**CALENDAR**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Thursday 20 March
  - District Athletics

- Friday 21 March
  - Indonesian Day

- Friday 4 April
  - Last day of term – 3.15pm dismissal

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Thank you to the parents who were prepared to stand for the recent Council elections. I have pleasure in declaring the following members of our School Council:

**DEECD Reps:** - Cheryl Van Deursen (Principal), Di Fernand, Manieka Radford

**Parent & Community Reps:** - Scott Skewes, Jenni Lorne, Maryelle Gillett, Annitta Macauley, Kelly Peters, Belinda Walker

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Two of our Grade 6 boys, Justin and Sen, have been selected in the SSV 12 and under cricket team. They will be competing this Friday against another district team where only 6 boys will be selected to be in the state squad. We wish both boys the very best and know that they will do their very best to be great sportsmen.

**ATTENDANCE**

Well done to SMD who had the best overall attendance for last week with only 2 absences and 4 late arrivals for the week.

*Cheryl Van Deursen - Principal*

**Quote of the Week**

“The only way to prove you’re a good sport is to lose”

- Ernie Banks

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**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

**Quote of the Week**

‘The only way to prove you’re a good sport is to lose’

- Ernie Banks
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!

FINAL CAMP PAYMENT IS DUE ON FRIDAY 28TH MARCH

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**CURRICULUM**

**Reading IS Homework!**

Last year we reviewed our Homework policy to support the DEECD guidelines as well as supporting our very busy families. We are aware that so many of you have commitments outside of school hours and also need some family “down time”.

The main focus of homework at CPS is reading. It is vital that ALL of our students are committing time each week to reading. Some children say they don’t like reading – perhaps because they find it difficult, or do not have an interest in the material they are being asked to read, or prefer more visual activities, such as video games, television, etc.

As parents it is important that you model reading at home, so that children see it as a lifelong skill. It is hard to encourage children to read when they see that their parents don’t like to read or give time to reading.

An important part of reading is comprehension – understanding what you have read!

To help your child with this, there are three types of questions you can ask them:

- **LITERAL** – the answers are found in the text, directly stated
  e.g. What is the main character’s name?

- **INFERENTIAL** – the answers are found in the text but are implied, not directly stated.
  e.g. Why did the main character laugh?

- **EVALUATIVE** – the answers are not found in the text, requiring information outside the text.
  e.g. How are you similar to the main character?

These different types of questions encourage children to think on different levels, and not just depend on the answers being obvious to them.

It is also important to tap in to the interests of your child. If they find reading difficult or unappealing, try to tap into their interests and provide reading material on that particular topic.

Remember, their reading homework DOES NOT have to be fiction texts. Non-fiction texts, magazines, comics, newspapers, recipe books, craft books and DIY material are all possible reading material.

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**Di Fernand - Assistant Principal**
STUDENT NEWS

The Junior Learning Community created Leprechauns in Art to learn about, and celebrate St Patrick’s Day.
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 & Friends’ Association (PFA)

We are always looking for parents and family members to help at school. One way you can do this is by joining our PFA. This group of parents helps to organise fund raising events throughout the year, which support the purchasing of new resources and the maintenance of current resources, such as our playgrounds.

PFA has meetings once a month, in the evening to discuss plans for upcoming events. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 31st March, at 7.00pm.** This meeting will also include the Annual General Meeting, where this year’s committee will be developed. If you are interested in being part of our PFA for 2014, please come along to the meeting. We are always looking for new members to help with the school’s fund raising efforts.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, but would still like to help with events, please speak to your child’s Home Group teacher, who will pass your name on to the President of PFA, once the position has been filled.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE –
We have noticed an interesting pattern in our attendance data.
The beginning of the week (Mondays) and the end of the week (Fridays) have high absences – up to 25 children and in the middle of the week (Wednesdays) the absences drop to around 7 children.

We have 10 home groups that attend school 5 days per week – that is a total of 50 in a week. Last week we only had 3 home groups that had 100% of students in attendance on 1 day each. That is 3 out of a possible 50. This Friday is Indonesian day – as like every other special event, our staff have put in extra effort to make this fun for everyone

Let’s try for 100% in as many home groups as possible.