Principal’s Message
We all had a lovely day last Tuesday for our annual Pancake Day feast. As usual, many, many pancakes were cooked and eaten with a delicious array of toppings. Thanks to our parents and grandparents for the cooking and Mrs Cooper and the K-2 children for mixing up the batter. Our Year 6 Leadership team counted $70.25 which will be donated to World Vision.

State Qualifiers—State PSSA Swimming Carnival—Week 11 9-10th April
Huge congratulations to our swimming relay team who competed at the Regional carnival last Thursday. Emily, Chelsea, Kandice and Brady, bettered their Zone time by 4 seconds, taking third place in the PP5 relay and qualifying for the State carnival. This will be our third appearance at a State PSSA carnival in two years and we are all extremely proud of the efforts of our students. Thank you to Mrs Wilson for managing our team, organising training sessions and transporting the children to Maitland pool.

Tamworth Excursion—Friday 14th March
Mrs Cooper and I will accompany all of our students to the Tamworth Regional Gallery this Friday for a guided tour of the Archibald Portrait Prize Exhibition. This show is part of the prestigious Archibald Prize which is one of the major art prizes in Australia. We are taking this opportunity to extend the children’s knowledge and appreciation for visual art. We will leave school at 10.00, have morning tea in the park, tour the gallery then have our lunch at Endeavour Park. Here there is a collection of native animals and an adventure playground. We will return by 3.15 for the afternoon bus.

Trees
There has been comment and discussion about large trees in NSW school playgrounds over the past several weeks. I am waiting for more information and confirmation of an arborist’s visit, to assess the trees in our playground. This is an initiative of the DEC.

The two large pine trees at the front corner of the school are presenting a problem for the children’s safe exit in the afternoon. Mr Field has informed me that the trees have split inside, have completely outgrown their shape and will need to be removed and replantings made.

In the meantime, as we organise quotes for their removal, the children who are collected in the afternoon will be going out of the car park gate supervised by a teacher. Please see organisational requirements further in the newsletter.

I will be attending meetings this week in Scone and Merriwa for the Invermein Small Schools, the Scone Local Management Group and the new Wollemi Principal’s group. Mrs Bettington and Mrs Coffey will be working with Y3-6 as usual.

Enjoy the rest of your week with the delightful weather.

Isabel Fox  Principal
UHSC—Youth Council
Chelsea and Darcy attended the March UHSC Youth Council this week at Aberdeen PS, their report follows. Thank you to Ms Tracy Speck for transporting the children to these meetings, your help is much appreciated.

Report by Darcy & Chelsea
We have been chosen to represent Blandford Public School at the Upper Hunter Youth Council for 2014.

On Tuesday the 11th March we travelled to Aberdeen for a Youth Council meeting to discuss fundraising ideas and up and coming events.

Today, the 12th March, we travelled up to Murrurundi for a meeting about the website which will be launched soon. It is a great opportunity to be on the UHYC.

There will be a movie night held on the 21st March at Aberdeen Public School, flyer attached.

We would like to give a big thank you to Mrs Mary Spora for organising all the meetings and special occasions for The Youth Council of 2014.

Students of the Week
K-2  Mac—for a terrific retelling of The Gingerbread Man
     Jack—for great effort in storywriting
     Rory—for great effort in storywriting
     Fezaan—for great effort in storywriting

Y3-6  Charlotte—great maths work and neat organised book work.  Well done.
     Angus—neat handwriting in all book work and great enthusiasm for learning in Year 3.

Hats and Sun Safety.
We are now accredited as a Sun Safe School by the Cancer Council of NSW. Please make sure school hats are labeled and worn every day. We are enforcing a "no hat no play in the sun" rule as part of our sun safe policy. Many students leave their hats in their tote trays during the week ensuring that they don’t forget them for school.

Car Park Safety Arrangements
When dropping off and collecting students please park rear to the fence. As we will be dismissing students in the afternoon from the car park gate, please be extra vigilant when driving out to ensure the safety of all of our precious children.

It would be appreciated if you could come to the gate to collect students from the teacher, so that they aren’t crossing the car park behind large vehicles.

This system will remain in place until the large pine trees have been removed, ensuring a safer exit in the afternoon.

Grandparent’s Day—Thursday 20th March
This annual celebration day is held during Senior’s Week. Grandparents and special relatives and friends are invited to Blandford PS at 9.30 am for a few hours of fun and a delicious morning tea.
This year Mrs Cooper has organised a building activity where the children and their grandies will create an animal or robot or machine (imaginations - full steam ahead), from boxes of different shapes and sizes. Mrs Cooper has some interesting connectors available in place of the usual sticky tape and staples, which should make for a fun morning.

Please start collecting boxes of all shapes and sizes and any other bits and pieces you think would be useful (bottle caps for eyes, ring pulls etc). Boxes may be collected in your student’s own classroom over the next week.

Please bring a plate of morning tea to share with our visitors.

Professional Learning

Mrs Cooper, Mrs Coffey and myself have been working on a series of professional learning sessions this term. We use the video conference facility in our library to attend the workshops each Tuesday afternoon after school. This has furthered our knowledge and understanding of the New Australian Curriculum outcomes and programming requirements in English and Maths.

We are also currently working on online training for the DEC initiative which will have all teachers in NSW trained in the new Disability Standards Australia.

Our Term 2 training day in conjunction with our Invermein colleagues will be working with the Quality Teaching documents.

The Invermein Small Schools group is our collegial partnership with: Murrurundi, Ellerston, Belltrees, Rouchel, Martindale, Sandy Hollow and Cassilis Public Schools.

Stage 2/3 Canberra Excursion—1st—4th September 2014.

I have made bookings for our upcoming Canberra Excursion in September. Accommodation will be at Eagle Hawk Caravan Park, with two lodges booked for our students. At this stage, Ellerston PS Y3-6 students and a staff member will be coming with us. This has made the cost of the bus much more affordable. We anticipate leaving Blandford at 6am on the Monday, arriving in Canberra around 12.00 and returning by 6.00pm on the Thursday evening. Activities include:

Royal Australian Mint, Australian War Memorial, National Art Gallery, Parliament House, Black Mountain Tower at night, Questacon in the evening, Australian Institute of Sport and the National Zoo. I am waiting for confirmation for several other activities such as the Australian Electoral Commission, Putt Putt mini golf and the National Museum.

The cost of the camp will be approximately $340 with a $30 rebate from the Federal Government (all schools who visit Canberra receive a pro rata rebate depending on distance from the ACT), plus some assistance from our P&C.

Please return the expression of interest as soon as possible so that I can firm up numbers for our bookings. A payment plan is welcomed, and encouraged, to spread the costs of this excursion over the next six months.

Please return

Yes /no I’m interested in going on the Canberra Excursion.

Name..................................................................................................................................................................
**Library News**

We have been busy in the library with K-2 studying fairytales and decorating delicious gingerbread men. 3/6 are reading the BFG by Ronald Dahl and creating some wonderful mini posters. This year the Book Fair will be held the week starting 24th March. This is a awesome time for our library.

We have competitions, a store and a chance to boost the Library’s funds so stay tuned.

Mrs Coffey

**P&C News**

**SPORTS CARNIVAL**

It has been discussed at the last P&C meeting to move our annual sports carnival to Wilson Memorial Oval in Murrurundi. All at the meeting agreed it would be better due to lack of room at the school. If you would like to discuss this matter further please attend the next meeting on Wednesday 26th March.

**AGM 6.30pm at the Library followed by the General meeting**

All positions will be declared vacant.

Please consider taking on a position on the committee.

Please find attached Executive roles & responsibilities.

Remember meeting times are flexible and roles are open to both men and women. It would be nice to see some dads come along.

A general meeting will follow the AGM where we will discuss the results of the Horse Sports.

A big thank you to everyone that attended and helped at our Horse Sports Day.

Once again it was a huge success.

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**Photo Gallery**

Pancake day, kinder, yr 1 & 2 making pancakes.
Enjoying pancake day.

These are our seasoned pancake makers!