ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS

As you are all aware, our days at school are always busy and very full. Implementing the Australian curriculum in Mathematics, Science, English, Geography and History is very demanding and requires a lot of time to teach. It is important that our students have a solid understanding of the concepts taught in all of these key learning areas. Therefore, it is essential that children are at school to ensure that they do not miss out on vital skills taught. Obviously if children are sick, or if there is a valid reason for their absence, that is quite acceptable. However, if there is no valid reason for children to stay at home, then we do ask that you support us by making sure that they attend school every day where possible. If your child is sick or absent, we do need a note or a phone call to let us know the reason for their absence. This is an Education Queensland requirement and all absences need to be recorded correctly. If we do not have a reason for the absence, it is recorded as an unexplained absence in the system. Numerous unexplained absences for a child could result in some Centrelink payments being affected. Thank you for your support in this matter. Please take the time to read the flyer: as you can see, small absences or being late to school can certainly add up!

LUNCHES

Please ensure that your children have enough healthy food for 2 lunches. Students often eat their sandwich at 1st lunch and only have something very small for their 2nd break. Packing a sandwich for both breaks would be more beneficial than a muesli bar or chips.

SWIMMING

We will begin swimming in term 4 and our first swimming day will be our FIRST DAY BACK!!!! We will be sending home permission notes and medical forms that will need to be filled out before students are able to attend. A detailed note will also be sent out that will outline the cost and what students need to bring for swimming in the near future.
Week 1 Report
It was a fantastic experience to finally be putting all I’d learnt into practice and see the children enjoying the drums. My nerves soon melted away as the children made me feel very welcome in their school. I was surprised at how naturally they played in unison and with a rich wholesome sound.
This first week we had an introduction to the Djembe (ask your children if they can remember what ‘Djembe’ meant) and the different tones they can produce. We played games on the drums including a style of Mexican wave along with a game called Rumble.
We explored the Rhythm of Life and learned that not all rhythms are audible. Other themes of the course are, relationships, harmony and feelings and emotions.
I really look forward to forming a strong sense of teamwork within the group and seeing the children achieve something they might not have dreamed possible.

Week 2 Report
The DRUMBEAT program is now in full swing in your school as we complete our second week.
We were down in numbers this week due to illnesses but still managed to raise the roof.
We explored the topic of relationships and began practicing some new rhythms in 3 time. Before the session the girls had told the boys we would be doing a waltz and needless to say the boys entered the room feeling very apprehensive. The group played well as a team and really tightened up their technique in ‘The Listening Song’. The group was buzzing with excitement and everyone had something to say about the experience of playing in unison.
The children decided that relationships do not only have to be between people or living things - for instance there is a relationship between burning fossil fuels and climate change.
We looked at good and bad relationships between people and we analysed words like ‘loyal’ and ‘forgiveness’. The children also enjoyed a game of Chinese whispers on the drums where a rhythm was played and had to be passed around the group. Simple messages were easier to relay accurately and the group looked into the reasons why rumor, exaggeration and malice can harm relationships.
The group will be working towards a performance in week 10 in order that their hard work, attendance and new skills are recognized. The group have been told they can perform to as little as 1 person if that is their comfort level.
I look forward to welcoming everyone back next week and I thank you for having me in your school.

Mark Terry, provisional DRUMBEAT facilitator.