Principal’s Message

The end of the 2015 school year is rapidly approaching. This has been a busy but exciting term of Creative and Practical Arts activities as well as sport and PD/H/PE.

Our students have been exposed to and engaged in: artist workshops with professional artists, authentic gallery collection artworks, professional gymnastics tuition and display (amazing!), African dance and drumming workshop, music, circus, Golf Gala Day, Police officer visit, Road Safety talk, Y7, Y3 and Kinder orientation for 2016 and Personal Development workshop for our S3 students. PHEW!

These activities assist in giving our rural students broad-based extra-curricular opportunities to engage with people, places and ideas from their wider world. Apart from the educational outcomes, our children have had such fun learning new things.

Thanks go to our hard working staff members: Mrs Cooper, Mrs Coffey, Mrs Leayr and Mrs Bettington, Mrs Clinch and Mrs Kelaher, for organizing, making many phone calls and emails, planning, perfecting and making these events “just right” for our children. Well done ladies!

Work is underway for our Presentation Night celebration of awards and performance. Invitations are included in this week’s newsletter with the usual request for the bring-a-plate supper. The evening begins at 6.30 with children attending in full summer uniform. Costume items will have been brought to school for the dress rehearsal which will be during Week 10.

Mr Young will be our special guest this year, presenting some of our class awards. This will be my final Presentation Night and I look forward to watching our Year 6 students chair the evening and pinning badges on our new 2016 School Leaders.

I have had a wonderful four years as Principal of Blandford Public School. Our small school has a big heart, it delivers excellent education to our children and sits snugly in this small and beautiful part of the world. Thank you for your friendship, assistance, hugs, comments and requests. Whilst this is a bit early for farewells, I might be too emotional as my leaving day arrives!

Best wishes for a bright future Blandfordians.

We have seen a 60cm brown snake on the front path at lunchtime—please use the bus gate for the next few days.

Regards

Isabel Fox         Principal
Students of the Week

K-2  Jacob—for trying hard in addition and subtraction of double digit numbers
     Isabella—for committed and conscientious efforts in mathematics

Y3-6  Jarna—attention to detail in literacy activities
      Lachlan—maths skills - improving every day

Community Christmas Carols at Murrurundi—Saturday 12th December

Students and families are invited to attend the annual Christmas Carols at Murrurundi. Our stu-
dents will be singing two Christmas songs and singing a joint song with Murrurundi PS.

Mrs Coffey and Ms Fox will be attending to coordinate our children on stage. Christmas is coming
very soon!

CAPA Fun Day—Friday 20th November

Personal Development/Health / Safety Workshops— Tuesday 1st December

Ms Jodie Duffel will be working with our senior students again this year from 10.00-11.30. Please
return the permission note for Y5 and Y6 students.

Constable Sheree Gray will speak with K-Y4 about town and city road safety and stranger aware-
ness. She will then spend time with Y5-6 discussing cyber bullying and texting.

Constable Gray will be at school from 2.00-3.00pm completing our PD activities for the day.

Year 6 Graduation Dinner—Wednesday 9th December “Aah Pizza Bella” Scone.

Reminder to please RSVP by this Friday 27th November for this Upper Hunter Small Schools
event.

Our Year 6 students should have a short prepared speech of farewell which may be an excerpt
from their Y6 speech being prepared for Presentation Night.

Murravale and Hospital Christmas Visit—Monday 14th December

We will make our annual visit to our elders at Murravale and the Murrurundi District Hospital on
Monday 14th December.

Please return the permission note attached.

We ask that you send in a small gift for this visit, one or two per household is sufficient. If possible
could they be at the school by Friday, 11th December to work out gifts with recipients.

Clean up Day—Tuesday 15th December

Old clothes can be worn for our scrub and clean everything day. Remember a hat and joggers
please.

Family Fun Day—Wednesday 16th December

This will be our last school day for 2015. Sports at the oval in Murrurundi then lunch and a swim
at the pool is being organised. Permission notes in W10 newsletter.
**Wollombi Sculpture in the Vineyards**

Mark, Selena and Alli visited both classrooms last week, speaking with our children about art making and the ways they can create simple and effective sculpture works at home from found materials.

These three young professional artists spoke highly of our students, their understanding of the environmental aspects of our life here in the country as well as their confidence, good manners and creativity. These comments reflect many of our literacy, science and visual arts curriculum outcomes. Well done children for also asking some very insightful and mature questions of the artists.

Mark Swartz is a trained primary teacher working with bamboo and copper wire to create wonderful bird and animal sculptures. His website is worth a visit www.markschwitz.com.au

Selena Seifert designs and makes mosaics and worked with the children to create an imagined animal or machine. Alli Sebastian creates dioramas and is also a writer and performer. She showed the children her Antarctica diorama which connected perfectly with the senior students HSIE topic last term.

If your children are interested in the Minecraft online activity, Mark Swartz has sent me a worksheet to login to Sculpture Craft. This game uses the Minecraft platform, allowing the user to build interactive sculptures in several virtual locations in the Hunter Valley. Please call in to the office for information. This activity may also suit your high school age children (or grown ups!)

---

**Missing**

We have three small digital cameras which have served us very well for the past four years. They are still going strong with plenty of use and many children using them.

Unfortunately the battery chargers (all 3) have gone missing over the past several weeks. The chargers were plugged in to a power board in the admin office near the black filing cabinet.

This is very odd and we can’t locate these anywhere here at school. Please have a think and if you have seen these important little pieces of technology hiding in our school, they should come home to the office.

---

**Year 6 Leaders Morning Tea - 2nd December 2015**

The Year 6 special morning tea treat is on again. Please return the attached permission note.

---

**Scripture Show**

Mrs Rowarth has organised for a visiting Scripture Show to visit Blandford PS this Thursday 26th November. The show delivers the Christmas story and messages of peace and goodwill which is timely and important. Our students will combine for this activity from 12.15-1.15
Summer fun in nature around Port Stephens

Join our *Discovery* Rangers to experience a different side to Port Stephens and Tomaree National Park this summer holiday. There’s something for everyone.

**Tomaree’s WilderQuest treasure trail**
Thursday 7 January 2016, 9am–11.30am
Discover the sights, sounds and heritage of Tomaree as you step back to the time of World War II.

**WilderQuest wild world of rockpools**
Friday 8 January 2016, 1.30pm–3.30pm
Explore amazing rockpool creatures on Boat Harbour’s headland.

**Spooky night walk**
Wednesday 13 January 2016, 6.30pm–8.30pm
Experience stories by dusk, the haunting ambience ‘behind the scenes’ of Tomaree’s World War II gun emplacements, and then return by dark.

**WilderQuest bush to beach family discovery**
Thursday 14 January 2016, 3pm–5pm
Enjoy nature with fantastic family activities. For the young and young at heart.

**Bookings and information**
Bookings for all NPWS Discovery Tours are essential.
Book online following the links above, or phone 13000 PARKS (13000 72757).
All tours between $12 and $15 per person and families between $36 and $45.
For more information on tours, such as meeting points, please follow the web links or ask on booking. For general enquiries, phone Sue Olsson on (02) 4984 8210 (after 7 December 2015), or email suzanne.olsson@environment.nsw.gov.au