Welcome to our first newsletter of the New Year. I hope your child or children have enjoyed their start to the school year as much as I have. This year we are focusing on reading as our schools explicit improvement agenda, mainly in the area of comprehension, so if your child is reading at home please ask them to retell you the story in their own words.

Day 8
As day 8 approaches we have 21 students in our school. Day 8 is the day that we tell central office how many students we have at our school and then they allocate hours to us accordingly. This includes teacher hours and teacher aide hours. We have started the year the way we would like to continue however this will depend on the hours allocated to us. With 21 students and at least 1 child in every grade we should get .5 of a teacher which works out as 5 days a fortnight. If this is the case this teacher will be working with the junior group for those days.

GRG (Great results Guarantee)
Extra Funding A recent announcement indicated that state schools will be receiving a special grant for the lower school, to improve outcomes. Our grant is $5000, we are required to submit a plan on how we will use the funds – The plan will focus on how we will spend the money to improve outcomes for our students in our school. Our money will be centred on purchasing hours to conduct specialist support programs in the area of Literacy.

School Leaders presentation
On Monday morning during parade we will be presenting our senior leaders with their badges for 2014. Both year 7 and year 6 students will be receiving the badges this year as this is the final year of primary school for these grades as year 7 becomes high school as of 2015. Parade will be at 9am, all welcome. Please bring a plate for a shared morning tea with our school leaders.

Peanut reminder
As we welcome some new parents into our school and continue with some old ones I’d like to remind everyone in charge of school lunches about the importance of not packing peanuts or putting peanut butter on sandwiches. Young Connor in grade 2 is Anaphylactic to peanuts so we need to keep all peanuts and peanut products out of the school. A story on FB (Facebook) recently showed a young girl’s experience in another school. Amelie is anaphylactic to peanuts and although she didn’t eat peanuts she simply played with another child who had snacked on peanuts during lunch. Peanut oil stays on the skin and is easily rubbed into the eyes or mouth. A simple sharing of pencils or a game of ring-a-rosy is all you need to pass on the nut oil. This little girl had a life threatening reaction. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Weekly report
Last year at the end of term 3 I started a weekly report to be sent home each Friday on your child’s work for the week. I will be continuing this starting this week.
The report will go home on Friday and will need to be signed and returned on Monday morning. At morning tea time all those returned will go into a box and whoever is picked out will be given an ice block for morning tea (incentive). The report itself is still a work in progress so it may change slightly over the coming weeks but the process will remain the same, parents sign it to say they have seen it and return it on Monday.

Thank you for your help
At the start of the term we had the big storm that blew through Binjour with some huge gusts of damaging winds. Some of the schools trees were damaged as a result, which of course needed to be cleaned up before school started. Thanks to all those families that were able to make it down to the school for a few hours to help clean up, many hands make light work which was certainly proven that day. Q-build has notified us that they will be coming soon to clean up the rest of the branches still hanging in the trees.

Tuckshop
Tuckshop this week is Pizza, a popper and packet of chips for the cost of $4. Please have money & orders in by Thursday.

Famous 17th-century French playwright Moliere collapsed on stage while acting in his play The Imaginary Invalid – he was playing a hypochondriac.

Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Pepi II had an ingenious technique for keeping flies away – he smeared honey on nearby slaves so the flies would annoy them instead!

Egyptian baldness cures included a paste mixed from the animal fat from lions, hippos, crocodiles, cats, snakes and ibexes. Grey hair was dyed with putrid donkey liver marinated in oil.
WE HAVE MADE GREAT MEDICAL PROGRESS IN THE LAST GENERATION. WHAT USED TO BE MERELY AN ITCH IS NOW AN ALLERGY.

ANONYMOUS
To the Student Welfare Officer

Considering the needs of those without nut allergy...

As you know, the management of food allergy is now a significant part of school life.

As well as advising and supporting teaching professionals, Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) often works with the food industry; providing information and sharing practical guidance on management of food allergy. Recently, we worked with Uncle Tobys to help increase the range of foods available to those without nut allergies in schools that have asked parents not to send in food products containing nuts.

To make things easier for school communities, Uncle Tobys reformulated its muesli bars to remove nuts from their recipes. By the end of January 2014, all its muesli bars will be labelled “Lunchbox Friendly” to reflect this change.

This has been a considerable project for Uncle Tobys – requiring months of planning; a complete shutdown of the muesli bar plant; and an intricate cleanse of every component of each production line. The final step is to communicate directly to school communities to ensure they understand the benefits and limitations of this change:

- First, the “lunchbox friendly” range is not suitable for people with nut allergies. While Uncle Tobys has taken nuts out of its recipes, it cannot guarantee that other ingredients in these products have not come into contact with tree nuts and peanuts before they reached the Uncle Tobys site.
- Secondly, children without nut allergies will be able to enjoy new “lunchbox friendly” muesli bars within your school’s allergy management policy.

We would also like to take this opportunity to reinforce A&AA’s preferred approach to the management of food allergy in school.

To reduce the risk to children with life-threatening nut allergies, it is common for schools to put a restriction on nuts as part of their allergy management policy. While allergen restrictions do reduce risk, this strategy must be part of an overall management plan as risk can never be totally removed. To think otherwise would increase risk to those with a food allergy.

If you or your school haven’t already, we strongly encourage you to explore A&AA’s resources online at www.allergyfacts.org.au, especially our Be a M.A.T.E. program and FREE School Curriculum Resource. We can also provide you with further guidance and advice on developing or refining your allergen policy through our contact line on 1300 728 000.

Remember: Nuts are healthy for those who are not nut allergic but eat them at home, not at school!

Yours sincerely

Maria Said
National President of A&AA

Susan Kevork
Group Nutrition Manager Nestlé