

SOFALA PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Caring Sharing

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R/Principal: Debbie Barratt



Term1 Week6

Wednesday 6th March, 2019

Calendar of Events

Term One

Week 6

Monday Premier's Reading Challenge begins

Week 7

Friday National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Week 8

Thursday Harmony Day

Friday BMEC The Radical Recyclers

Week 9

Week 10

Monday Stage 3 Goldfields Visit

Tuesday Premier's Sporting Challenge Launch

Wednesday Bathurst Mobile Library

Friday BSS Gala Day

Week 11

Friday Term 1 concludes

Term Two

Week 1

Monday Staff Development Day

Tuesday Students return

Award Recipients

Class Award

Week 5 - Rhylliee



Principal's Report

Last Friday we participated in the Schools Clean Up Australia Day. We generally have a tidy school but a bit of extra attention didn't go astray. We have been tidying up the garden area in readiness for new plantings and admiring our new baby chicks and hens. The chicks have grown fast since hatching recently.

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is now open for 2019. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read more. Students will enter the books they read online.

We will be participating in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence and Harmony Day shortly. Students will have the opportunity to wear orange to show support for Harmony Day.

I have been at professional learning this week as our school has been selected to participate in External Validation towards the end of the year. Ms Hughes our Director of Educational Leadership visited last Thursday to help support us in this process.

To begin this process we will participate in the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) surveys under the Bathurst Small Schools group. Student information is not identifiable but will allow us to gather information to drive future planning. Further information is attached to this newsletter. The student surveys begin by looking at student engagement and wellbeing. Parents and staff will have the opportunity to complete surveys during the year. If you have any queries please contact me at school.

Regards
Debbie Barratt



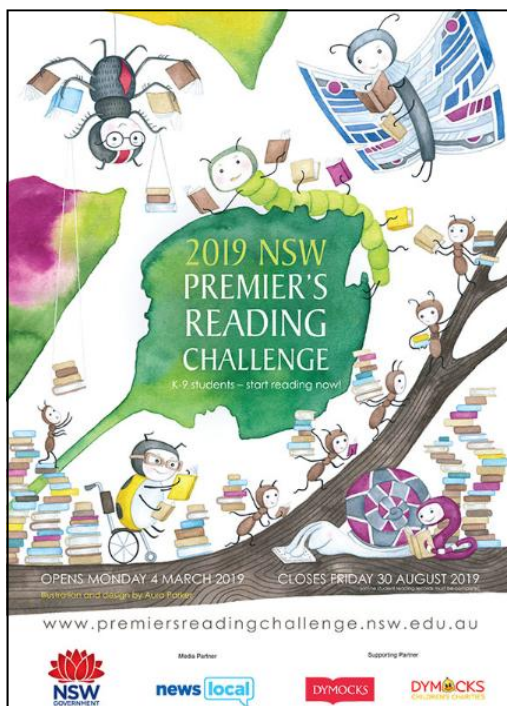
Education

Parent Reading Tips

- ⇒ Assist your child to borrow books from the school or local library.
- ⇒ Listen to your child read and talk about the story/ characters/ information.
- ⇒ Read to or with your child if she/he is participating in the K-2 Challenge.
- ⇒ Reading has always been an important skill. In our modern world it is more important than ever.
- ⇒ Children learn about the importance of reading as they watch family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes.
- ⇒ Reading with your child at home will help your child in all learning areas of school.
- ⇒ Children see you reading and writing in everyday life – reading for pleasure, sharing a story with your child, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading street signs. This teaches them that reading and writing are useful skills in today's world.
- ⇒ Often parents are asked by the school to listen to their child read at home. It's a good way of supporting your child's reading.

Books may be borrowed from your school library or your local library.

- ⇒ Be confident that your child will learn to read.



School Attendance

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with substitute work.

Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace.
 Make school a priority at home, your child's future depends on it.

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but ...

He/She is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years



***Tell Them From Me* student survey: Information and consent form for parents and carers**

Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2019, our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey, as a part of the Bathurst Small Schools network. 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.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to the school by Wednesday 13th March, 2019.

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>

Debbie Barratt
R/Principal
Sofala Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

***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 the school by Wednesday 13th March, 2019.

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

Name of student 1

Roll class of student 1

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Name of student 2

Roll class of student 2

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Name of student 3

Roll class of student 3

.....

.....

Name of student 4

Roll class of student 4

.....

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Name of parent/carer

Signature of parent/carer

Date