Swimming Carnival: I am very proud to announce that Julian, Sarah, Summer and Kirralee represented our school at the zone carnival held at Homebush yesterday. All students were a credit to our school. I congratulate each of them. Thank you also to Mrs Urio who acted as our team manager for this event.

Car park: A reminder to all parents and carers dropping students to school and picking students up, that we ask you please not to enter the driveway car park. It is just too dangerous with so many small people around not to mention visiting workmen and delivery vans.

Canteen: Thank you to Sam and Damien for doing such a great job in organizing the school canteen. It seems to be very popular and a wonderful opportunity for students to develop those shopping skills. I know I can’t wait for Friday lunch to come around because I get the best sandwiches ever!!!

Clean Up Australia Day: Our students were very busy cleaning the entire school grounds today (as it was so wet last Friday!) It was pleasing to note that there was far more rubbish outside our school than inside. And now it looks wonderful both inside and out! Well done children!! Thank you!!

Helping Hands Morning Tea: Don’t forget to be a part of this fun morning at our school next week, where you can meet with other parents and assist our school at the same time. The morning will start at 9:00 when the bell rings on Thursday. It is expected to conclude around 10:30am.

Year 6 Fundraising: Our Yr 6 students have started their first fundraising activity for the Year with a Popcorn and Ice block day being held on Wednesday. Students will be able to buy popcorn for $1 a cup and ice blocks for 40 cents each. The money raised goes towards the Yr 6 farewell gift to the school. Last year’s students purchased a microwave for our Kitchen Garden program.

Parent Information Evening: We would like to offer an evening where parents can come along to find out about what goes on throughout the week in your child’s classroom. It is not a time for discussing individuals, but we will all be in one room where we can present to you our aims and are all on hand to answer any general questions. It will be on Tuesday 19th March at 7:30 in the senior classroom.

Gems: The first Gem for 2013 is ... Vanessa Elkhazen!! Well done Vanessa. What an excellent role model and school leader you are. Keep up the good work!
## HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/school-kids-bonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

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## Kitchen / Garden Program:

ANZAC Biscuits...... the smell of treacle and baking was just irresistible last Friday when Alecia guided the students in peer Groups 1 and 4 in making these delicious biscuits. These students kindly made enough for us all to share. Great work kids!! Thank you Alecia!

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## Heard in the K/1/2 room!

One child to another.....

"You need to concentrate and not talk. You come to school to learn you know!!"

So ... who needs the teacher????

A small reminder to parents that if you have any concerns at all regarding your child, their work or an issue with another child in the school, we ask that you please speak to the class teacher to clarify the situation. Sometimes things are not quite as they seem.

Do remember that in a small school, teachers are extremely busy, covering anything from 2 to 4 duties a day as well as preparation and marking. It may be, therefore, better to make an appointment to ensure satisfaction all round.

*Ann Mills*

*Relieving Principal*

*Middle Dural PS*