Dear parents, students and staff,

Thank “you’s” all round this week! Firstly to Miss Kontkanen & the SRC for an excellent cake stall. It required lots of planning and hard work on the day...well done! Those efforts paid off with a superb outcome. Lots of amazing cakes donated by the yrs 3-6 families. Huge thanks!!! And lots of happy student lining up on the day to purchase a yummy cake. All in all the day raised over $500. What an amazing effort!

NAPLAN went smoothly this week. Well done students, you remained calm and did your best. Thank you to parents who gave of their time to attend the P&C meeting today. Lots of good ideas & many things happening.

The information below was sent through today from the DEC:

Consultation on strengthening public secondary education in the inner Sydney area
The NSW Department of Education and Communities is looking at how to address changing needs for public secondary education in inner Sydney. They want feedback from the community and have organised a number of ways this can occur. Full details are available at www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation
Consultation is open to parents, teachers, students and the wider community. Comments can be made online, by attending a workshop or by hosting a Kitchen Table Discussion - please go to the website for more information.

The consultation period is from 16 May – 27 June 2014.

Wishing everyone a great weekend.
Kind regards,
Michele

Cake + Delicious = Cakelicious

### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20 May</td>
<td>ICAS Computer Skills Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 May</td>
<td>Kindy Information Night (6pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 May</td>
<td>Scooter Safety Program (Years 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 May</td>
<td>Balmain PSSA Cross Country Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 June</td>
<td>ICAS Science Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16 June</td>
<td>ICAS Writing Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17 June</td>
<td>ICAS Spelling Test</td>
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News

Cakelicious

There were plenty of crumb-covered faces in the aftermath of our Cakelicious Cake Day on Wednesday at lunchtime. We had strawberry cupcakes with vanilla icing covered in hundreds and thousands, chocolate cupcakes that disappeared quickly and cupcakes that were so large we couldn’t even finish eating them. There were even spaghetti cupcakes, each with a cherry on top!

Thank you so much to the SRC and Miss Kontkanen for organising the event. Thanks to parents for helping your children make cakes and also a special thanks to OSHClub for making some cupcakes on Tuesday afternoon. The SRC rose over $500 for people who don’t have easy access to clean drinking water.

Eaten too much cake?

If your belly is telling you it had too much cake this week, then you should try more fruit next week! Apples and mandarins are currently in season.
Mental maths strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them.

School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: [www.bit.ly/JkiUsY](http://www.bit.ly/JkiUsY)

Does speaking another language at home confuse children?
Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according the Raising Children Network, that’s not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school.

More information is at [www.bit.ly/1m0agnk](http://www.bit.ly/1m0agnk)

Cross country house points
Kent proved to be the strongest house at the school’s cross country carnival this year, beating out Watson, Argyle and Cumberland. We all congratulate the fast runners of Kent!

1st Kent – 232 points
2nd Watson – 187 points
3rd Argyle – 151 points
4th Cumberland – 134 points

Too sick for school?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety's sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice. School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school.


Many thanks to Liren in 5/6L for the photography in this week’s newsletter!
For the CBCA Book of the Year Awards Short List 2014, please visit: