Extending Learning Support Beyond the Classroom

Parents often wish to help their children with home reading, spelling and maths activities, but are unsure of the best way to do so. Additionally, students sometimes find home tasks difficult to complete correctly, even when they have been explained in class.

This term, we will extend upon the concept of providing recorded lessons for students to view at home, by embedding video content in homework for all students. This will include additional instruction for students and helpful tips for parents relating to home tasks.

The bulk of this content will be embedded through the use of Quick Response (QR) codes. A QR code allows a large amount of information to be stored in a scannable image. By scanning a code using a QR scanner app on a tablet, smart phone or laptop with a webcam and internet access, you are immediately taken to the content linked to that code.

We will be using QR codes to store and transmit lesson content and further explanations to students and advice to parents on how to support specific homework activities. Student laptops have been loaded with a QR code scanner and a range of free QR scanner apps for mobile and tablet are downloadable in iTunes and the Android Store.

Most codes will be accompanied by a url; allowing anyone with an internet connection but no scanning app to access the content as well.

Included here is a QR code to allow you to test your downloaded scanner. Look for these codes in this week’s homework sheet.

Building Students’ Social Connections and Collaborative Learning Opportunities

In the majority of circumstances, students learn more effectively when they have the opportunity to collaborate with peers when exploring and investigating, interrogating ideas and reflecting upon understandings. With this in mind, Mingoola PS students will this year use technology to connect with students in their stage from other small schools, as they work together on common topics and texts.

Watch our newsletter (or even better – our twitter account) for updates on the collaboration and relationships that develop.

School Community Welcome Dinner

An informal ‘bring-a-dish’ dinner will be held at the hall on this Thursday 12 February, 6:30pm to welcome new members of our school community. All parents and
community members are invited to attend.
Please bring a main or desert to share.

**Zone Swimming Carnival**
Hot on the heels of the Small Schools Swimming Carnival, the Zone carnival will be held in Glen Innes this Friday.
Monique and Jacolene have been nominated to represent our school at this competition. We wish them the best of luck and congratulate them on their selection.

**Crunch & Sip**
Each day, students break for 'Crunch & Sip' at 10am. The purposes of this break are to promote healthy eating and top up students’ energy for thinking.
This term, Mingoola PS will begin providing students with a selection of crunchy fruit and vegetables at no cost to students.
From Week 4, students will only be permitted to eat fruit and vegetables with water during the Crunch & Sip break.
More information on the Crunch & Sip initiative can be found at http://healthy-kids.com.au/crunchsip-healthy-snack-ideas/. For further information on this and other routines and programs at our school, please refer to the recently updated information booklet available on our website, via the ‘Our School’ tab.

**Tenterfield Show Excursion**
Students enjoyed their trip to the Tenterfield Show on Friday, learning about Australian history, fire safety, art, flowers, alpacas and more.
In the primary art competition, Monique achieved a ‘Highly Commended’ for her art entry in the ‘Show business’ section, while Jacolene was awarded second prize for her work entered to the ‘In the Shadows’ category. Well done girls.

**Book Fair**
Book Fair is on again this year and is scheduled for the week of 16-20 March. The book fair has always proved popular with students and is a great opportunity to promote and celebrate the joy of reading. To add further excitement, this year we will hold a special morning tea open to all children, at which book prizes will be awarded to the ‘best dressed as a book character’ and the teachers will read selected books.
While the themes is ‘Kings, Queens and Castles’, children may come dressed as any book character.
The day will be held on Tuesday 17 March, so start thinking about your costume!

Mr Cam Pryce
Principal
Pictures that appear in our newsletter are available in digital format on our website.

Parents & Children’s Group
A regular meeting of mothers/fathers of young children (aged 0-6yrs) is being organised, with the first meeting scheduled for Tuesday 17 February at 10am at the Mingoola Hall.

If you have young children, bring them down to meet others in our community and enjoy a morning tea.

Please bring a plate to share and $2 membership to the Hall Committee, plus $2 for each meeting. For more information, call Myriam on 0406 741 381.