Dear Parents,

Not long now until the end of the Term!

Everyone has been busily finishing off assessments and preparing for our end of year concert.

**SWIMMING**

Students are to be congratulated for being actively involved in learning to swim. Our students have been grouped according to their swimming ability and all are making good progress. Swimming will continue in week 9.

**COLUMBOOLA CAMP**

Years 4-6 had a wonderful time away at camp. They returned with some fabulous stories some of which have been included in this edition of the newsletter. A big thank-you to Brigalow State School and Mrs Eather for organising the camp.

**HOMEWORK.**

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have supported their children in completing homework activities. Whilst this is a minor chore-it helps your child’s academic achievement as well as helping to instil responsibility for learning.

**ATTENDANCE**

As you would know attendance at school is a strong determiner for success. At Kogan State School we have set a 96% attendance rate goal in order for students to get the very best from their education as every day counts. Parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, camp drafts, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. We ask that appointments with health professionals be made for the holidays or after school. Children should be at school before and after the appointment where possible.

**ABSENCES**

If your child is away from school please contact the office or send a note in to your child’s teacher. If we don’t have an explanation for the absence it will be logged as an unexplained absence. Once a month a report is generated detailing all unexplained absences and a letter will come home asking for an explanation for the absence. This is Education Queensland policy.

**ENROL NOW FOR PREP 2016**

Prep orientation times will be:
20th Nov – 9am to 10am
27th Nov – 9am to 10am

**PARENTS**

If your children will be moving/changing schools next year, please let the office know so that we can forward plan for staffing.

The year 4-6 Columboola camp was enjoyed by all who attended.
**What’s Happening?**
11/11, 18/11, 2/12
Swimming
5/12/2015
Salvation Army Christmas at Kogan (to be confirmed)
13/11, 20/11, 27/11
Prep orientation 9am-10am
9/12/2015
End of Year Concert
11/12/2015
End of Year Concert
27/1/2016
First Day of School for 2016

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**Term 4 Swimming**

School Swimming dates are Wednesday, 11th & 18th November & 2nd December. Cost is $3.20 per student payable on the day. Students who do not pay will not swim.

As part of the sun safe policy, all students must wear a rash/swim shirt. Students will need to bring a towel.

Students are come to school dressed in school uniform and will change at the Aquatic Centre.

Students will travel via bus from Kogan SS leaving approximately 11:20am, arriving Chinchilla SS for music lessons. They will then travel to the Chinchilla Aquatic Centre arriving approx. 1:10pm. The bus will depart Chinchilla Aquatic Centre 2.20pm for a 3:00pm arrival to Kogan SS.

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**Rewards Day**

Please Note: Tuesday 24th November is the last day for payments for Rewards Day due to departmental finance constraints.

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**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Week 4: Students of the Week were Riley, Jordan, Summer and Matthew.

Week 5: Tahlia, Ty and Zoey were Students of the Week.

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**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015**

CONGRATULATIONS

to all students for meeting the Premier’s Reading Challenge.
Columboola camp

From the 2\textsuperscript{nd} - 4\textsuperscript{th} the 4-6 class went on a trip to Columboola. We learnt about the aboriginal culture and how they lived. We left for Columboola on the Monday at 9:40am and picked up Warra, Brigalow and Burra Burri. We got to Columboola at lunch time and after lunch we went on a 45 in walk which tested some people’s fitness. When we arrived at the billabong, we learned how to cook damper and while it was cooking, we learnt about how and where the aboriginals travelled. When the damper was cooked we got to have a taste and had it with syrup. Then we took the long, dusty track back to camp. That night we looked at the stars and the constellations.

The next morning we did Aboriginal painting on ornamental boomerangs and built Aboriginal huts with planks of wood. Then we had lunch and then we went on a photo orienteering trail which was very fun. After that we went and threw spears at targets and had a Columboola spear throwing championships which Bronwyn came 2\textsuperscript{nd} in. Then we had a go at throwing boomerangs. That night we did Red Faces (talent show). There were lots of acts and the last act was The Gummy bears which were Zoey, Mel, Tori, Bronwyn, Gabby and Eva. They had crazy hair and they danced but started laughing. After their go Zoey stepped on a fart bomb and it blew up.

Melanie Hurley

The Camp of a Lifetime

On Monday the 2\textsuperscript{nd} of November to the Wednesday the 4\textsuperscript{th} 2015 the small schools from years 3-6 went on a bush camp to Columboola to learn about the indigenous culture.

When we arrived we set up the tents and started on the amazing adventure. First we went on a 45 min walk to the billabong where we were told traditional stories past down for generations and made damper.

Later on in the evening we went and learnt about how the traditional stories were passed down by telling stories under the stars where they created the star consultations which they believe were true.

The next day we went on another walk to go to a special ground where there was bits of timber in piles and we were told that we were building huts and after that we had to run around the bush with a clipboard with animals and a picture board with pictures of things that stand out the most. Then we were all told that was similar to what the Aboriginals did when they were going from place to place.

Also we learnt about how and why the indigenous men used their weapons. Such as the spear and the boomerang, we also had a go at trying to use their weapons.

Later on we learnt how they made paint and how they used it as body art and paintings. They also learnt that when they did paintings they usually told a story.

That night we did a thing called Red Faces that is when you perform a song, dance or an act. When everyone finished their act they declared the winner, 1\textsuperscript{st} place went to a group called the Dumbest, 2\textsuperscript{nd} was Codymo the magician and 3\textsuperscript{rd} went to a group called the Gummy Bears.

The next day we learnt about the foods and medicines that the Aboriginals used to snack on and to help when sick or being injured. We also learnt about the Yungala games one of them were called kataki which was for females to learn to protect them self when the men are gone.

Well that was the end of our camp once we pack it up and left camp a new group came and we all hope that they have just as much fun as we had.

Jacinta James
Columboola camp

When we got there we had morning tea. Then we started to do some activities. We walked for 45 mins to make damper and talked about the Bunya Nut Festival and how they did the festival and what they did. We ate the damper and everyone loved it. We walked back to the camp and we had free time. Then we looked at the stars. At night the Aboriginals used the stars to find their way in the dark. We walked back to camp and went to bed. The next day we went to the eating area and had breakfast. After breakfast we did some spear throwing and boomerang throwing. And came back for morning tea then we had wraps for morning tea. After morning tea we did photo orienteering we had to go around the track and there were posts and wherever there is a post there is a picture to find.

Kaleb Willett