**Banksmeadow Debating Team WINS!!!**

Yesterday, Sera Accetta, Caitlyn Harrold, Zali Kolbe and Lydia Harrold represented Banksmeadow School at our third debating competition against Ferncourt Public School and our team won! Well done to the girls who worked tirelessly the day before to get their ideas together on the topic of *Should Australia have a three day weekend?* We were on the negative side and the girls won due to the quality of their speaking skills, arguments and rebuttals. They placed a lot of effort into this win. Many thanks to Mr McCarron who worked with the girls to make sure they were prepared for the debate. It is such a wonderful achievement considering the preparation time is so short. Congratulations!

**Welcome Back to Term 3**

Welcome back to another busy term. There are many major events during the term including Education Week, Book Week, Science Week and Literacy and Numeracy Week. Different activities, excursions and incursions have already been organised and a term calendar will go home early next week. It is important that parents keep that calendar as a reference for upcoming events but also read the weekly newsletters or visit the school website for information about what’s happening at school. It is also important that specific notes about different activities are carefully read and the deadlines for the return of permission notes and payments are met.

We are still collecting Coles vouchers and Woolworths stickers and we thank the school community for helping us in trying to get more resources for the school. The Woolworths program finishes on the 12th August and Coles on the 14th August. Please keep filling up the boxes outside the office until then.

We are also collecting new or in good condition sporting gear to donate to remote Aboriginal communities. This could include balls, sports clothes or shoes. All donations are appreciated and should be left at the school office by Friday 27 July.

As many of you know Mrs Twitchings is on long service leave for all of Term 3 and is ably replaced by Miss Rafty. Mrs Moffatt returns from long service leave next Wednesday and we thank Mr Spencer for the great job he has done. Mrs Jack will be taking long service leave from 30th July returning on the 15th August. Mrs Shul will be teaching 1/2J during that time.

The next meeting of the P&C is next Monday night (23rd July) at 7pm. The P&C provides an opportunity for parents to not only help the school through fund raising activities but also voice issues, their opinions and concerns. All parents are welcome.

I look forward to another positive term at Banksmeadow Public.

Cathy Lucantonio
**Athletics Carnival**
The K - 2 Athletics Carnival will take place next Wednesday 25th July starting at 9.15am on the school grassed playground. Families are welcome to come along and cheer on the children participating in sport activities. The activities should finish around 11am. The children should wear their sports uniform including a school hat and bring a bottle of water. If any parents are able to assist on the day, please leave your name and contact details with the school office.

The Years 3 - 6 Athletics Carnival at Hensley Field, opposite Eastgardens, is on next Thursday 26th July. This carnival is also for Year 2 students who have turned or are turning 8 years old this year. These students can wear their house colours. Further information will be provided on the permission note.

**Dance Fever**
Our Dance Fever program begins next Monday 23rd July. Dance forms part of the Physical Education syllabus. The students participate in lessons taught by professional dancers and coaches. The students will learn both modern and traditional styles, as partners, groups and individuals. Later in the term we will be asking for students to choose whether they wish to enter the Dance Challenge at Homebush as they did last year. All students should return their permission notes to the school office prior to Monday. The cost of the lessons is $30 for the term and should be paid by Monday Week 3. The school is unable to cover the cost of students who have not paid the tuition after this date.

**Dance News**
Some students from the Junior dance group have not returned their costume. All costumes should be returned to Mrs Bragg by the end of this week at the latest please. Both the Junior and Senior dance groups will be performing at Showcase at the Juniors on the evening of Thursday 30th August. The rehearsal day will be on Tuesday 21st August. Best wishes to our four dancers Megan, Caitlyn, Zali and Lydia who will participating in the State Dance Camp next week at Walsh Bay studios.

**Olympic Fever & Our Olympathon**
Olympic Fever has hit Banksmeadow and each class will be researching a country and discussing the history of the Olympics and the Modern Olympic Games this term. Banksmeadow are also hosting an Olympathon this term on Friday 10th August where all students will be involved in some Olympic events here at school. It is going to be our major fundraiser for the year and we hope that all families and students will support the day. More information about the Olympathon will be sent home soon.

**Education Week Church Performance**
During Education Week students from P-2 will have the opportunity to perform at St Edmunds Anglican Church, Maroubra on Sunday 5th at 2.30pm. Please return permission notes by Wednesday 1st August if your child is interested in performing.