Dear Parents,

This term, our school is again taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

This survey will help our school better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will help the school identify what works to improve student outcomes and will provide comparison data from the 2014 surveys.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the form on the next page of the newsletter and return it to school by Friday 21st August.

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents.

Many thanks,
Sue Mackay
Principal
Parents are offered the opportunity to learn more about the seven habits and the impact that the skills can have on everyone, children and adults alike. On Tuesday, 1st September at 7pm in the Library, the school will be holding an information session for anyone interested. Please RSVP for planning and catering by returning the slip below. Hope to see you there.

RSVP Seven Habits Tuesday, 1st September
I will be attending the meeting.
Name: ..............................................................
Phone: ..............................................................
Student: ........................................... Class: ...........

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey Non-consent Form
If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 21st August.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s ............................................................................................................. Roll class/es ..............................................

Name of parent/carer ......................................................................................................

Signature of parent/carer ................................................................................................ Date ..............................................
NAIDOC WEEK COMPETITION

For our school’s NAIDOC week celebrations, we had a NAIDOC week assembly run by some of our indigenous students, Adeline, Tynarra, Jahmali, Zoe and Yvonce. Adeline and I prepared and presented a speech with Miss Shipman’s support. The speech was about the meaning of Naidoc Week. The next week, Adeline and I were asked to present the speech again for a competition at Coffs Harbour Primary School. Unfortunately, Adeline could not go because of the District Athletics Carnival, so Jahmali stepped in for her.

When we got to Coffs Harbour Primary School, we were greeted by Kathy Yates, who is an indigenous woman from Queensland. She explained that this competition runs in Sydney and she wanted to bring it to the region of Coffs Harbour. There were 3 adjudicators, which also included R J Donavon and Dr Carol Ryan. While we waited for Macksville High School, we ate a delicious morning tea.

In the competition, Jahmali and I competed against Coramba Public School who had very good information. We were first to speak and when we had finished our speech, Dr Carol Ryan came to the front and spoke about how well we had done. The thing she was most impressed with was our eye contact. The students from Coramba did their speech and then we had another small break because of the debate that Macksville High and Orara High did on "Should the indigenous people get their land back?" When the debate was finished, Jahmali and I discussed how we had gone and then we had a lunch break with sandwiches, and amazing cupcakes that were all to do with NAIDOC week.

After the lunch break we were told the results of the competition. Our section was called out first. We were surprised to know that we had WON! Dr Carol Ryan told us that this was because we had a little bit more edge than Coramba, but they were still very good. Then the debating results were announced. Macksville High won (the negative team) even though they had the more difficult side of the topic. Everyone was presented with a beautiful gift pack and certificate. After the award ceremony, we went home.

Written by
Hannah M 6LS

KINDERGARTEN EXPO 2016 Invitations have been sent yesterday to our Kinder class of 2016 for the Kindergarten EXPO being held on Thursday, 3rd September. If you don’t receive your child’s invitation this week, it means we haven’t got their details.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

Thanks everyone for your kind donation, we raised $439.80!