**Date Claimer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mar 31</th>
<th>• Life Ed van visiting</th>
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| April 1 | • Student Investiture Parade @ 1.30pm Jim Pearce-MP for Mirani will be presenting our student leaders with their badges. **All Parents Welcome**  
• Last Tennis Lesson for the term– recommencing first week of Term2 |
| April 2 | • Rewards Day-Easter Bonnet Parade @ 2pm **ALL WELCOME**  
• All School Library Books must be returned  
• Last Day of Term |
| April 20 | • First Day of Term 2 |
Cross Country
What a lovely day it was at Oakenden. Congratulations to all of our students on fantastic sportsmanship and a
great competitive spirit. We were very proud!

Results: Oakenden 1st, Chelona 2nd, Homebush 3rd and Dundula 4th

Medal Winners:
Rhys Davies 1st U/12, Clayton Penola 1st U/5, Darcy O’Brien 1st U/5, Archer Orr 1st U/6, Tayah Miller 3rd
U/6, Pippa Orr 1st U/8, Damon Lock 2nd U/10, Harry Thorpe 3rd U/10, Wyatt Sant 1st U/7, Raymond Penola
2nd U/9, Alexis McVean 1st U/9 and Tailah Davies 3rd U/9

Sarina & District Cross Country
Braxis Kretschmer, Rhys Davies, Tian Caban, Jack Bell, Blake Goulevitch, Damon Lock, Harry Thorpe, Demi
Orr

WELL DONE

Tennis Lessons

Thank you everyone for your support in Term 1. Tennis lessons will continue in Term 2, however the service
will change to cater better for the students.

Wednesday lessons will be for Preps to Year 3 (up to 10 positions) and Thursday lessons will be for students in
Year 4 to Year 6 (up to 10 positions).

All lesson fees will be $8. A minimum of 6 students in each class is needed for lessons to be viable. Lessons
will start in week one. Permissions forms will be sent home tomorrow (Wednesday).
ANZAC Day

On Friday, 24th April, (the first week of Term 2) we will be holding our ANZAC commemoration during the last session of the day. Families are invited to attend our ceremony, which will commence at 1.30pm.

Homebush SS will again be taking part in the official march at Walkerston on ANZAC Day. All student attending are required to wear full school uniform. Parents and younger siblings are welcome to march with the school. We will meet at 7.20am at St John’s School to marshal our group. Also, we need some volunteers for cooking and serving breakfast from 5.00am at the ‘Duke’.

Sporting Schools

Homebush SS will be piloting this program in Term 2. Students will be participating in activities to develop their running, hopping, jumping, throwing and catching skills. Sporting Schools is able to be run before, during or after school. Coaches must be accredited and have insurance. Mrs McVean will be running our program in Term 2. She is an accredited Level 2 Athletics coach with Athletics Australia and has undertaken further training to deliver this program. Sessions will be tailored for Intermediate (P-2) and Advanced (4-6) participants and begin in Week 3.

Long Service Leave

Mrs McVean will be taking 8 days Long Service Leave at the start of Term 2. Mrs Dyson will be Acting Principal in her absence.

School Sores

These sores are highly contagious. They may initially present looking similar to a mosquito bite. When scratched the spots will spread and grow in size. Students who have contracted school sores will need antibiotics to treat the infection. Please contact the Office for exclusion times if your child develops school sores.
ICAS COMPETITIONS
The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). These tests identify individual strengths and areas that would benefit from consolidation work.

This year at Homebush State School we are offering the following ICAS assessments:
Your child can prepare for ICAS using Practice Online for English, Mathematics and Science by going to www.eaa.unse.edu.au/practice-online.
If you would like your child to have the opportunity to participate in one or more of these ICAS Competition Assessments, please complete the form below (or collect a form from the office) and return it to school with the total amount due as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 June 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>16 June 2015</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>16 June 2015</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>28 July 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>11 August 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I give permission for my child, __________________ in Year ______ to participate in the ICAS exam/s as indicated below and enclose the entry fee.
Signed: ____________________ (Parent/caregiver)

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TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
Lost in concentration

By Michael Grose

It's more challenging than ever to be present with our kids, and so easy to get lost in concentration on a device. Here are 5 tips to really impact and make the most of every opportunity you have with your kids.

I can't help but admire my young colleague Sonia, mother of a 4-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. She is an avid user of social media and other electronic devices, but she is disciplined enough to set them aside when she is with her kids.

Sonia chooses to focus her attention on her children, so she limits her use of communication devices to the times when she is alone – which she admits is less often than she'd like.

Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids. When this happens you’ll more than likely miss some wonderful opportunities to really impact your child.

There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you, like Sonia, choose to be in the moment when you have children. When you are fully present you can:

1. **Build their language**
   Recently, I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her young son would mimic her. She changed or added to the sounds and her son tried to replicate the sounds. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

2. **Teach your children about their world**
   Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher. My hunch is that most kids will stop asking these questions of you if your attention is focused elsewhere, such as on a mobile phone or other electronic device.

3. **Impact their thinking**
   Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him. If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.
4. Build relationships
Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour. I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. Time spent giving attention to your child is like putting money in the bank for the future. You never know when you are going to withdraw some of the deposits that you’ve made, so it’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

5. Build memories for you
As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

Yes, there are million memories such as this available to parents who are willing to focus attention on the children rather than be distracted by the lure of communication devices. As a parent you have competing demands on your time, and the allure of communication technology can be overwhelming. However, as Sonia is so aware, the time for parents to really impact on kids is limited so you want to make the most of every opportunity you have with them. The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.
South Mackay Kindergarten
Enrolments for 2016

South Mackay Kindergarten is currently seeking “Expressions of Interest” from families who are wanting their child to participate in a Kindergarten Program from 2016 to 2019.

South Mackay Kindergarten is proud to be affiliated with Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens. Lady Gowrie is a community based not for profit organisation with a proud and substantial history of providing quality education for young children.

South Mackay Kindergarten prides itself on its partnerships with families and works towards promoting curiosity, resilience and lifelong learning within a play based environment.

For further information, please contact
Tanya Davies – Office Administrator
(Tuesday & Thursday)
Phone: 4957 8928
Email: sthmkykindy@bigpond.com
Website: www.southmackaykindy.com.au

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful experience of having an international ‘big brother’ or ‘big sister’ by hosting one of our exceptional, carefully-screened international students for a 3, 5 or 10 month program. We have students aged 15-18 arriving from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Scandinavia in July 2015 seeking welcoming families all over Australia, in both rural and urban communities. They will live like a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Capture the spirit of family and friendship - visit us on Facebook or at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 to request a booklet of international student.
Group Fitness Classes

RPTM are bringing Group Fitness Classes to Homebush School!

We cater for all fitness levels, no class is ever the same and always a variety of exercise styles—cardio, weights, boxing, tabata, circuits to name a few.

Days and times: Monday and Wednesday 315-415
We will run during the school terms only, starting Monday 20th April.
It will be a 10 week block—20 sessions in total.

To register your interest and book a spot please contact Linda on:
info@rptom.net
Or
Ph: 0403520544

www.rptom.net
Www.facebook.com/RPTM.NET