Dear Blacktown North Public School community,

Our school ANZAC Ceremony was held on Tuesday 28th April 2015 in our school hall. It was a wonderful ceremony, thank you to our parents who came along to share the remembrance of our diggers, past and present.
Thank you to Mrs Lukachich and Mrs De La Paz for organising the assembly. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mr Rogers for joining us on the day.

Application for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2016
If your child is seeking Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2016 you must submit the application online, final date is 15th May.
The application website is at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement)

NAPLAN assessment for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be conducted across Australia in government and non-government schools on Tuesday, 12th May to Thursday, 14th May, inclusive. Friday 15th

Please make sure your child is on time each of these days, NAPLAN will held in the morning. Late students will not be able to do the NAPLAN assessment on that day.

ABSENCES
Have you explained your child’s absences from school? Please use the school app or send a letter with your child explaining why he/she was away.

WHS - work Health and Safety
Parents please feel to come and report to the office any issues you see within our school grounds that you feel are unsafe or a possible danger/hazard.

Parent Concerns
Some parents have expressed concern regarding some aspects of their children’s behaviour. In this week’s newsletter we have included a check list for two different areas – Autism and Asperger’s.
If you feel that your child might be demonstrating some of these behaviours please use the check lists and make an appointment with Mrs Cefai to discuss further and appropriate direction can be given.

Mother’s Day Stall
I would like to express my gratitude to all our school community for the wonderful donations for the mother’s day stall and a special thank you to all the parents that came in to help wrap and sell the items.
Rekha Bhardwaj, Stervin Dr Cruz, Rajni Abohari, Asma Yasir, Hiba Tan Noor

Visitors
All visitors to our school must come to the office and sign in and out. This is very important. We need to be aware who is on school premises at all times for the safety of our staff and students.

The education and wellbeing of our students is of the utmost importance to us and we look forward to working with you. We have high expectations for your children both academically and socially.

Yours in partnership
Mrs Carmen Cefai
Principal
# Awards from Assembly Week 2

### Merit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Ben Zeng</th>
<th>Hershib Kaur</th>
<th>Gurvansh Singh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Maulik Mishra</td>
<td>Jasme Kooner</td>
<td>Benymin Habibi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2B</td>
<td>Varsha Krishnagiri</td>
<td>Phillipe Muyambo</td>
<td>Sreenath Srinivasan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2P</td>
<td>Inesha Saini</td>
<td>Hasini Konduru</td>
<td>Nicholas Sherlock</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td>Morsal Amiri</td>
<td>Amaan Ghazi</td>
<td>Shriha Nair</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4K</td>
<td>Sandy Bista Chhetri</td>
<td>Amardeep Kaur</td>
<td>Pratham Shah</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5L</td>
<td>Moustafa Suliman</td>
<td>Amberskye Ramos</td>
<td>Tremann Salh</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Ayush Atri</td>
<td>Samarth Talati</td>
<td>Ayush Atri</td>
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### Citizenship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Tama Belvie</th>
<th>Yaseen Malikzada</th>
<th>Ojasvi Sharma</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Mojini Perinbamoorthy</td>
<td>Guneet Kaur</td>
<td>Kadija Bah</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2B</td>
<td>Taahaa Naderi</td>
<td>Naman Bhatt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2P</td>
<td>Ebony Howells</td>
<td>Rudra Vekariya</td>
<td>Serena Kirk</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td>Usman Hussain</td>
<td>Yadraj Tripathi</td>
<td>Saamy Goyal</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4K</td>
<td>Ezekiel Aviles</td>
<td>Ali Naderi</td>
<td>Richard Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5L</td>
<td>Kyraleah Devine</td>
<td>Udhayraj Singh</td>
<td>Katerina Tracey</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Abhayraj Singh</td>
<td>David Petkovic</td>
<td>Tamney Suliman</td>
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### Bronze Certificate Recipients

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Hershib Kaur</th>
<th>Dunya Jafari</th>
<th>Meghna Saini</th>
<th>Benymin Habibi</th>
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<tr>
<td>K/M</td>
<td>Steven Zhao</td>
<td>Kadija Bah</td>
<td>Tanishqa Cheeran</td>
<td>Thisana Yogenthiram</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2B</td>
<td>Taahaa Naderi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2P</td>
<td>Zainab Abbas</td>
<td>Priyani Singh</td>
<td>Amish Acharya</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raghava Tirumala</td>
<td>Eshan Binesh</td>
<td>Lucas Hoffman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Misha Dhanasekar</td>
<td>Padina Ghazanfary</td>
<td>Kathy Kaur</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2R</td>
<td>Sabrina Zeng</td>
<td>Razia Tanweer</td>
<td>Dan Bi Park</td>
<td>Mohammad Zangourzadeh</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4K</td>
<td>Shreya Dhanasekar</td>
<td>Erleen Santos</td>
<td>Richard Chen</td>
<td>Moustafa Suliman</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexandra Pandazopoulos</td>
<td>Hemi Belvie</td>
<td>Sandya Bista Chhetri</td>
<td>Andrew McNab</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tara Sherlock</td>
<td>Angelo Sayas</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5L</td>
<td>Emily Muyambo</td>
<td>Tremann Salh</td>
<td>Aung San Oo</td>
<td>Yuvraj Singh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shamioksha Bhandari</td>
<td>Ajaypal Randhawa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bojan Petkovic</td>
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### Silver Certificate Recipients

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Mary-Jane Azzopardi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Tanishqa Cheeran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4K</td>
<td>Shreya Dhanasekar</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Term 2, Week 2
Assembly Awards

Congratulations students on receiving your Merit and Citizenship Awards!
Congratulations students on receiving your Bronze and Silver Awards!
Our elected SRC students received their badges at our assembly. They have met twice to organize a fundraising event for the Burns Unit at Westmead Hospital and brainstorm ways to help students in the playground.
Cross Country Carnival

We held our Cross Country Carnival last Tuesday the 28th of April and the students all participated and had a chance to run a number of laps of the school. The Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students ran 1 or 2 laps and the older children ran 4 to 6 laps.

The top 3 students in the 8/9 year old, 10 year old, 11 year old and 12/13 year old races will be representing our school at the Seven Hills Zone Carnival on Friday 15th May. The will be given notes by the end of this week.

Congratulations to these students:

12/13 Years – Yuvraj Singh, Vivek Rawat and Tyson Belvie
    San Win Yee, Linda Zeng and Parul Chopra
11 Years – Samarth Talati, Sameer Habibi and David Petkovic
    Mridula Tirumala, Tamney Suliman and Safiya Safiya
10 Years – Pratham Shah, Tremann Salh and Udhayraj Singh
    Emily Muyambo, Farnaz Ganji and Husna Omar
8/9 Years - Ali Naderi Tehrani, Hemi Belvie and Nicholas Sherlock
    Erleen Santos, Amreen Kaur and Katie Tracey

The students also supported the house teams and did chants and songs to show their teammates their support. They received points for this as well as good behaviour during the carnival and places in the races.

The winning house was Waugh. Congratulations!!

Mrs. Lukachich and Mr. Turtle

(Carnival Organisers)
Important Information from the Office

Most of these notices will be found on the School Ap, this Ap also allows parents to notify the school of absences and changes of information.

➤ Please note the change in date for the Zone Cross Country from Friday 8th May to Friday 15th May.

➤ Premier Sporting Challenge booklets have been sent home with your students, this is a program to encourage the students to be active.

➤ Adidas Fun Run – there were sponsorship forms sent home also, this event will be held on Thursday 18th June at the school. There is all the information needed in the booklet but if you have further questions please contact the school. Even if there are no sponsors listed in the booklet all booklets must be returned to the school.

➤ The office also has a number of Entertainment books for sale. The school receives $13.00 for each book we sell; there is an example in the office if you would like to have a look.

➤ If you do not wish your child’s photograph to be published eg in the school newsletter, please contact the office and let them know.

➤ Information for Year 4 Parents – This year the applications for students to apply for entry into an opportunity class 2016 is online only. The website opened on Monday, 27th April and it will close on Friday, 15th May. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will take place on Wednesday 22nd July. More information can be found at www.schools.nsw.au/opplacement.

Mrs Sheena Johnston                                  Mrs Wendy McCarthy

News from your Community Hub

‘Relationships Australia’ information session Monday 11th May

‘Relationships Australia’ is a leading provider of relationship support services for individuals, families and communities. Their services are for all members of the community and include:
- relationship and parenting skills education
- early intervention services for children 0 – 5 yrs old
- counselling and family dispute resolution, and
- community support.

Come along to the information session at school and find out about ‘Relationships Australia’ programs. Have your say about which programs you would like to have at school. The presenter will bring an assistant who speaks Hindi and Urdu. The information session will be in the Library at 1.45pm on Monday 11th May.

Any questions? Talk to your Hub Leader - Annette in the playground before school, or find her in block A next to the computer room, or mob: 0401 683 793
Thank you Citycare

Citycare is a church-based Not-for-Profit organisation that exists to serve communities.

A team from Citycare came to paint our staffroom. Along with purchasing the paint, they also provided pencil cases for every student in Kindergarten. We would like to say a huge thank you to Citycare for their generosity!
Dear Parents,

At the Great Aussie Bush Camp our students will be offered curriculum centered outdoor education based on teaching and learning activities.

Students will engage in activities to meet Stage 2 and 3 syllabus outcomes in HSIE and History through the Gold Town Program.

- Explore the discovery of Gold in Australia and its impact on our country's development
- Examine the discovery of gold in this region and its impact on the local area's development
- Discover the properties of the metal and its uses
- Participate in a tour of the famous 'Mountain Maid' Gold mine

Other activities meet the syllabus outcomes for PDHPE. They build individual confidence in physical activities including team cooperation skills.

All activities are fully supervised by the highly trained instructors at camp as well as class teachers. They include:

- Alpine Rescue – students simulate rescue scenarios
- Bushcraft – students make and eat damper
- Canoeing – all students wear flotation devices
- Orienteering – navigation and map orientation
- Archery
- High ropes and low ropes – students wear harnesses
- Pioneering – practical problem solving and team building
- Indoor rock climbing
- Flying Fox – students wear harnesses

To secure our school’s booking, please ensure that permission notes are completed and returned to the office. Payments are also made to the office in installments or in full.

Regards,

Camp Coordinator

Mrs Kerr
CHECKLIST FOR AUTISM IN TODDLERS (CHAT)

by Dr Avril Brereton

The CHAT is not a diagnostic instrument. It is a screening instrument that can identify children at risk for autism who are 18 months old and who require further comprehensive assessment. Early identification of autism is important but is not an end in itself. How service providers respond to very young children with autism and their families is critical. Early identification is only useful if followed up by access to early intervention programmes, parent education and support and a range of health, education and welfare services for each child and family.

BACKGROUND

The CHAT was developed by researchers at Guy's Hospital London, the University of Cambridge and University College London. Their aim was to establish if autism could be detected at 18 months of age. The first study by Baron-Cohen, Allen and Gillberg was published in 1992 (Baron-Cohen et al., 1992). At that time autism was usually detected at about three years of age. The study focussed on impairments in early social communication; in particular, joint attention and pretend play. These are usually present in typically developing children by 18 months of age. Problems with joint attention and pretend play at 18 months were considered likely precursors to the later impairments of children diagnosed with autism - impaired language, social and communication skills. Initially, 91 toddlers took part. General Practitioners (GPs) and health visitors administered the checklist. Four children failed two or more of the items and at 30 months of age were diagnosed with autism. The other 87 toddlers passed four or more items and continued to develop normally when followed up at 30 months of age.

In a later study, a large population of 16,000 children aged 18 months was screened using the CHAT (Baron-Cohen et al., 1996). This study concluded that consistent failure of the three key CHAT items (protodeclarative pointing, pretend play and gaze monitoring) at 18 months carried an 83.3% risk of autism.
ADMINISTRATION & SCORING

The CHAT (see below) has two sections. Section A has 9 questions that are answered by parents. Section B has 5 items that are observations made by the GP or primary health care worker. There are five key items: A5 (pretend play), A7 (protodeclarative pointing), Bii (following a point), Biii (pretending) and Biv (producing a point). If a child fails all five key items, they have a high risk of developing autism.

FURTHER READING

Baron-Cohen et al. (1992) Can autism be detected at 18 months? the needle, the haystack and the CHAT. British Journal of Psychiatry, 161, pp. 839-843.


CHAT

Section A - Ask Parent:

Yes or No?

___ 1) Does your child enjoy being swung, bounced on your knee, etc?

___ 2) Does your child take an interest in other children?

___ 3) Does your child like climbing on things, such as up stairs?

___ 4) Does your child enjoy playing peek-a-boo/hide-and-seek?

___ *5) Does your child ever pretend, for example, to make a cup of tea using a toy cup and teapot, or pretend other things?

___ 6) Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to ask for something?

___ *7) Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to indicate interest in something?

___ 8) Can your child play properly with small toys (e.g. cars or bricks) without just mouthing, fiddling, or dropping them?
9) Does your child ever bring objects over to you, to show you something?

Section B - GP's observation

Yes or No?

* Indicates critical question most indicative of autistic characteristics

i) During the appointment, has the child made eye contact with you?

*ii) Get child's attention, then point across the room at an interesting object and say "Oh look! There's a (name a toy)!" Watch child's face. Does the child look across to see what you are pointing at?

NOTE - to record yes on this item, ensure the child has not simply looked at your hand, but has actually looked at the object you are pointing at.

*iii) Get the child's attention, then give child a miniature toy cup and teapot and say "Can you make a cup of tea?" Does the child pretend to pour out the tea, drink it etc?

NOTE - if you can elicit an example of pretending in some other game, score a yes on this item.

*iv) Say to the child "Where's the light?" or "Show me the light". Does the child point with his/her index finger at the light?

NOTE - Repeat this with "Where's the teddy?" or some other unreachable object, if child does not understand the word "light". To record yes on this item, the child must have looked up at your face around the time of pointing.

v) Can the child build a tower of bricks? (If so, how many?) (Number of bricks...)
Checklist for signs of Asperger's

Social interaction

Children with Asperger's disorder might:

- Initiate interactions with others but have difficulty in sustaining social interaction
- Interact with people if they need something or to talk about something that interests them, but not for the sake of being social or out of genuine interest in others
- Interact in an awkward and stilted way – for example, they might avoid eye contact while speaking or interpret things literally
- Interact more easily with adults than with children
- Not show emotion or empathy

Communication and language

Children with Asperger's disorder might:

- Be very verbal – for example, they might label everything in a room
- Join words together at the usual developmental stage (around two years)
- Communicate with others about their own interests
- Use a flat or monotone voice
- Answer questions, but not initiate questions if the topic doesn’t interest them

Repetitive or persistent behaviours

Children with Asperger's disorder might:

- Have restricted or obsessive interests that make them seem like 'walking encyclopaedias' about particular topics
- Prefer routines and rules
- Not respond well to change
Most schools experience heavy traffic congestion at school drop off and pick up times.

However it is still the responsibility of all parents and carers to ensure they follow the road rules around Blacktown North Public School.

Parking restrictions are in place around Blacktown North Public School to assist in the management of drop off and pick up of your children, and to increase all students’ safety.

Collect your child from the school allocated area and always use pedestrian crossings where possible – never call your child across the road.

Always ensure your child enters and exits the car using the rear passenger door on the footpath side.

A 40km school speed zone is in place around the school to make it safe and protect your children.

Road safety at Blacktown North PS

Blacktown North Public School is located in an industrial area on Bessemer Street.

Blacktown North Public School has a road safety education program with quality teaching and learning activities for all our students.

Parent please
- always try and meet your child on the school side of the road
- always be a role model for your children
- never call your child across the road
- never double park your car
- always obey the 40km.

Please help support us by setting good examples, obeying all road rules and practising safe road behaviours with your children.

Carmen Cefai
Principal

Road safety practices are essential around all schools. Please read the following road safety advice specific for our school.
There are no external crossings around Blacktown North school located on Bessemer Street.

Supervision

Until they are 8 years old, children should hold hands with an adult:
- on the footpath
- in the car park and
- when crossing the road.

Until children are 10 years old, they should still be closely supervised in the traffic environment and hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.

Penalties are $405 and 2 demerit points for stopping on or near a crossing in a school zone (as at 10 February 2014)

Children should enter and exit your vehicle via the rear passenger door on the footpath side, as this is the safest way.

Children up to 7 years old are required to sit in an approved booster seat, with the seat belt fastened, in the back seat of the car.

NSW Roads and Maritime recommend that children under 12 years do not travel in the front seat of a vehicle.

Kiss and drop zone

Children are seated in the allocated area for Kiss and Drop Zone. Parents wait in the car until the child is placed in the appropriate seat by a teacher. All students need to have their seat belt on before driving off.

Staff car park

The staff car park is for staff only. Please do not use the car park to drop off and pick up your children.

Please teach your children to enter and exit the school grounds using the pedestrian access gates located on Bessemer Street.

No stopping Zone

Parents are able to park in the No stopping zone to drop off and pick up students for 5 minutes. Please use school crossing at the pedestrian gate.

Penalties range from $169 up to $405 and the loss of 2 demerit points (as at 10 February 2014)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20th April Staff Development Day</td>
<td>21st April First Day back for students Transition class</td>
<td>22nd April Transition class</td>
<td>23rd April</td>
<td>24th April School Cross Country</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>27th April Anzac Day Service Playgroup Application website open for Opportunity Class 2016</td>
<td>28th April Transition class</td>
<td>29th April Transition class Assembly</td>
<td>30th April</td>
<td>1st May Alternate date for Cross Country if needed Mufti Day</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4th May Playgroup</td>
<td>5th May Transition class World Asthma Day</td>
<td>6th May Transition class</td>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>8th May District Cross Country (postponed until 15th May)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>11th May Playgroup Information for Parents re relationships 1-4.45pm See note in newsletter</td>
<td>12th May Transition class Naplan Test years 3 &amp; 5 Counsellor at school</td>
<td>13th May Transition class Naplan Test years 3 &amp; 5 Assembly</td>
<td>14th May Naplan Test years 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>15th May District Cross Country Application website closes for Opportunity Class 2016</td>
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<td>18th May Playgroup</td>
<td>19th May Transition class</td>
<td>20th May Transition class</td>
<td>21st May Chill n Chat – 9am</td>
<td>22nd May Walk Safely to School &amp; Healthy Food</td>
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<td>25th May Playgroup</td>
<td>26th May Transition class Counsellor at school</td>
<td>27th May Transition class Assembly Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>28th May</td>
<td>29th May</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>1st June Playgroup</td>
<td>2nd June Transition class</td>
<td>3rd June Transition class</td>
<td>4th June</td>
<td>5th June</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8th June Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
<td>9th June Transition class Counsellor at school</td>
<td>10th June Transition class Assembly</td>
<td>11th June</td>
<td>12th June</td>
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<td>15th June Playgroup</td>
<td>16th June Transition class</td>
<td>17th June Transition class</td>
<td>18th June Adidas Fun Run</td>
<td>19th June Companion Animal Education – 4/5L &amp; 5/6S</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>22nd June Playgroup Reports to go home to parents</td>
<td>23rd June Transition class Counsellor at school</td>
<td>24th June Transition class Assembly</td>
<td>25th June</td>
<td>26th June Last day of Term 2</td>
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