9 March 2016

Dear Parents

Primary students at Scone Grammar School regularly participate in ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools) organized by EEA (Educational Assessment Australia) through the University of NSW. These competitions provide an opportunity, particularly for stronger academic students, to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. The results can also provide teachers and parents with some helpful information regarding a child’s performance.

In 2016, we will again be offering the opportunity for any student (Years 3-6) to sit for any of the subject competitions, at the request of their parents.

A full list of the 2016 EEA competitions, together with sitting dates and associated costs, is included with this letter. Costs for participation in these competitions will be charged to your Monthly Statement.

It is important to note that the EEA assessments are competitions, and as such, are designed primarily for more able academic students. They are rigorous in nature and often test work outside the scope of what may have been covered to date in the classroom. They are national competitions, and as such, are not specifically related to the NSW Board of Studies Curriculum, but more to knowledge of and skills in the subject generally.

Having said that, however, participation can also assist all students in understanding the procedures involved in external assessments, which are important areas to be familiar with, considering the mandatory nature of participation in NAPLAN and later on, the Higher School Certificate examinations.

There are mixed opinions across schools and amongst educators as to the value of participation for all students. While the competitions present a useful opportunity for strong academic students to be extended and challenged, they can be quite stressful for those students who find academic work difficult. If you are unsure about your child’s participation, I would encourage you to discuss the situation with your child’s class teacher before completing a registration. You will also find further information at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

If you would like your child to sit for the EEA competitions, please complete the attached sheet and return to Mrs Reichel in the Primary Office by Thursday, 24 March 2016.

Thank you for your assistance.

G L Feeney

Head of Primary

Scone Grammar School
CARING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL
60 Kingdon St
P O Box 332
Scone 2337 NSW