Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new term. It is great to see the students have returned ready for the learning challenges ahead. The first challenge students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will face is the NAPLAN testing. The teachers have been working hard to prepare the students for the tests and we look forward to celebrating the successes of our students later this year.

Amaroo School Cross Country Carnival
Due to rain the annual Amaroo Cross Country Carnival was cancelled twice last term. A new date has been set for Friday 2 May 2014. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be participating. The course will utilise the school grounds, pathways adjoining the school and the district oval.

Students are required to wear suitable running shoes and may wear house colours or school uniform. All students are reminded to bring a drink bottle and wear a school hat.

This is a fun event and Amaroo School encourages all students to participate and have a go. Students who qualify will later have the opportunity to represent the school at the Regional Cross Country Carnival on 20 May 2014.

Student Achievements
Charlotte from Ms Ward’s Year 5 class has started some fantastic art work. She is completing an artist challenge to reproduce the same picture in four different mediums. She has already done the oil pastel section. It was great to see this fabulous piece of art being developed.

Brydie and Mikayla from Ms Bryant’s Year 3 class have rewritten and illustrated a book. They have worked prodigiously to create their own version of “If I Had a Hippo”. Excellent work girls.

Charlotte and Lea from Ms Byron’s Year 7 class have completed excellent work in science. They have recorded their experiment in which they looked at different ways of separating mixtures. The work produced by the girls was neat and very concise, their science learning is expanding rapidly.

Congratulations to Year 4 students for the excellent job they did completing their homework. The students could choose from a range of activities that linked to their learning in the History unit – First Australians. The students were offered the opportunity to complete a range of activities throughout the duration of the term. It was a way for the students to have some say in their home learning and as the finished products show, the students all put in a great deal of effort – out of hours! It also stimulated a lot of conversations at home about the learning that was happening in the school. Well done to Year 4.

Kirsten from Mr Bruce’s Year 9 class is to be presented with the Female Multi Class Champion Swimmer Award for 2013/14. Kirsten will receive her award at the presentation dinner on the 17 May. What a fantastic achievement by this young athlete.

William and Oliver from Ms Parker’s Year 1 class have produced excellent oil pastel drawings of their hands. The boys have chosen great colour combinations to create pictures. I am sure their parents will treasure forever. Great to see these clever students expanding their skills.

Cynthia and Riley competed in the NSW Open 2014 Judo Competition and both came first. Cynthia successfully negotiated three bouts and Riley successfully completed two bouts. After training for many months in preparation for this event, both these young sports people are justly proud of their achievements.
Canteen News

The canteen menu has been updated for Term 2. Copies can be downloaded from the school's website www.amaroos.act.edu.au/our_school/canteen and also available from the Canteen.

Please note that the Daily Meal Deals will now come with a warm jam donut and a juice cup.

Vegetarian, Gluten-free and Halal options are now identified on the menu. New Gluten-free options include gluten-free chicken nuggets ($3.00) and cold chicken salad made with oven roasted chicken, lettuce, cucumber, carrot, tomato and dressing sachet ($4.50).

Other new items on the menu include:
- Egg and Bacon Burger (lean bacon, egg and tomato sauce) $3.00
- Chicken Schnitzel Burger (oven baked chicken schnitzel, lettuce and mayonnaise) $4.00
- Beef Nachos (corn chips, bolognaise sauce, cheese, sour cream optional) $4.00
- Vegie Burger (vegetable pattie, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise) $4.00

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea at Amaroo School

Amaroo School is hosting a High Tea to help the Cancer Council raise vital funds for cancer prevention, research and support services. We invite ladies and girls over 13 years to attend our High Tea on Saturday 10 May from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the School Hall. Tickets cost $25.00, which includes tea, coffee and food; the first 50 ladies to attend will also receive a gift bag filled with samples and vouchers. Tickets are available from the School Canteen (payment can be made by cash only). We will have some great raffles on the day, so please remember to bring extra cash.

Cancer Council tea towels & mugs are also available at the Canteen for $10.00 each (stock is limited). You can also pre-order tea towels & mugs to collect at the High Tea. If you can’t attend but would like to donate to this worthy cause, secure online donations can be made at http://act.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/Amaroohightea

Enrolling in an ACT public school

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2014 AND 2015

The ACT Education and Training Directorate has updated the enrolment and transfer arrangements for all ACT public schools.

All new student enrolment applications for 2015 open from 28 April 2014 (day 1 term 2).

If you are enrolling your child to start school in 2014 or if your child is transferring to an ACT public school at any stage you will need to use the same online form.

To make this process easier for those wishing to enrol or transfer, please use the online enrolment/transfer form and Parent/carer guide to enrolment/transfer for ACT public schools located on the ‘Enrolling in an ACT Public School’ section of the Education and Training Directorate website www.det.act.gov.au

If you have difficulty accessing a computer to complete the online enrolment form please come to the school for assistance. A translator can be arranged should you require one. Please make an appointment on ph 62052808.

To make the process more equitable, there is no longer any need to queue at the school on 28 April to enrol your child. All enrolment requests are stored electronically and sent to the first choice school after 30 May. Decisions regarding offers of enrolment/transfer are made after the closing date.

Applications for 2015 close on 30 May 2014.

As always, please contact the Deputy Principals; Ben Hall, Gail Taylor, Sam Beattie, Tiffany Mahon or myself, to clarify any issue of concern to you. The whole school team at Amaroo School is committed to working with our community to ensure our students have the very best opportunities to learn.

Richard Powell
Principal
Amaroo School
Death Cap Mushroom

Amanita Phalloides

The Death Cap Mushroom is a deadly, poisonous introduced fungus that is responsible for 99% of all deaths related to mushroom consumption. There have been 4 fatalities and 12 reported incidents of poisoning associated with Death Cap Mushroom in the ACT(1).

Description

Cap: 40-180mm wide, may be white, but usually pale green to yellow in colour, or fawn if the mushroom is older, or located in full sun. The cap can be slippery or sticky to touch, and shiny when dry.

Gills: White, crowded and not attached to stalk.

Stalk: Normally white in colour, but may be pale green. Up to 15cm long with a poppy cup shaped volva at the base (often buried in the ground). Normally a skirt-like ring is present high on the stem.

Distinctive Features: The white gills, cup-like volva and high skirt like ring help to distinguish the Death Cap Mushroom.

Occurrence: South Eastern Australia.

Habitat: Commonly found near established oak trees and possibly others, usually during later summer to early winter, after good rain or heavy irrigation.

Toxicity: Extremely poisonous. One Mushroom contains enough poison to kill an adult. Cooking or peeling does not make the mushroom safe to eat, and all parts are poisonous.

Symptoms

Onset of symptoms occurs 6-24 hours or more after ingestion of mushrooms. Symptoms include violent stomach pains, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Symptoms may subside for 1 to 2 days giving a false impression of recovery. However, by this stage the toxin will have already caused serious liver damage. Death from liver failure can occur many days after ingestion.

(1) From 1999-2014

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