**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Monday 10 March**
  Labour Day – Public Holiday
- **Thursday 13 March**
  School Photos
- **Wednesday 19 March**
  Special Canteen lunch (Orders due March 7th)
- **Thursday 20 March**
  District Athletics
- **Friday 21 March**
  Indonesian Day
- **Friday 4 April**
  Last day of term – 3.15pm dismissal

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**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

**School Council**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who have served on our school council in 2013. Membership of School Council is bound by terms of agreement – we have some vacancies available. School Council – questions and answers (follow this link).

We would like to call for nominations for 2014 School Council. Nomination forms are located in the office. Closing of nominations will be March 19th at 4.00pm. In the event we have more nominations than positions available, an election will be held.

**Student Attendance**

Going to school every day and getting there on time is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. (DEECD)

We have been informed that from March 1, 2014 new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

To promote and support our school to achieve regular attendance we will be providing regular information to families.

See more details on the back page of this newsletter and in the attachment provided by DEECD

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**Quote of the Week**

‘A day not at school is a day of learning lost - as that day and that learning will never be repeated.’

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**House Points**

1st  
Cameron

2nd  
Russell

3rd  
Childers

4th  
Bakewell

**Cheryl Van Deursen - Principal**
If you are the holder of a pension or health care card and have not submitted an EMA application please see the office.

Please be advised that schools do not have health insurance for student accidents. If you do not have private health cover and you would like to establish insurance for your child, JUA provide a 24 hour, 7 days a week cover for a small annual fee. You can contact them on 1800 252 264 or www.studenthealth.com.au

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**Curriculum**

As mentioned in Cheryl’s report, your child’s attendance at school is crucial to their ongoing learning. When students miss school they are missing out on instructions, discussions, new learning activities and opportunities to ask questions, clarify, discuss their learning with their peers and teachers.

When your child is at school, they have the opportunity to engage in learning activities to revise and review concepts and skills already learnt, and are introduced to new things to extend and challenge them.

Much of the learning at CPS is now done through hands on and open activities. So worksheets no longer form the basis of the work our students complete. Therefore it is difficult for students that have been absent to “catch up” on missed work at home.

Absence from school also impacts on a child’s ability to feel part of their learning community. When a child is absent from their learning space they can find it difficult upon their return to re-connect with their peers on a social level. If changes to the routine or the learning environment have occurred during their absence, this can also create disengagement and confusion for your child.

We appreciate there are times, due to illness or family circumstances, when your child may need to be absent from school. However, we hope that all of our students strive to be at school every day. Absences should be explained to the school, as we need to supply DEECD with data and information related to student attendance.

**Di Fernand - Assistant Principal**
We welcome our students and families to 2014 in the Middle Learning Community.
We have had a great start to the year and all our students have settled in very well.
We are doing great work in Literacy and Maths as well as learning about The First Fleet as part of our Investigation Unit on Australian History.
A reminder that this Friday 28th February is the last day to pay deposits for our exciting camp that will be taking place in Term 2.
Thank-you to all the families and friends who have shopped at the Good Guys and earned donation credits to support our school.

School Uniform Reminder!
School hats are compulsory this term. If your child has lost their hat, new hats can be purchased from Beleza.

Parent Helpers:
We are always looking for parents and family members to help at school. Some ways are:

- School Council
- Parents’ and Friends’ Association (PFA)
- Volunteering to help in learning spaces
- Breakfast Club
- Excursions
- Camps
- Student Banking
- Working bees

A “Working with Children Check” is required to work in schools. This can be arranged at a Post Office. Please speak to a staff member if you are interested in assisting at school. We would love your help!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Beleza Uniform shop is supporting our school to raise the importance of School Attendance.

Every four weeks, commencing next Monday, 3rd March 2014, students with 100% attendance – with no late arrivals or early leaving, will

- receive an attendance certificate. This will be acknowledged in our newsletter.
- be entered into a Raffle and one student from each learning community - Juniors, Middles and Seniors will be awarded a uniform voucher from Beleza.

A Gentle Reminder about School Fees
If you have not yet finalised your child’s school fees for 2014, please contact the school office to organise this. Your payment of these fees helps us to access programs and resources for all students at CPS. Thank you for your support of our school and the programs we provide!