Monday, 10th October 2016

M.P.W. BILLY CART GRAND PRIX: DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY MINI-UNIT

Dear parents/caregivers,

Later in Term 4 the senior team will be engaged in an exciting mini-unit focusing on design & technology. The learning being done by your child in the classroom will include their ‘race team’ designing, constructing and racing a billy cart in our ‘M.P.W. Billy Cart Grand Prix.’ Race Day will be Monday, 19th December (the final school week of 2016).

The students will also have the opportunity to build their own prototype of a billy cart in a woodworking incursion. This exciting hands-on experience will be provided by Jonathan from ‘Learning by Doing,’ funded from the excursion levy. Throughout the unit and during the incursion students will be learning valuable skills in working safely with wood and tools such as saws, workbenches, hammers and nails while creating their billy cart prototypes and eventually the real thing.

The billy cart building process will all happen at school.

Materials/Equipment/Technical Assistance

One of the major challenges we will face in making the unit a success will be accessing enough materials to construct each group’s billy carts. Our emphasis will not be on buying materials for the carts, but sourcing any recycled wheels, wood, old seats, etc. from within the school community. It would be fantastic if your family could consider this, and begin collecting such items over the coming weeks. We ask that you keep these things at home until the construction process begins later in the term, due to limited storage space at the school.

Each billy cart will also require axles for the front and rear wheels. If you have access to axles (and wheels) they will be a valuable commodity, however if needed the school will be able to support teams with sourcing these. If you’re not sure what we may need, your child and/or their classroom teacher will be happy to chat with you and answer any questions.

As we move into the construction phase, teams will also require assistance from parents and family members for tasks like sawing and drilling parts of their vehicle. Finally, for race day all students will be required to wear protective clothing, which will include bicycle helmets and durable footwear and clothing.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated as we work our way through this exciting topic. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about how you can help, please speak to your child’s teacher.

Regards,

M.P.W. Senior Team

(Vicki, Ryan, Lisa, Maddie, Fiona, Kim, Liz and Julie)

I am available to assist at school by:

☐ Helping with billy cart construction (sawing wood, drilling holes, etc.). Your child’s classroom teacher will coordinate with you times and days that work for you and the class.

Parent name: ________________________________ Contact number: ______________

Child’s name: ________________________________ Room number: ______________