Principal’s Message

I will be away from school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week in Sydney. I have been invited to participate in a workshop to develop an online, multimedia Stage 3 Science and Technology assessment test. This test will work in line with the new Science & Technology syllabus which is due for implementation, along with the new Maths syllabus, in 2015.

This workshop is an initiative of the High Performance Unit of DEC, and a great opportunity for professional development for myself and our staff at Blandford. Mrs Bettington and Mrs Leayr will teach the Y3-6 class with their usual class routines and programs.

Cross Country

Our Cross Country last Thursday was a lovely country picnic day, one of my most enjoyed sports events. The weather was perfect, our children did their very best and most of our parents were able to come to Mrs Tanner’s farm. This is a really authentic cross country, complete with rocks, herds of cows and a variety of prickles. Our place getters are:

Sub Junior: First: Jack R (record broken), Isabella  Second: Archie, Aaliyah  Third: Rory, Ella
Junior: First: Mitchell, Aneka  Second: Lachlan, Millie  Third: Angus, Bridie
Senior: First: Darcy, Emily  Second: Chelsea, Seth  Third: Sam

A special mention goes to Lucy, who went back to help her friend then completed the junior race. What a kind friend!

Also to the entire field of 11 years and Seniors who turned back to help their comrades in need. Another group of kind friends!

Wetlands EEC Visit

Mr Jones from the Wetlands Environmental Education Centre visited last Wednesday as part of a project which our Y3-6 students have begun this term. This is called Climate Clever Energy Savers. Our students are learning about energy in its many forms, how it is produced, and the ways in which we can be more frugal with our energy use.

We will be conducting an energy use audit at school and home, to investigate ways to save energy. The children will then be writing a proposal to implement one of their energy saving ideas at our school which will be funded as part of the CCES program.

This is a fun, yet powerful way for students to learn with long term gains for our environment.

Musica Viva - Gypsy Tober

This was a lovely performance of acapella singing and student participation. Reports by K-2 are included.

Isabel Fox  Principal
Canberra Excursion

An information note with deposit slip has been included in this week’s newsletter. Please return these as soon as possible to enable me to finalise arrangements for travel and accommodation.

Many thanks for your help with this.

Students of the Week

Week 3

K-2

Elinor—enthusiastic singing
Millie—enthusiastic singing

Y3-6

Brady—well organised work and positive attitude in Maths, HSIE and English—well done!
Ezra—improvement in spelling and handwriting. Keep up the great work Ezra!

Week 5

K-2

Aaliyah—great narrative
Henry—beautiful handwriting

Y3-6

Jarna—neat cursive writing and tidy bookwork—well done!
Jack—neat handwriting and interesting ideas and comments in class discussions. Thanks Jack!

Coal & Allied / Newcastle Uni / Rotary—Primary Science Discovery Day—Muswellbrook

This annual event, much anticipated by Year 5/6 students, will be held as usual at the Muswellbrook Indoor Sports Centre, Wednesday 18th June.

Please return the media consent and permission note as soon as possible. As there are only 8 students in Y5/6 this year we will be travelling by private vehicles. Ms Fox will transport 4 children but a parent is required to help with the remaining 4 students. Please see Ms Fox if you are able to help on this day. Arrive 9.30am—leave by 2.45pm. Notes will be handed out tomorrow.

Belltrees PS Horse Sports
This is scheduled for Friday October 24th 2014. Entry forms are available at the office.
Scone Arts and Crafts Weekend

Charlotte, Ebony, Jack and Wil will be attending the art workshop in Scone this weekend. Ms Fox will be a tutor this year and is looking forward to working with many children from our the Upper Hunter region.

Y3-6 are working on a canvas for the exhibition titled “Endangered”. The art show with children’s work and the Banool Prize for the school “Endangered” entry, is open at the Scone Arts and Crafts Hall in Kingdon St Scone on Friday 13th June at 6pm, then over that weekend 10.00 –2.00pm

UHSC Youth Council Meeting

The next Youth Council meeting will be held at Blandford PS on Thursday 5th June from 10.00-12.00. Blandford and Murrurundi Youth councillors will be hosting the morning. Darcy and Chelsea are our reps for this program.

NCCD—National Consistent Collection of Data—DEC program

Included in this week’s newsletter is a letter regarding this DEC program. The letter explains the process and all data is strictly confidential and “de-identified”. This program is working towards providing opportunities for schools to ensure programs are in place for students who have a range of learning needs and disabilities.

Please return the permission note as soon as possible. Your help with this is appreciated.

The Australian Government and all state and territory governments have agreed to work towards the full implementation of a nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability by 2015.

Collecting this data will help schools and education systems to implement Australian education ministers’ Melbourne Declaration (2008) to work towards two important educational goals for young Australians, that:
* Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence; and
* All young Australians become:
  successful learners;
  confident and creative individuals; and
  active and informed citizens.

Education ministers have agreed that 2013 and 2014 will be transition years so that all Australian schools and sectors have time to prepare for the data collection, including undertaking professional learning and refining processes, prior to full implementation in 2015.

Art in a Suitcase

Ms Kate Armstrong from the Tamworth Regional Gallery is visiting our school this Thursday 29th May to show our students a collection of “real” artworks. There will be two sessions with time for discussion, comments and art appreciation.

Congratulations Feezan

On Monday ‘Big Dev’ from the Devil Ark visited our school to present Feezan with a 2nd prize for the recent local colouring in competition. Well done Feezan.
Belltrees Sports Day—NUHSAAN

Reminder—Friday 20th June at the Belltrees Sports Ground. Information packs will arrive at school soon.

MUSICA VIVA REPORTS  K-2

On Friday my school went to Musica Viva. They were very good at singing the Magpie Song. What I liked the most was the nice harmony in all of the different songs.

Camilla

What I liked about Musica Viva was when we made up our own song about cross country.

Brock

What I liked best were the songs and the instruments they used. The songs I liked best were the Magpies and the song at the end of it all.

Lachlan

Uniforms

Could parents please check your child/children’s jumpers to make sure they haven't accidentally taken someone else's. There is a size 6 woollen jumper missing.

P&C

The P&C Annual General Meeting was held and the office bearers were elected as follows:

President:  Jo Teague
Secretary:  Gail Brooks
Treasurer:  Kerry Axon
Catering:  Ruth Roser
Uniforms:  Jen Caslick/Bettens

Copies of the minutes from the last P & C Meeting are available in the school office. Please see Mrs Tuckwell.
The next meeting will be held in the Blandford PS library at 6.45pm on Wednesday 11th June.

A wood raffle is being held to assist with costs for the Canberra Excursion. Tickets are being sold in Murrurundi outside the Newsagency and Dooleys Store 9am-noon on the following dates:

Saturday 7th June
Friday 13th June

If you are available to help sell tickets on these dates can you please let me know.

Small books of tickets will also be sent out to all families and will need to be returned along with the money (including any unsold books) to the school by Tuesday the 10th of June. Extra books of tickets will be available in the office for anyone who needs them. Tickets $2 each.

Regards
Gail B
Wetlands Science Day

Cross Country