Dear Families

On Monday 17 August I saw and heard a presentation at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning. The presentation was in regard to the whole-school implementation of Google Apps for Education (GAFE) and the implementation of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) for years 5, 8, 9 and 10. Representing our school was Tiffany Mahon who outlined the extensive work of the lead teacher projects of the Learning Frontiers Team. Additionally Rose Pearl shared her work on the development of the parent portal that builds and connects many aspects of the GAFE and the BYOD principles and connects parents, students, staff and community to “How we do things at Amaroo”.

Following on from Rose Pearl was Andrew Beecher and the ASTEC members. I was quite excited when I saw three Amaroo students, Year 10, standing confidently in front of a room of school leaders and telling the story of what an ASTEC actually does. A group of 10/12 students provide technical support, manage the tech bar in the Library (At B1 and B2 for those who need assistance) and have been a huge support in solving the issues faced on the student platform. Imagine if you can a day when 250 student computers DON'T WORK! To get things up and running you need the expertise of an ASTEC. Today they were represented by Dion, Mitchell and Lachlan. A big thank you to the three young men who represented Amaroo, many schools expressed an interest in learning more about this initiative.

Last week in my rounds I entered 7BRT. Not a sound was to be heard! So, I took another look! What were they all doing? The students were totally engrossed in reading, but in what? Taking care not to be noisy I sat down next to one of the students and whispered: “What are you reading?” As the papers were pushed in my direction I read: Book VIII: The Odyssey. Homer. My next thought: WOW! So I spent time with the students, talking about the challenges of reading Homer, the interesting and delightful things they were discovering and learnt a lot about the ability of students in Year 7 to persist with a fulfilling if slightly difficult task. Congratulations to all of the students in Ben Rigg’s English class, especially for the commitment you have shown to reading your way through such an exciting text.

Next it was off to Year 10 elective music with Sarah Hewat. Here the task involved first choosing and then locating a piece of music. Once selections were made they had to wait and see if their name was pulled out of the hat! Once a student was selected they were then required to play their music and their peers had to explain how the music displayed one of the seven elements of music. Much listening, thinking and understanding of how music is made and put together was displayed by the very keen and knowledgeable Year 10 musicians.
And if you have ever wondered if your child pays any attention when you make fairy bread, think again! Patrick in KNSR can tell you all about the ingredients you need and the process you need to use to make Fairy Bread, in actual fact Patrick has written down very clear instructions that will enable the making of the best fairy bread ever! His procedural text was a great effort by a student in kindergarten.

School Satisfaction Survey

The 2015 School Satisfaction Survey for Parents and Carers is now open. If you have not already completed the survey, please complete the survey by Monday 31 August 2015. A letter about the parent and carer survey was emailed to parents and carers or sent home with students. If you do not have a letter for each child in your family, please contact the school office. The letter contains all the information you will need to access the survey. The key ACT results from the 2014 School Satisfaction Surveys have been published on the Education and Training Directorate website (www.det.act.gov.au) and a summary of our school results is provided in our 2014 School Board Report. Thank you in anticipation of your participation in this important school survey.

Regards

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Julie Cooper

A/g Principal

Amaroo School

School Board

Board Chair: Trudie Wykes 0420 571 666
Parent Board Reps: Glen Storrar
Staff Rep: Felicity Boate and Sara Jayn Middleton
Student reps: Laeken Storey; Savannah Sithideth

P & C

President: Linda Holland
Vice President: Graham Roberts
Secretary: Karina Pratt
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Week 5 Wednesday
19/8/2015
Parents welcome from 2:10pm on-

You will be a scientist!

More information about Science Week at http://www.scienceweek.net.au/schools/
Early Childhood Book Week will be held on

**FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER, WEEK 7**

books light up our world

**CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK 2015**

70 YEARS
1945 – 2015

Dress as your favourite book character and join our parade from 9:15 onwards.