Dear parents/caregivers

Once again we are approaching the end of term. There are a number of events coming up; including the school fete, interschool carnivals, incursions which are part of the REAF Arts festival and assemblies before we farewell the third term of the academic year.

Next Saturday, September 15th will give us an opportunity to celebrate Wickham Primary School’s 40th birthday. Room Five’s involvement includes adding to the time capsule, managing the ‘Lob the Dunny Roll’ stall and performing three DRUMBEAT pieces. Three parents have volunteered to help with our stall; it would be wonderful to have some more volunteers on the night. Please feel free to put your name on the classroom roster, or to lend a hand on the evening; your help is always appreciated!

Room Five students will perform ‘The Listening Song’, ‘Heartbeat Rhythms’ and ‘Room Five Groove’ on the djembe drums for fete attendees on Saturday night. Children need to meet in the classroom at 5.30 pm to collect their drums. Students are asked to wear a white (or bright-coloured) T-shirt with denim shorts or skirt. Please let me know if you have any queries about the performance. All students have been preparing for the performance and most know all three pieces, so your child may be involved in one, two or all three performances, depending on how many students attend on Saturday night. It will be our first opportunity to perform publicly, so it would be wonderful to have as many students as possible participate.

Our classroom garden has been helping us focus on practical Maths and Science skills and knowledge. We have been measuring plants and continuing to record the growth of our seedlings in our garden beds – we now have a fantastic crop of rocket; so if you would like to share the harvest please come to the classroom at the end of any day to take some home!

It was fantastic to see so many students dress up for our school Literacy day! Congratulations to Misha, a.k.a. Cruella De Ville for winning the class prize, and to each and every child and parent for making the effort to celebrate our favourite book characters.
Our classroom blog has had more than 200 visits and has been a stimulating subject as children have added flags to our classroom map and have learned to write posts and comments. Some students now have their own blogs, which are attached to the classroom blog, and which are encouraging children to write in a structured way for readers. We are participating in a blogging challenge this month; this involves having children write comments on Canadian, American and other Australian children’s blogs. Online safety is of the highest priority and students are learning how to safeguard privacy and manage their ‘digital footprint’ through their participation in the blog and through the Australian government cybersmart programme. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our classroom blog. It would be wonderful to have your feedback and even some comments on the blog at http://room5wickham.edublogs.org

We start the Global Children’s Challenge (GCC) on Wednesday September 19th. My classes have participated in this event for the past two years and I have seen benefits in many learning areas as well as the obvious improvement in fitness. The GCC is a health initiative designed to get children from all over the world active, and to develop the habit and importance of daily exercise for the rest of their lives. Facilitated by teachers within classrooms, the ‘Global Children’s Challenge™ empowers children to change their relationship with exercise, their bodies and the environment’. The benefits extend beyond making exercise easy and fun – it complements the curriculum, covering everything from geography and social studies to history and technology. Check out the website at http://www.gccjunior.org/ Children will be given a pedometer and will need to record the number of steps they take each day. Please encourage them to be consistent in their record keeping as our ‘travel’ around the world is based on the combined totals of steps each day.

We have been using a programme called the ‘Unthinkables’ in class to help develop social and emotional literacy skills. Please ask your child about ‘Rock Brain’ and ‘Mean Jean’; these characters are designed to help children manage and express their feelings about patterns of behaviour.

Following feedback I have added ‘Homework Contracts’ to our homework programme. Your child should complete one contract each week. Please remind your child to bring their homework folder to and from school each day.

Please make an appointment if you wish to meet to discuss your child’s learning; if I don’t know about an issue I can’t act on it; good communication is vital for our happy learning environment! Thank you for your help and for your continued support.

Regards

Mrs M Nealon
10.9.12