Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading is always a priority at Evandale Primary and therefore it was no surprise that our students scored very well in the recent NAPLAN results particularly in Year 3 where 100% of students achieved at or above the National Minimum Standard and 91% in Year 5.

Our students are encouraged to improve their reading skills by:

- Borrowing library books on a weekly basis.
- Borrowing Home readers as soon as each book has been read.
- A book gift for achieving 100 nights of reading.
- D.E.A.R. = Drop Everything And Read operating in classrooms daily.
- Named leaf corridor display in recognition of reading and spelling the Magic 200 Words.
- Active participation in Flying Start and Literacy Support Programs.

A new initiative this term will be our “holiday reading packs”. Students may select a pack comprised of 3 books that they would like to read over the holiday period. Research shows that as little as 15 minutes each day can make a huge difference in reading fluency and comprehension. We have sourced books from Scholastic Book purchases and additional classroom PURR books from past years for these packs. Students can borrow packs throughout the last week of each term and are asked to return them in Week 1 of the next term. Our younger Gumnuts members are also able to borrow single books from their bookcase at every Friday session.

We will continue to showcase Literacy Snapshots of students in our newsletters throughout the year who have made significant gains in their reading or spelling progress.

Last week 4 more gum trees were removed from our playground due to storm damage and therefore were a safety risk for members of our school community. This was an unexpected expense to the school and I would like to personally thank our Parents & Friends Committee who donated $1,000 toward the final cost. The trees were mulched and are being dispersed to our orchard and front garden area by Mrs Davson-Galle and our Grade 5/6 students, sustainability at its finest.

Last week saw our Grade 3/4 students enjoy playing football against students from Youngtown Primary students at Morven Park. The sun was shining, students were thoroughly enjoying the experience and there were grandparents with deck chairs cheering both sides on. Thank you to Stuart Withington and Mario Bergman for organising this event.

Mr Chick will be enjoying a well earned Long Service Leave in the final week of this term. Mrs Jean Rosevears who is a common sight at Evandale Primary School, will be undertaking Mr Chick’s teaching duties during this time. Mrs Rosevears has been one of our relief teachers over the past 2 years so please do not hesitate to meet with her during this time if there are any questions.

Regards

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