Dear Parents,

**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**
Tomorrow, our wonderful Parents Club are providing an opportunity for students to purchase a gift for their Mum, or the special person who cares for them, at the Mother’s Stall. **Remember to bring your money and a bag too!**

**NAPLAN**
NAPLAN (National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy) for students in Years 3 and 5 takes place next week. The schedule is as follows:
- **Tuesday, 10th May** - Language Conventions and Writing
- **Wednesday, 11th May** - Reading
- **Thursday, 12th May** - Numeracy

Last year we achieved outstanding results, however, each year there is a different cohort of students and results vary with the different groups.

**REMINDER: FRIDAY 13th MAY IS CURRICULUM DAY**
Next Friday will be Curriculum Day and as such the school will be closed.

**LATE MORNINGS** -It is not OK to be late for school
Please ensure that your children are at school and ready to start the school day before 9.00am every day. Our teachers are on duty from 8.45am each day and parents are welcome to arrive earlier and stay with their children until then. It makes it difficult, sometimes embarrassing, for children to settle in to the day at school if they arrive after the initial welcome into the class at 9.00am.

**PRINCIPAL’S CORNER**
When searching for advice for parents about assisting children to prepare psychologically for the NAPLAN program, I found the following article to be relevant and constructive in its content. I hope you find the following article to be of benefit.
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests.

By Michael Grose- Parenting Ideas

_The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests._

During the second week of May, Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

As a parent, it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

**Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:**

1. **Take your cues from your child:** If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. **Focus on doing their best and trying hard:** Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:** If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.”

Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:** Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain their perspective:** One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

Karen Jenkin
Principal

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**PARENTS CLUB NEWS**

Parents/ Guardians,

When assisting with Parent Committee events please ensure you have a "Working With Children Check". Please inform/show your details to the office.

_Please make sure you sign in and out at the office when assisting with Parent Committee events._

Thank you.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Sarani W.  Prep M
Sarani has worked hard to improve her handwriting. She always tries her best.

Kabar G.  Prep P
For trying his hardest to be brave when writing by having a go at sounding out his words. Well done Kabar!

Nilavan T.  Prep R
For being a kind and caring class member who demonstrates responsible behaviour. Well done Nilavan, you are a wonderful role model in Prep R.

Jessica Q.  Prep H
For working hard to write sentences using capital letters, spaces and full stops. Fabulous writing Jessica!

Jake S.  Prep L
For the improvement he has made to completing his work neatly. Well done and keep it up!

Helei L.  5D
For his excellent narrative writing and his positive attitude towards learning. Well done Helei!

Will S.  1JK
For his great learning and his ability to provide specific answers to questions. Well done.

Connie B.  6H
For an infectious, positive attitude in class and an extremely helpful nature.

Huda A.  4C
For making a wonderful transition to Pinewood. You are an excellent role model with your positive attitude to learning.

Aaron Z.  Prep D
For working hard to be organised by bringing his reader to school on reading days. Keep it up Aaron!

Mia V.  6D
For her positive attitude towards learning. Mia always tries her best and completes work of a high standard. Well done!

Naomi B.  2R
For showing a You Can Do It attitude towards classroom activities and displaying excellent listening skills keep up the great work!

Taya F.  4H
For the outstanding effort she puts into her homework each week and for being a wonderful role model to her peers.

Elysia T.  3K
For being a responsible member of the class who tries her best in everything she does.

Hamna A.  3B
For working hard to improve her organisation. Well done Hamna, you have risen to the challenge of Year Three.

Dylan B.  1A
For using his excellent listening skills in the classroom and for trying hard to complete his work. Well done and keep it up!

Nayte C.  1T
For always trying his best in all class activities. Keep up the wonderful effort Nayte.

Chelsea N.  2G
Your effort and attitude has been fantastic in Mathletics. Keep it up. Well done.

Elisha S.  4H
For consistently staying focused and on task until all work is completed. You make good decisions throughout the day showing your maturity as a learner. Well done!

Hannah F.  1H
For confidently attempting spelling of unknown words in her writing. Hannah tries to improve her writing each week.

Nivethan K.  5K
For the way you have settled in our class. You are an active participant in class discussions and your friendly nature is enjoyed by all.

Nancy T.  6U
For settling back into Pinewood so well and for her positive attitude to learning. Keep up the fantastic work, Nancy!
SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAM
Progress Update - May 2016

UE Energy Audit offers simple energy saving tips for Pinewood PS

The UE Audit reviewed the school’s current practices around energy use and came up with some simple but effective measures for reducing the school’s energy bills:
- Heating/cooling regime (W. 10°C, S. 24°C)
- Review sensor lighting timer
- Review current fridge usage
- Switchboard identification/labelling
- Check ceiling fans are set to winter setting
- Establish ‘Switch Off’ regime for holiday periods
- Set thermostats correctly on hot water systems

Green Team Students - Harvey, Lachie, Christian & Madeline combine their enthusiasm and creativity to design posters and assembly & newsletter articles for the UE Switch Off Competition

The Green Team get busy spreading the word about United Energy's "Switch Off" Competition!

When United Energy asked the Student Green Team to help them design some “Switch Off” signs to remind employees to turn off appliances when they leave the room, they had no idea just how creative the Green Team could be!

Embracing the idea with gusto, the Team decided to run a competition across the whole school to see who could design the most original (and fun) “Switch Off” sign. In a Communications Plan, which would be the envy of any Advertising Agency, the Team drew up a competition poster to be displayed around the school; submitted an article for the school newsletter and spoke to parents and students in Assembly.

The winning 3 designs will be transformed into signs to be displayed in UE offices and the School. All entries will receive an icy pole and the 3 winners, a very “Smart” Water Bottle.

Green Team member Lachie believes, “the competition will make students want to enter and create important messages about electricity.” Harvey & Christian both feel, “Switch Off signs will remind us to switch lights off in future” and “to think of ideas to save electricity.”

Marisa Fehner, UE Environment Manager, said, “I’m really looking forward to seeing the students’ designs and to putting them up around our offices. Even as adults, it’s easy to forget that it’s the simple things that we do, like switching off the lights or turning down the cooling, that can make such a big difference to our energy use.”

United Energy proudly supporting the Sustainable Schools Program

RESPECT SELF CONFIDENCE INTEGRITY RESPONSIBILITY OPTIMISM