrs Proctor says, “Hello”
Last night I was talking with Mrs Proctor. While she is learning a great deal in her new role as Relieving Principal she is missing contact with staff, students and community from Campbellfield. Mrs Proctor asked me to say Hello from her and to wish everyone the best for the remainder of the year.

2014 Staffing News
Each year class structures and teachers for specific classes are considered. A draft class structure has been drawn up by staff for 2014. I am in negotiation with teachers about who will fill specific roles for 2014. Students with transition needs will be informed of their teacher in the next fortnight. All other students will find out their teacher when they return to school in 2014. At this stage I can inform our community of the following mainstream class structure and the available teachers:

2014 Draft Class Structure - Mainstream
K/1, K/1, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 6

2014 Mainstream Teachers
Mrs Callan, Mrs Forester, Mr Hawkins, Mrs Hokin, Mrs Moroney, Miss. Poier, Mrs. Ward and Mrs Vella
2014 Additional Mainstream Teachers
Mrs Garlick, Mrs James and Mrs Holt

2014 MCU Teachers
Mrs Arzapitian, Mrs Effendy and Mrs Major

I am hopeful that the above list of teachers will remain intact until school re-commences in 2014. However, it is the nature of schools that a promotion, a secondment or an offer of permanent appointment may affect the final make-up of classes before the 2014 school year commences. I will inform you of any changes if they present themselves by year’s end.

Speaking of promotion….
Teaching within NSW Public Schools is a rewarding career. Some teachers find reward through remaining in the classroom and impacting positively on the students in their class. Other teachers find reward in becoming an executive teacher and being able to impact positively on groups of students and teachers across a number of classes. Other teachers, such as myself, find reward in leading a school community and impacting positively across a community of staff, students and parents. Since 2010 Campbellfield has provided an exceptional reward for me, and I am especially thankful for the opportunity to work with you, your children and our fabulous staff.

Yesterday I interviewed for the position of Principal, Unanderra Public School. Last night I received confirmation from the Director of Wollongong Schools that the merit selection panel considered me as the most suitable applicant for the Unanderra position. There is a 10 day appeals period in which candidates who applied, but were unsuccessful can appeal the merit selection panel’s decision. If the 10 days pass without appeal I will commence 2014 as Principal of Unanderra Public School.

While I will miss the faces and stories of our Campbellfield community I am confident that my move to Unanderra will provide an opportunity for another principal to step-in and provide the leadership required to take Campbellfield to the next phase of its journey. I will be meeting with Mr Brad Mitchell, Acting Director Campbelltown Schools, next Monday. One of the discussions will centre on how he plans to fill the role I have enjoyed for the past four years. Hopefully the staff and community of Campbellfield will get the opportunity to select their own principal via the merit selection process. There always remains a chance that a principal of similar classification could transfer into the role, a decision on this will be made by Staffing.

I will no doubt have the opportunity to speak with and farewell individuals in person over the remainder of the term. However, please remember that I have had a sensational time leading the Campbellfield community over the past four years. The people I have met will remain in my memory for the remainder of my career.

P&C Meeting
This morning the Annual General Meeting for 2013 was held. The positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer were opened, with two being filled. The emerging P&C Executive for 2014 is:

President – Samantha Hawkes
Secretary – Kerry Jobson

The 2014 executive have called for a special P&C Meeting on Thursday 14th November 2013 at 9am. This meeting will be to discuss and fill any vacant executive positions and the positions of canteen supervisor and uniform coordinator. If you can spare one hour a week please attend this meeting to assist our P&C provide the support your children have enjoyed under Michelle Mittiga’s presidency.

As discussed at today’s P&C Meeting only financial members can vote at the next meeting. Any person can be considered for a support role, but only financial members can be an executive or vote on matters requiring a formal decision.

Quote
In order to succeed your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.
Bill Cosby

Craig Redfern
Principal
4/5P and 6C Canberra

Australian Government assistance for National Capital excursion

Students from our school will soon be undertaking, or have recently undertaken, an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participate in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $20- per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Activities undertaken as part of the educational tour are outlined elsewhere in the newsletter.

We hope that the excursion is a rewarding experience for all students.

Kindergarten Orientation

A special invitation is extended to all parents and 2014 Kindergarten children.

When: Wednesday, 27th November, 2013
Time: 9.15 - 10.45 am
Where: The orientation will be in the school library for parents and in the school readiness room for children.

What to bring: Please bring the child’s original birth certificate or passport and the immunisation certificate if you have not already done so.

The Kindergarten orientation session will provide the information you need to make you and your child feel more confident about beginning school.

P&C Information

Heatherbrae Slice Drive & Fundraising Snax
Order forms are attached to this week’s newsletter.

Orders are due back at school NO LATER than 13th November 2013. This will ensure orders arrive before end of term.

In the coming weeks the P&C will be selling tickets for our huge Christmas raffle. We have some amazing prizes on offer, including a 2 hour cruise in the massive F650 Truck! Tickets will be sent home soon.

Canberra Excursion

Students from 6C and 4/5P are off to Canberra on Monday morning for a two day excursion to Canberra.

We wish them safe travelling and hope they have a great time.
This term 1/2L are learning about "Living Things". To help us gain a better understanding of "Living Things" we have had lots different animals come visit us from the farm.

We were able to feed a baby calf.

We also have our own ducklings that we watched hatch last week. We had 10 fertilised duck eggs and are pleased to say that all 10 hatched!!! We have learnt that duck eggs need a humid and warm environment in order to hatch. We watched our ducks hatch last week and have since enjoyed watching them grow and swim in their pond.