4th June 2013

Semester 1, Term 2, Week 8

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**R.T. Press**

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From the Principal

This time of the year sees students working hard to achieve their best results in assessment tasks, tests and exams. Reports will soon be written and posted out to families at the end of the term.

This Friday, the Athletics Carnival will show-case the skills of our Taminmin athletes, and bring out some house spirit in an enjoyable fun day. Physical Education classes have been preparing for the Athletics Carnival during the term, and staff have prepared the grounds and program ready for a great day.

We will look forward to seeing many of you next week at the Taminmin Musical – “Back to the 80s”.

Responsible Thinking Process

Now that the Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) has been in place at Taminmin for the best part of a semester we have the privilege of being able to assess its worth, through comparing the schools pre-RTP operation to how it runs now. In making this comparison it becomes obvious that the school is much calmer than it has been in the past, classrooms are quiet and controlled, there are rarely students out of class and there is a positive energy throughout the school. The exciting part of this is that Taminmin is only in the early stages of introducing the RTP, over time the psychological theory that was utilised to create the process will underpin more and more of the schools processes. In short, Taminmin is working hard to solve problems in a positive and permanent manner to create a more engaging, effective and disruption free learning environment for staff and students. So thank you to all staff and students for embracing this big change this year and we look forward to even greater success as we become more familiar with this in depth process. Please see our first issue of the ‘R.T. Press’ put together by Year 9 coordinator, Rob McIntosh attached to this newsletter.

Territory Day

Many children are injured by fireworks each year on Territory Day. A good way to enjoy fireworks on Territory Day is to attend one of the NT Government funded public firework displays around the NT. If you do plan to use your own fireworks, safety tips and first aid advice to reduce the chance of injury as well as a Fireworks Safety Poster can be found on the Department of Health website. [http://health.nt.gov.au/Centre_for_Disease_Control/Injury_Prevention/index.aspx](http://health.nt.gov.au/Centre_for_Disease_Control/Injury_Prevention/index.aspx).
Snake Awareness
There have been recent incidences of venomous snakes been found on school sites. Schools should have a procedure in place as part of their Emergency Management Plan for dealing with snakes that come onto school grounds. A brochure and poster are available to assist with school procedures. Further information is available by contacting the Parks and Wildlife Community Education Officer on 8999 4565.

Public Meeting
Last week the Litchfield Shire Council held a public meeting at Taminmin College. Our VET Hospitality students were fortunate enough to cater the event. They all stayed back after school and collaborated to create a fantastic array of appetizers and set up a display of beverages in a very professional manner. Below is the menu created especially for the night which the attendees were very pleased with:

Woodside Café
Wednesday 22nd May, 2013
All food prepared by students of Certificate II Hospitality
Zoe Robinson
Brock Wilt
Jayde Demetriou
Riley Page
Elle Gersh-Mizen
Cocktail Party
Fresh crudities with spinach cashew dip, olive tapenade dip, beetroot dip
Assorted sushi with pickled ginger and wasabi
Cheese and olive platter
Prawn cocktail on croutons
Polenta with onion basil jam, confit tomatoes
Pink peppered beef with parsnip mousse
Tandoori chicken wing with cucumber dressing
Blinis with cured salmon, capers

Kamitonda Trip
You will be glad to know our staff and students all arrived back from Japan early Saturday morning, safe and sound. They had an amazing adventure and are sure to have plenty of stories to tell. Look out for an exciting report in our next newsletter.
Centre for Excellence
The Centre for Excellence students have been assisting with the musical this year with the distribution for posters and tickets. They have also been helping promote the musical at school during lunch times by hosting sausage sizzles and organising school bands to perform for the students. The live music creates a pleasantly serene atmosphere. Tickets for the musical are still on sale from main reception. Prices are as follows:

- Adult - $20
- Child/Student/Pensioner - $10
- Family (2 Adults + 3 Children) - $50

CSIRO Visit
Last week a member from CSIRO visited our college to work with some of our year 10 students. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world. Our students were very privileged to work with Paul who bought in all the equipment needed for extracting DNA from pea seeds. They worked off a step-by-step instruction card where they had to pour prepared pea solution into a centrifuge tube, add certain chemicals and place it in the centrifuge at 4000rpm. The class worked well together and enjoyed the hands-on experience.

Attendance Week 7
Year 07  89
Year 08  92
Year 09  82
Year 10  88
Year 11  88
Year 12  89

Miriam McDonald
Principal

Business Students
Our Certificate I & II in Business students have been busy this term creating their own mini businesses and events. They have been spoiling the students and staff with delicious crepes, shakes, sorbet, and macaroons all hand made by the...
students. One group of Business students have organised a school disco as part of their assessment. The Taminmin Shake Disco was on today, June 5th at lunch time in the gym. It was a $2 entry fee with a sausage sizzle and cupcake stalls, and DJ Shappo provided the entertainment. All Middle and Senior school students were welcome to the event.

Wellbeing Corner

Immunisation Program Final Round
The final round will be on Monday 9th September 2013 for dose 3 HPV Gardasil for year 7 students and year 9 males. Year 8 students born overseas Mantoux screening and a limited catch up for year 8 students who were absent for the Boostrix immunisation (Diphtheria/Tetanus/and Pertussis).

If any immunisations have been missed contact your local doctor or your local health care provider for further information and immunisation.

- Palmerston Community Care - 8999 3344
- Casuarina Community Care - 8922 7301
- Danila Dilba - 8931 5700

A reminder that immunisations cannot be given without a signed and returned consent form.

Peta Richards
Health Promoting School Nurse, School Health Service

Other News

Musical
We are only one Thursday away from showtime! Rehearsals this week were awesome! The kids ran through Act 1 with no assistance (although Cathy did need to sit on her hands). Other than a few technical difficulties we are cruising along! I must admit I have a few favourite scenes and can’t help bursting into laughter on quite a few lines! We have sold out for the Thursday matinee show and tickets are selling very fast. So make sure you come into school and buy your tickets for ‘Back to the 80’s….The Totally Awesome Musical’.

Some of the cast rehearsing one of the very funny scenes.

Callum Le Lay plays the part of Mr Cocker, the head of Maths.

Oh Mickey you’re so fine!
Hey Mickey!

Mrs Deslandes
Drama Teacher

Adult Migrant English Program

Are you a newly arrived migrant who would like to improve your English? Eligible students can study in a class or by distance learning

Class:
Thursday & Friday
9:00am – 12:30pm
Humpty Doo Primary School

For further please contact:
Uta Vorst: T. 8946 7951 | Uta.Vorst@cdu.edu.au

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.
From the School Chair

Chairman’s Report

I expect that most of you have seen yesterday’s NT News (Monday 3/6/13), in particular the page 3 article; the Editorial and ‘Wicking’ in regards to threats by PAWA to cut the power to Taminmin College. Following is an update about this issue.

You would recall that I first advised you in November last year that Council had significant concerns about how Taminmin College would be able to pay the unfunded power and water increases. At a meeting held on 28 February 2013, Council determined the purposes for which moneys allocated by the department are to be expended in 2013, in accordance with S71C(1)(e) of the Northern Territory Education Act. The determination was that Council endorsed that it will pay the portion of the account for which departmental funding has been received, and conveyed this instruction to the Principal to ensure that this course of action was followed. Council also conveyed this advice to both DECS and PAWA.

I subsequently represented Council at meetings with the Minister for Education and senior departmental staff in a bid to reach a satisfactory resolution. This matter was further discussed at Council’s meeting on 14 May 2013 and Council reaffirmed the February determination, noting the inability of the department to affect a satisfactory outcome.

It has been disappointing that whilst indications were that the issue was resolved by the NT Government allocating additional funding, the process announced by the department was that schools would be required to pay the account and submit claims for assessment of eligibility for reimbursement. Council was not prepared to accept this, as the current reimbursement process is inefficient and inadequate, proven by Council still pursuing a reimbursement from 2011 of over $70 000. I doubt that any of you, nor the Minister, would accept a delay of 2 years if you were owed money from any department or business. Every day we await reimbursements means another day our students are denied the educational resources that they deserve. Enough is enough. The solution Council identified was that if the funds would be reimbursed; why not allocate the funds initially to schools so that they are available to pay the account when first received?

Since the beginning of the year, Taminmin College has paid the majority of the PAWA accounts for which we have received funding. Only the 15% unfunded increase has not been paid. Last week Taminmin College received a disconnection notice from PAWA. Following representations to the Minister for Education’s office and media contacts; and assistance from the Hon Kezia Purick MLA, a departmental representative advised me on Thursday evening that the outstanding amount would be paid by DECS. However, there was no advice that a permanent solution had been reached, nor was there any confirmation that funding would not be withheld to cover future accounts.

Council will be seeking confirmation of these matters over the coming weeks. However, you can be assured that Council will continue to work to ensure that we focus our financial resources on supporting the educational
needs of our students; not paying for lights in classrooms and water in the
Toilets, which are services that are the responsibility of Government.

If you would like any further information, I can be contacted on phone number
0413522606 or email theratahis@bigpond.com.

Whilst I am talking about resources, it would be appreciated if you could all
support us with Woolworths Earn and Learn. We received some wonderful
products last year and look forward again this year to the extra assistance this
program provides.

Beverley Ratahi

@Your Library

Library & Information Week

National Simultaneous Storytime was a huge
success again this year, with Taminmin Library
staff performing The Wrong Book while it was
being narrated by Gerry Wood. The audience was
made up of members from the local community
and childcare centre, and
even some Taminmin students. The young children
especially loved the characters and were really excited to
meet Nick Bland the author of The Wrong Book.
We were all very fortunate to have Nick then read his newly
published book King Pig to them, as this was the very first
time King Pig was read to an audience. The turnout was
excellent and he loved the audiences delightful reaction to
the story.

Taminmin’s Biggest Morning Tea was a huge success this year. The Party was
held on Thursday morning and between 100 and 150 people came along to
share wonderful food and friendship and donated to the raffle that was held in
support of the Cancer Council Australia. Our warmest thanks to all the people
who bought food and donated great prizes, and congratulations to the lucky
winners.

We raised $1150.00 during the morning for the Cancer Council, a great effort
once again!

Liz Short
Teacher Librarian
The new Electronic Student Profile (esp) is now available for all Taminmin College students.

**esp** is the first online program in Australian public schools to give parents easy access to their child’s records. **esp** will keep you in touch with your child’s progress and development.

**How do I register?**
To register please visit the school office where you will be required to sign a Parent Application to Access Electronic Student Profile. You will then receive a personal registration card for your child that will include a unique username and password as well as information on how to access **esp**.

- You can find out more about **esp** by calling or visiting the school office at anytime or visit https://esp.ntschools.net

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