

# Advance Notice of Upcoming Events

## Ag Day Advance Notice

One of our Ag Day pieces involves dried flowers. As we come to the end of summer and into Autumn it is a good time for students to start collecting and drying their own flowers for their Ag Day Florals. The process is easy. Suitable flowers are:

pansies, small daisies, hydrangea heads with the individual blossoms removed, cosmos daisy, poppies, most smallish single petal flowers.

Here's a more detailed guide:

### 1. Gather Your Materials:

- **Flowers:** Choose fresh flowers that are not too wet or damp.
- **Absorbent Paper:** Parchment paper, baking paper, or tissue paper are good choices.
- **Heavy Book:** An old, sturdy book is ideal.
- **Optional:** Additional heavy items (like books or weights) for extra pressure.

### 2. Prepare the Flowers:

- **Remove excess stems:** Trim the stems to a manageable length.
- **Ensure flowers are dry:** If the flowers are damp, gently blot them with absorbent paper to remove excess moisture.

### 3. Pressing the Flowers:

- **Layer the flowers:** Place the flowers between layers of absorbent paper within the book.
- **Ensure flat placement:** Try to arrange the flowers as flat as possible to help with the drying process.
- **Close the book:** Once the flowers are layered, close the book firmly.
- **Add weight:** Place additional heavy items on top of the book to apply pressure.
- **Store in a dry place:** Keep the book in a warm, dry place, away from direct sunlight, for 2-4 weeks.

### 4. Checking for Dryness:

- **Check periodically:** Check on the flowers every few weeks to ensure they are drying properly.
- **Signs of dryness:** The flowers are dry when they are no longer cold to the touch and can be easily peeled away from the paper.
- **Store dried flowers:** Once dry, store the pressed flowers in a dry place, away from direct sunlight, to prevent fading.

Tips for Success:

#### **Choose the right flowers:**

Some flowers, like those with thick petals or those that hold a lot of water, may require a longer pressing time or additional care.

**Use absorbent paper:**

Absorbent paper helps to draw out moisture from the flowers, which is crucial for preserving their color and shape.

**Apply consistent pressure:**

Consistent pressure helps to flatten the flowers and ensures they dry evenly.

**Don't rush the process:**

Patience is key! Drying flowers can take several weeks, so avoid opening the book too early.

**Protect from sunlight:**

Direct sunlight can cause the flowers to fade, so store them in a dark place.

There are multiple ways to press flowers. Have some fun over the holiday break experimenting. Remember, we are trying to reduce the cost of Ag Day and the wastage for you. Each project will be a beautiful gift or keepsake.

**Term 2 Speeches Notice**

Students, Y5 - 8, are required to write and deliver a 3 minute persuasive speech. Speech finals will be held in Week 5 of Term 2. Successful finalists from the school competition will have the opportunity to deliver their speech at the Franklin Speech Competition. Students were told today to think about their topic and start planning and then writing their speech. Although we will be working on some persuasive techniques and language in the classroom, this is a homework project to be completed by all students. Students are expected to write the speech--parents can help support the process--make notes on cue cards, and practice delivering their speech in front of the mirror, family and friends ready for the big day. Please, make an early start so that students have the optimum time to polish their work. Here are the speech criteria.

**The speeches will be judged using the following criteria:**

- \*Content: The speech should include persuasive language as well as research and personal opinion. The speech should inform and persuade.
- \*Topic: Children may talk on a school approved topic. The quality of language must be appropriate for a formal public speaking situation.
- \*Length: 3 minutes: any speech less than 2 mins 30 secs or longer than 3 mins 30 secs will be disqualified (at the judges' discretion).

Please help us to make your child's learning experiences and journey as stress-free as possible by getting an early start on both projects.