Sanson’s Slate

Good day,

Welcome to Week 4. It has been a great start to the year, with students and teachers getting right down to the core business of learning. I have enjoyed my time visiting classes and seeing what goes on at the “coal face” of our school!

Student Enrolments

We have confirmed the enrolments of 443 students for the start of 2016. At the moment we have some year levels that are at capacity under the current human resourcing model of 18 classroom teachers. I am continuing to work with regional human resourcing personnel to implement a more effective model for students and teachers so that teaching and learning can be maximised. I will communicate any amendments with you in a timely fashion.

Learning Focus

Every few weeks, I provide some goals around learning behaviours to our students, as a challenge for them to improve in areas that have great impact on their learning. These behaviours will always be about the things we can never be too good at so it is appropriate for everyone to practice. The focus is on “having a go – straight away” and ties in nicely with our motto “Believe in Yourself”. This behaviour helps your child by:

- Maximising the time they spend on tasks (increasing total learning time)
- Encourages starting first, then problem solving (as opposed to “I can’t do this!”)
- The use of the term “Have a go” is used on purpose to be an enabler.
- Re-enforcing the message that complying with instructions will allow smooth learning for your child and for others.

Parent Parking and Road Safety

Parents please note the following road safety messages

1. Use of the Cap SDE Car Park as a drop off/pick up point is not allowed. This is reserved for staff at the CDSE and DSS campus.
2. Please be careful when using the “Stop Drop and Go” area on Gray St. Cars that are waiting in line, but obstructing the roadway for traffic may be fined as this is an infringement.
3. Students are not to walk through the staff parking areas (near the hall or basketball court). All pedestrian traffic is to use the gates near Admin, or Gladstone St through Cap SDE.

As always, we thank all our parents for their patience, the end of the school day is a busy time, and student safety is everyone’s business.

Parent Teacher Information Afternoons

Last week all parents will have had the opportunity to meet with their child’s class teacher to learn about and discuss the curriculum, instruction, classroom expectations and the fun things that will be happening throughout the year at Denison State School. Our wonderful teachers here at Denison are very approachable so if you require further information or clarification then please arrange a meeting time through the office or via email if appropriate.

Achievement Growth Program

Also, as a part of the school’s Improvement Agenda in 2016, teachers will be working hard to improve the numbers of students achieving high results in Literacy and Numeracy. During Week 5 teachers will hold a meeting with parents of these students in their classes or cohorts to outline the modifications to program, and ways parents can help with this agenda. Even though this is a targeted program it does not take away from the fact that teachers are working hard to make sure every student in their care is learning and improving.

Cheers! And have a great week.

Troy Sanson

Acting Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Meet and Greets

Thank you to all parents who attended the Teacher Meet and Greet last week. It was great to see so many faces around the school. Our AGP Meetings will be held on Tuesday, 23rd of February 2016 at 4.30pm. Invites are being sent this week to parents of students that have been chosen to be a part of this program.

Attendance

It is great to see such a great attendance rate for the start of the school year! Below are the attendance rates for the end of Week 3 for each cohort. Each week, I will update the attendance rate for each cohort to see if we are maintaining our high attendance percentages!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Attendance % Week 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all cohorts that are above the national average of 92.9% I hope as a school we can stay about this percentage all term!!!!!

Student Leader Badge Ceremony

Invitations have been sent to parents for the Student Leader Badge Ceremony. This will be held on the 26th February 2016 at 8.45am.

Nikita Vaughan
Acting Deputy Principal

Date Claimers

- Feb 22nd to 26th: Book Fair
- Mar 7th: Arts Council—Michael Salmon
- Mar 9th and 10th: School Photos
- Mar 23rd: Cross Country
- Mar 24th: Swimming Carnival 4,5 and 6
Prep

Hello and welcome to week 4! Thank you all for your attendance and support at our parent afternoon. If you were unable to attend feel free to contact your class teacher for any information you may have missed. A reminder to parents that we are encouraging independence, please say goodbye to your child and allow them to unpack their belongings as it gives them a sense of responsibility and purpose in the mornings. If any parents are interested in being parent helpers please provide your name to your class teacher so they can roster you on for activities. Thank you for your ongoing support so far this year.

Regards, Mrs Katelyn Poole & Mrs Sam Patterson

Prep/1

Thank you to all the parents who attended the parent nights. If you were unable to attend feel free to contact me as I am happy to go over any important information you have missed. I would also like to thank you for your continued support over the last few weeks as we settle in to school life. Just a reminder that homework folders need to come to school every day. Year ones have started home readers and these need to be returned each day as well. Please sign the book in the reading folder, this is how we know that your child has read.

Regards, Miss Amanda Potter

Year 1

Thank you to those parents who were able to take the opportunity to participate in the Parent Information Evening last week. For those of you who were unable to come, you are welcome to see your child’s teacher should you have any questions. Year 1 students have been immersed in imaginative texts. We have been discussing and writing about the main characters and their emotions portrayed throughout a story. In Maths we have been learning to skip count in 2s, 5s and 10s and add 2 numbers together using the count on strategy. We look forward to meeting parents again at the end of term Parent Interviews to discuss your child’s learning journey and how we can work together to help them succeed.

Thank you.

Regards, Miss Simone Bourne & Miss Lauren Laws

Year 2

Welcome to fabulous week 4! Homework is now in full swing. If you have any questions regarding homework, please let the class teacher know. Homework folders need to be put in the homework box every day so sight words can be tested and so notes can be sent home inside folders. Completed homework is due on FRIDAY. Students get 2 books from the “home readers” per week (Monday and Wednesday). If this is not enough for your child, please utilise the library facilities at school or in town or read books from home. “Deno readers” sheets will be given out as soon as Mrs Haslen passes them onto class teachers.

Library day for 2A is Wednesday and 2B is Tuesday every week. Students need to bring their library bag so they can borrow and remember they can borrow more frequently than once a week. PE and MUSIC are on Monday and Friday each week. Well done to the students who are bringing their hat to school every day! Keep it up!

Regards, Miss Amanda Poolman & Mrs Shona Shaw

Year 2/3

Thank you to the parents who attended the parent information sessions last week. For those parents who unfortunately couldn’t make it, an information summary sheet was sent home. If you didn’t get one of these please just let me know and I will organise a new one.

Just a few reminders:
- Students must have a library bag to borrow on a Wednesday
- Hats need to be at school everyday
- Water only in water bottles as these are kept on or under students desks
- Home readers are changed every Monday and Wednesday
- Homework due on Friday

Please feel free to email me at ratul0@eq.edu.au if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Regards, Miss Rachael Tulloch

Year 3

Well we are certainly into the swing of things! We have been exploring Funland, a fictional theme park, and embedding persuasive language features. Are your children starting to sound more persuasive? We’ve started reading time to the minute, which is a very tricky concept, especially when using the word “to” the next hour. It would be wonderful if time telling on an analogue and digital clock could be encouraged at home too, thank you. Our bean seeds are growing for science as we investigate living and non living things. In geography we are looking at human and natural things, what human and natural things could be around your home?

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent teacher information session. Should there be any questions please feel free to email your child’s class teacher.

Regards, Mr Joel Davis and Miss Elyse Douglas

Year 4

Welcome to week 4. Thanks to all the parents who attended the Parent Information afternoon last Thursday. This was just a chance for us to tell you a little about what we do in Grade Four, and a chance for any parents to ask questions. If you missed this and still have some questions please send us a note or come in to see us.

Two weeks have passed since the last newsletter and we have gotten to know our students well by now. Initial testing is mostly completed and serious learning has begun. In English this year we will be consolidating learning about Parts of Speech in the English language, such as nouns, verbs, adjective, noun groups, verb groups and articles. We will also practice how to add speech to our writing. For the first half of this term we are looking at the narrative, “The Twits”, and the assessment will involve the students adding a new chapter to the story.

In maths students are learning how to multiply 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers using the grid method. This, of course, is just one method to multiply numbers, but it is a method we are focussing on at the moment. We are also learning how to divide using algorithms (short division).

Overall, the Grade Four children are settling in really well and are a fabulous group.

Regards, Mrs Diane Wayne-Barclay, Mrs Lisa McHugh and Miss Nikita Maiden and Mrs Jane McColl
**CLASS BULLETINS**

**Year 5**

Our Year 5 students are already working hard and engaging in an exciting range of learning experiences at school. **Talking to Your Child’s Teacher** - Effective communication between home and school is important for the success of your child’s education. Thank you to the parents that were able to make it to the Parent Teacher Afternoon last week. We encourage you to see your child’s teacher with any concerns or queries that you may have regarding social, emotional or academic progress. Your involvement is highly valued in and out of the classroom. Please feel free to email your child’s teacher to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues.

Leigh Robinson lrobi12@eq.edu.au  
Rachael Wedmaier rwedm5@eq.edu.au  
Wade Thompson wthom87@eq.edu.au

**Reminders**

- Swimming – every Tuesday in Term 1. Remember to bring your togs, towel and goggles.
- Drink Bottle – it’s important that a water bottle is brought to school every day to keep hydrated.
- Brain Break – at approximately 10am each day we stop to re-energise our bodies with a healthy snack – fruit, vegetables or yoghurt.
- Lunches – please have a substantial lunch for the children. They are burning their energy rapidly and need this sustenance to make it through the day. A sandwich, wrap or salad is a great idea.

*Regards, Mrs Leigh Robinson, Miss Rachael Wedmaier and Miss Kelly McGovern*

**Year 6**

Year 6 have made a great start to the year. A big congratulation to 6A on their wonderful parade performance on Friday, they have certainly set the standard for the year. Students have been working hard learning about short stories, practicing sizzling starts and working with fractions in maths and English. Student Council have a wonderful opportunity to attend a leadership camp this week at Fairbairn Dam. A big thank you to all parents who have let us know the reasons students have been away. It has been great to see such a high level of attendance so far.

*Regards, Mrs Barbara Wade and Miss Pauline Dunn*

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**Library News**

This year in the library we have a real focus on expanding and extending the reading preferences of our students. This has been introduced as “Tasting a New Book”. As part of this and using the notion of “tasting and trying” we are encouraging students to borrow something different but if after “trying” they are not happy with their choice they can return it and re-borrow. They do not need to wait for their library day to do this. It would be great if you could support your children in this new and exciting quest by discussing with them what they are reading. Should you have any queries about our library collection or any issues concerning borrowing please do not hesitate to contact me by email.

mhesl5@eq.edu.au

Happy Reading, Maree Heslin and Jean Self

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**SCHOOL PHOTO DAYS ARE**  
**WEDNESDAY 9TH OF MARCH 2016 AND THURSDAY 10TH OF MARCH 2016**  
**PHOTO ENVELOPES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED. ALL ENQUIRIES AND PAYMENTS ARE TO BE HANDED DIRECTLY TO MSP PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE DAYS OF THE PHOTOS.**
Special Education News

There is a lot happening in the community presently for people with a disability and those caring for them. Firstly, the Mud Run is coming up on March 12th and to make this event more inclusive, 50 free tickets are available to people with a disability and their carers if they would like to participate. More information is available on: http://www.mudrunemerald.com.au/ and the person organising the tickets can be contacted by emailing kerri.downie@cfsqld.com.

Colette Anderson is offering a free tryout Drama group session for toddlers to Kindy aged students with a disability. “Act Out” is run by Colette Andersen who is an experienced pre-school/primary school teacher with a passion and flair for drama, having taught for approximately 12 years in Special education and running “Act Out” drama in Capella since 2008. Colette is now offering drama classes in Emerald. Colette also offers the following classes through the school term – toddler, kindy, prep, primary, secondary:

- In school workshops
- School holiday workshops
- MC Services –adult’s and children’s events

Please register your Expressions of Interest via Email to Colette Colette.actout@gmail.com or phone 0437 727 659 for further information.

The flyer below gives more information regarding the toddler to Kindy drama group for students with a disability.

Kind Regards, Marietta Sedgwick
HOSES

Music news

Well it is week 4 already and the Music room is alive with ‘The Sound of Music’! It has been a singing frenzy with all classes choosing their songs for their assessments over the next 2 weeks along with practising rhythms, notes and new music words. I am so excited to hear each of your children sing a solo or duet and start off the year with confidence by showing off their talents. The grade 2-6 choir has started preparing for our annual Mother’s Day concert. This year it will be on Friday the 6th of May at Parade. Parade performances are in full swing of rehearsals too with 6A being our first performance last week. The next upcoming performances are....

Date | Class
--- | ---
Friday, 26th February | 4A
Friday, 11th March | 5A
Thursday, 24th March | 3B

Yours in Music and Denison State School talent,
Monique Podolak

Instrumental Music

Instrumental Music has begun for the year with some very excited students picking up their instruments for the first time. If you have not already organised your child’s equipment/instrument, please do so immediately as they will fall behind the other students with out it. If you have misplaced your equipment list please email me or ask the school office for a new one.

You should have received a student resource scheme form and loan agreement form (if using a school instrument) by now. Please ensure these are returned to the school office with payment asap, as your child can not take their instrument home until this process has been completed. Any students who have not returned forms and payment to the school office by February 29, will be withdrawn from the program.

As I service six schools in the district, if you have any questions could you please email me at lhild7@eq.edu.au and I will endeavour to get back to you within 24-48 hours.

It’s shaping up to be a very busy year for Instrumental music with events such as Fanfare (June 6), CH Festival of Bands (28-30 July) and the CH Eisteddfod (TBA) just to name a few.

Leanne Hilder
Instrumental Music Teacher

You are invited to join....
Emerald Intermediate Band
When: Mondays 5.30-6.30pm
Starts 15th February
Where: Emerald Town Band Hall
61 Roberts St across from Mitre 10
Cost: FREE FREE FREE

We give you biscuits during the break too!
This is a great opportunity for you to get some extra practice on your instrument as well as make new friends with other young musicians from around Emerald. For more information please ring 49877607 or visit our facebook page - Emerald Town Band

Deno Readers

Sunflower
Possum
Gem Fossicker
Wattle
Bearded Dragon
Governor William Denison

Cadence B
Henry W
Madeleine A, Lachlan H, Isaiah S
Conner W, Hayden J
James H
Gabriella P

Date
Class
Friday, 26th February
4A
Friday, 11th March
5A
Thursday, 24th March
3B
### Student of the Week
#### Awards for the week ending 5th February 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Ruby F</th>
<th>For her whole body listening. Ruby sits quietly and listens attentively in all class activities. Well done Ruby.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Joshua D</td>
<td>For your amazing listening skills during class activities and your focus on completing all tasks to a high standard. A Great start to the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1C</td>
<td>Monique W</td>
<td>For showing fantastic whole body listening and being a good role model for the preps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Brayden H</td>
<td>For your great listening skills. Keep it Up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Paige A</td>
<td>For your excellent listening skills and behaviour this week. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Lane W</td>
<td>For Lane’s exceptional behaviour. He is always actively listening and following instructions straight away. Keep it up Lane!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Zane B</td>
<td>For your awesome “whole body listening” this week and your fantastic attitude. Keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>James H</td>
<td>In recognition of your ability to apply yourself to Number of the Day, your hard work means you have already moved to the next level in just the 2nd week of term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Sophia W</td>
<td>For positivity, enthusiasm and dedication to her work! Sophia is always on task and always confident to share her thought and ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Thomas K</td>
<td>Thomas’s perfect posture, listening ears and eyes on the speaker. You’ve impressed me with how well you use your whole body to listen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Jack L</td>
<td>For your mature attitude. You give everything a go and contribute to all classroom discussions. What a great start to Year 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Kane B</td>
<td>In recognition of being a fantastic listener and working hard all week! Keep up the good work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Ben H</td>
<td>For your great effort in class and your ever helpful nature. You are listening well to instructions. A great start to the term!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Katie R</td>
<td>For engaging the reader with a ‘sizzling start’ for Quick Writes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Saxon M</td>
<td>In recognition of his outstanding organisation with all class activities. Saxon has been ready to learn 100% of the time. He also has been using his wonderful manners! Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Corban L</td>
<td>For your positive attitude towards your learning and trying your best in all classroom tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A</td>
<td>William M</td>
<td>For showing excellent classroom behaviour and effort in completing his tasks. Keep up the good work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Tristan G</td>
<td>For your great start to 2016. You have given all activities your best effort and had a go. Awesome work!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student of the Week
#### Awards for the week ending 12th February 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Adam S</th>
<th>His effort and enthusiasm. Adam attempts all activities and always gives his best!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Brodie L</td>
<td>For you being focused on learning and your effort to produce fabulous work. You are a Prep Pirate Champion! Keep up the great work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1C</td>
<td>Chloe W</td>
<td>For her beautiful classroom manners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Isobell LK</td>
<td>Your excellent bookwork, always trying your hardest and the positive attitude you display.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Xander VW</td>
<td>Trying your hardest and not giving up when learning your count on strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Paul T</td>
<td>Paul’s fantastic effort in class! He has been trying his best and showing how clever he is. Keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Kiana G</td>
<td>Always applying effort to your tasks and demonstrating outstanding behaviour. Keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Audree B</td>
<td>Being a positive role model to your class mates. Denison is lucky to have you!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Michael D</td>
<td>His excellent whole body listening skills and super effort in class especially during maths. Keep up the great work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Olivia D</td>
<td>Olivia’s diligence and persistence to independently complete all activities. You put 100% effort into everything you do! I’m impressed!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Jaclin C</td>
<td>Your exemplary behaviour and attitude to your school work. You have been on task and focused at all times. I am super proud of you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Saioa BM</td>
<td>Completing your work to a high standard and always being a fantastic role model to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Lauren G</td>
<td>Your beautiful neat spelling work that you have been completing in your spelling book. Fantastic work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Jack SH</td>
<td>Using efficient problem solving strategies to solve challenging problems in a timely manner. Keep up the great work Jack!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Sonny SP</td>
<td>His high level of respect towards peers and staff both in classrooms and the playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Avon A</td>
<td>Being a respectful and enthusiastic class member. Your Whole Body Listening shows that you are engaged in your learning. Keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A</td>
<td>Rian P</td>
<td>Your well thought out and reasoned word problem response to your Flick the Switch Task. Awesome Work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PE and Sport News

Swimming Program Change for Week 4

Only

Due to our swimming lessons clashing with the Leadership Program being held at Camp Fairbairn next Thursday there will be a change of swimming lesson time for some classes for week 4 only. This will enable all students to attend their swim class for week 4 instead of having to miss out.

It will only affect 5A, 5B, 6A & 6B. All other classes swim as normal program.

This means that on Tuesday 6B & 6A will swim in the morning at 9am and 10am respectively and 5C swim as normal after lunch on Tuesday at 12.45pm.

On Thursday 5A and 5B will swim in the morning instead at 9am and 10am respectively. If you have any questions or concerns please ask Miss Lawrence.

Parent volunteer helpers may or may not be able to help me this week due to the time change so I do apologise if this is the case. However if you can manage the change of time I would love to see you there!

Swimming Volunteer HELPERS!

A huge thank you goes to our awesome Mums and Dads who have been able to give up some of their time to help us in the pool with the swim classes so far. It is so great to have you there to help us!! They help all children in those classes so give them a thank you smile when you see them!

Sharon Carroll, Michelle Goodwin, David Hudson, Deanne Haldane, Leanne Hall, Melanie Mackay, Kylie Jackman, Bonnie Walsh. Thanks again from Miss L!!

Good Luck for Sports Trials Coming Up!

Good luck to all the students who are trialling for the following teams.

- CH Basketball trials on Feb 15th. Tamsyn B, Cooper B and Jack S
- Emerald District trials for Netball on Feb 16th. Ondrea Y, Amber C, Gabi W, Regan B, Samantha D and Katie R
- Emerald District Soccer on Feb 25th. Cooper B, Corben L, Dominic D, Jason L and Sonny P
- Emerald District Rugby League on 2nd March.

Stay active!!
Miss L

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Community Grants Program 2016
Round 1 – Available Now!

Local organisations are invited to apply to Council’s Community Grants fund for programs or equipment/facilities in the following categories:

- Community Assistance up to - $5,000
- Sport and Recreation Assistance up to - $5,000

Applications close 5pm, 28 February 2016

Application forms and guidelines are available from Council’s website, libraries, offices and rural transaction centres.

Website: www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au
Phone: 1300 242 686
Scott Mason
Chief Executive Officer
PO BOX 21
EMERALD QLD 4720

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Central Highlands Festival of Bands 2016

Lyrics Competition – Cash Prizes

For entry details please contact James Raschlie on James_Raschlie@roch.catholic.edu.au or collect an entry package from the Marist College Emerald Office.

Entries Close Friday March 4, 2016

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Get involved in the School Banking program

Denison State School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

The rewards available during 2016 are:

- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking day is Wednesday. Each week you need to put your bank book with your money into the commonwealth banking satchel in your classroom.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.