Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**SMOKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL GROUNDS**

I have noticed over recent weeks, that some parents are smoking just outside the school gates in the morning and afternoon. Aside from this not presenting a good look to the broader community, it is actually an offence! (Fines of $300 can be issued under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000). If you would like to read more about this law and the ‘4 Metre Rule’, you can collect a brochure from the front office, or visit the website below: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smoking-4m-access-feb13.aspx

**WHAT TEACHERS WANT YOU TO KNOW – Part 1**

Last year I printed out the information below as part of a helpful guide to assist and improve the way teachers and parents work together. The information was well received by all who took the time to read it. Following a few conversations with parents and staff this year, it seems appropriate that I reprint this again. Part 2 will be printed in next week’s newsletter.

**Don’t be a stranger!**

Talk to your child’s teacher early and when you feel the need. Parent-teacher conferences shouldn’t be the only time you connect. (We appreciate that so many of you have taken the time to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher at the recent Meet the Teacher BBQ. We hope you have found out the best way to make contact in the future.) Send in your email address and mobile number.

**Learning doesn’t stop at 3.00pm**

You can help the teacher do a better job by encouraging your children to show you something they are working on at school. Every time your children get a chance to show off what they know, it builds confidence.

**Stay involved**

Give support and be your child’s cheerleader no matter how well (or poorly) they did in a certain subject. We don’t expect them to be an expert on every subject, just knowing their parent is paying attention can be very motivating for a student.

**Teachers are on your side — give them the benefit of the doubt**

Some parents go into attack mode when their child complains about a teacher or they take the problem to the Principal, so the teacher feels blindsided. This is where a good relationship helps, as a quick chat can usually sort things out before it all escalates. Acknowledgement: “What Teachers Wish You Knew. Parents, pull up a chair: Here’s how to help your kids do their very best at school” by Lisa Collier Cool

Mark Greentree - Principal
VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS 2015

What Is A Voluntary School Contribution?
This is a voluntary payment from parents that is requested each year by schools to supplement existing funding. Our school relies on these contributions to provide additional resources to ensure our students have the best possible learning opportunities and learning environment.

How Much?
The voluntary contribution for 2015 is: $30 per family.
Please note that this equates to only 75 cents per FAMILY per school week, and it is the cheapest contribution amount of ANY school in this local area!

What Will The Money Be Used For?
All money raised from these contributions will go directly towards the purchase of school resources and related technology, to enhance the teaching and learning across our schools.

Sorting Fact From Fiction
Help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one. Find out more:

Multiplication Times Tables
Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here's School A to Z’s help sheet:

Reading With Your Child At Home
When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading. Find out more:

Removing head lice and nits
Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they’re not dangerous. Here’s everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits. Find out more:
Classroom Chat with.....

Magnificent 1M in 2015

Term 1 has been a busy start for 1M. The children quickly settled into their new class for 2015.

We have been reading lots of books about friendship. The children have written a description of what a good friend looks like. If you see someone from 1M around our school they will be following our school rules, having fun, learning, being a good friend and most important of all, smiling!

3/4S

3/4S have been working very hard and settling in to new routines. We have been investigating the wonder of plants and how pollination and germination occur. The students have been very interested in the experiments we have been involved in.

We have also been enjoying our history unit, First Contacts. We are developing our understanding of life in early Australia and working on a variety of literary and historical skills.

Peer support started on Friday and the students enjoyed getting to know many people from around the school. Mixed groups work together to develop teamwork, leadership, listening and problem solving skills.

As part of our home reading program the students are encouraged to borrow interesting books from the library. This gives them a chance to find books that interest and engage them. Our library day is TUESDAY.

Being a good friend helps us in all areas of our learning. Especially in Maths when the children are working in pairs to complete TENS activities using dice, cards, counters and white boards.
Meet the Teacher BBQ

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the parents, staff and students who participated in our AWESOME “Meet The Teacher Community BBQ” last Friday evening. It was fantastic to see SO MANY families come up to the school and enjoy spending some time together. This event was the first of many school events scheduled for 2015, and I look forward to hosting more of these great events during the year!