

Dear Parents

Term 2 has started off on a high note with a record participation rate in our first Walking Wheeling Wednesday since the holidays. In all, 76% of students present were active travellers on the day. Being so soon after the break and in a short week, I was sure many would forget. I am happy to have been proven wrong. All classes put in a strong effort but I must particularly praise our Year 6 Class that has gone from 60% participation on the first WW Wednesday to an amazing 93% participation rate last week. Congratulations to them and to their teacher Mrs Meaden, whose motivational skills are obviously working.

This week is a very important one to us, as it is to the rest of the country, with ANZAC Day falling on Friday. Whilst the focus of the day is on Gallipoli and other past conflicts, it is important to note that several of our present parents are in the armed forces and are or have been in East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq and in other parts of the Middle East very recently. Through them, our school community has a very close tie to the ANZACs and their traditions.

From a school point of view it is not only a day when we remember the losses and the futility of war, it is also a time to celebrate the values, beliefs and characteristics embodied in the ANZAC spirit. It is important for our children to understand the necessity of fighting for a cause, the need for mateship, the value of freedom and the concept of a 'fair go' for everyone. It is these things that keep the observation of ANZAC Day relevant today, some 93 years since the troops first landed in Turkey in World War One.

This year, for the first time, we will be represented in the official ANZAC Student Ceremony in the City. All our Student Leaders will be travelling to ANZAC Square on Wednesday to participate, under the supervision of Mrs Godwin and Mrs McComb. This is a great privilege for our leaders and I'm sure they will represent us with pride. Our own school ANZAC Ceremony will take place on Thursday at 9:30am on the front lawn, as usual, and all parents are invited. We have several special

guests, an army truck and members of the Light Horse group also attending. We expect it to run for approximately 45 minutes, followed by morning tea for our guests. I'm sure that it will be, once again, a fitting tribute to our fighting men, under the guidance of Mrs Jan McColm who is the chief organiser of the event and always does an excellent job.

I will finish my very short piece for this newsletter with the words of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (1881-1938) who fought at Gallipoli and went on to become Turkey's first President. He said these words to a group of visiting Australians, New Zealanders and Britons in 1934 and they are now engraved on the monument to the dead at ANZAC Cove. We are not the only ones who celebrate the ANZAC spirit.

*Those heroes that shed their blood
And lost their lives...
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly
Country.
Therefore rest in peace.
There is no difference between the Johnnies
And the Mehments to us where they lie side
by side
Here in this country of ours...
You, the mothers,
Who sent their sons from far away countries
Wipe away your tears,
Your sons are now lying in our bosom
And are in peace
After having lost their lives on this land
They have become our sons as well*

Mark Fisher
Principal



SANDGATE DISTRICT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Do you have a student commencing Year 8 in 2009?

OPEN NIGHT 2008

Tues 13 May

Performance Hall Braun St Deagon

Visit our school, speak to teachers, experience faculty displays, see our facilities, interact with students and meet our principal

5:30 pm School tours

6:30 pm Principal's address

7:00 pm Signature programs/school tours

Enquire about Academic Scholarships for 2009

Driving and hamburgers just don't mix

How many burgers have you eaten while driving? Research has shown that talking on a mobile phone or eating a burger while driving cause about the same distraction. It is more distracting than having an intelligent conversation with a passenger. Sending a text message is even more distracting than talking on a mobile phone. Drivers using a mobile phone run similar risks as those affected by alcohol.

Mobile phones and driving don't mix. Using a mobile while driving can significantly impair your visual search patterns, reaction times, decision-making processes and the ability to maintain speed, control and position on the road. Using a mobile while driving also often involves other tasks that could distract you such as writing down phone numbers on a piece of paper, or dates and notes in diaries.

Many studies have found that using a hands-free phone while driving is no safer than using a hand-held phone and you increase the risk of being involved in a collision by up to 400%. If you drive and use a mobile without the hands-free, it is important you make yourself aware of the relevant road laws. Did you know Your car insurance may be null and void if you breached these laws? You could be fined \$225 and three demerit points?

You could be charged with careless driving of a motor vehicle, leading to an appearance in court and carries a maximum penalty of \$3,000 fine or six months imprisonment, plus disqualification of your license?

If you simply can't be without your mobile for a few minutes while driving, consider these alternatives:

Divert calls — either to someone else, an answering machine, or message bank.

Pull over and park before answering calls.

Have a passenger take the call for you.

As a last resort use a hands free kit.

A missed call or two is far less expensive than having to buy another car after an accident! Before you use the mobile while driving, consider: is that call really a matter of life and death or could you and the caller wait a couple of minutes until it's safe to talk?

Drivers need to be more responsible on the road. When the engine's on the phone's gone!

Please remember the number for emergencies is '112' from a mobile as this will connect to the carrier with the best coverage for that area. Let's hope you never need to use it.

If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/bike safety or other transport issue, please phone Queensland Transport on 1300 360 135.

P&C NEWS

For the month of May, the P&C will be holding a Mothers' Day Stall and Raffle. We are calling for any small donation for this and you can either drop your contribution off to Ann in the Uniform shop or Bambi at the Tuckshop.

Many thanks

P&C Committee

FANCUTTS

Fancutts Tennis Academy will continue the tennis program at our school court during Term 2 on Wednesdays at 3.00 – 3.45pm.

All enquiries, please contact Fancutts on 3857 2922.

