Principal’s Message

Everyone seems to have settled in to the new school year with happy faces and good behavior (including the teachers!). Our new kindies are enjoying big school, Year 3 working hard in their new space and Year 6 making a great start to their year of leadership. We couldn’t ask for more.

I had an interesting day at Scone PS yesterday working with our Invermein Small Schools group (Blandford, Murrurundi, Ellerston, Belltrees, Cassilis, Sandy Hollow and Martindale Public Schools). My colleague principals and I workshopped our new School Plans which will reflect the learning, teaching, leading and community aspects of our school for the 2015-2017 school years.

This work is the next part of the project which we began in Term 4 last year in consultation meetings with staff, P&C and community. For new parents, the following documents underpin this new reform in NSW Education. You may access them online or borrow copies from school. Please feel free to discuss any of these issues with our staff.

- Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians
- Local Schools, Local Decisions
- Great Teaching Inspired Learning
- Rural and Remote Education

Swimming

The annual learn to swim program has begun with clear weather and lots of enjoyment. The bus trip up to Murrurundi is also a highlight of these two weeks with social interaction an important aspect of children’s primary education. Mrs Cooper, Mrs Coffey and Ivan Coffey are working steadily to increase skills including water safety and life saving.

Upper Hunter Small Schools carnival for those 8 years and older—Murrurundi Pool—Monday 16th February. Parents and families welcome.

Best wishes

Isabel Fox Principal
Students of the Week

K-2
Aaliyah & Isabella—Great start to Year 2 to our busy, responsible girls.

Y3-6
Brock, Kandice & Anekah—Excellent start to your leadership year. Well done!

Upper Hunter Shire & Kia Ora Music Camp

Wednesday 18th– Friday 20th March 2015

The Kia Ora Music Festival is a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience high quality music, dance and drama tuition, locally and at an affordable price.

The cost this year is $65 which includes 3 days of tuition, T shirt and a BBQ and drink on the Friday evening concert night.

This camp is non-residential with students being delivered to Scone venues either by the morning school buses or parent travel.

Enrolment forms, fact sheets and parent consent forms are available in the office for interested participants. This camp is offered to students in Year 3-6 from our school.

The closing date is February 20th 2015, with early entrants gaining preferences for classes.

Youth Council—Upper Hunter Shire Council

Tuesday 10th February 2015  10.00am-12.00am

The first Youth Council meeting of the year will be held at the UHSC chambers in Scone. This is a valuable opportunity for our Year 6 students to experience leadership at a higher level as well as interacting with students from other schools in the shire.

Mary Spora, the Youth Services Supervisor from UHSC will again be managing this community project.

Please return the permission note for your child and note that parents will need to pick students up from school about 9.40 and return to school by 12.30. Car pooling and sharing the driving for this activity would be helpful for me as the meetings are usually on Tuesdays or Thursdays, my teaching days.

The meetings for Youth Council are usually twice per term.

Many thanks   Ms Fox
**SCRIPTURE—Friday 9th February**

Mrs Heather Rowarth will continue to conduct our Religious Education lessons each Friday. Scripture has a non denominational Christian focus at our school.

This week Mrs Rowarth is bringing some visitors to our school, who will give a presentation to all of our children in the library. These folks are missionaries who have been working in South America, bringing a wealth of knowledge and stories about their time there.

**Newsletters**

Over the past few months we have been auditing our electricity usage, paper and photocopying costs in an attempt to make some savings in these areas.

Y3-6 conducted a variety of surveys in T3 last year, creating posters and labels for our school, reminding people to turn off lights and fans when they leave the room, close the doors and windows whilst using air conditioning and recycling paper used only on one side.

With this in mind we are asking families to consider having our fortnightly newsletters emailed home. This will save paper and printing costs here at school and make return of notes and information a little easier. Simply cut and paste the note onto a word document—print and return or email the completed information to our school email:

blandford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

**Thanks for your help with this. Your speedy return of the note will put these changes in place for our Week 4 newsletter.**

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**Fortnightly Newsletter Preference—2015**

I wish/ do not wish, to have my newsletter emailed each fortnight. Please indicate below.

Family name: ________________________________________________________

YES—email address: __________________________________________________

NO—prefer paper copy

Signed ___________________________ Date ___________________________

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**Youth Council Meeting—Tuesday 10th February 2015**

I give permission for my child _________________________________________ to attend the Youth Council meeting at the Scone Council Chambers as a delegate for Blandford Public School.

I understand that travel will be in parent car pools with either: Mrs Bettens, Mr & Mrs Roser or Mrs Wilson. I will make arrangements with the other parents.

Travelling with: __________________________________________________

Signed ___________________________ Date ___________________________
WILLOW TREE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C
HORSE SPORTS
20th March 2015
8:30am Gear Check - 9:00am Start

WILLOW TREE RECREATION GROUND
Entry Fee - $20 per rider

Events:
- Riding Classes
- Hack Classes
- Pleasure Hack
- Place the Can
- Barrel Race
- Bending
- Keyhole
- In & Out of Paddock

Entries close 06.03.15
Entries received after this date will not be accepted

Ground Entry (on day) – Gold Coin

Canteen facilities will be available on the day, including breakfast from 7.30am

A presentation of awards will be held at the completion of events. We encourage all children to attend the presentation

NO GAITERS TO BE WORN

If you would like an entry form for the Willow Tree Horse Sports they are at the office or they can be emailed if you prefer.

Pancake Tuesday

It’s that time of the year already! On Tuesday 17th February (we ask each family to send 1 bottle or 1 batch of pancake or pikelet mix. Children in K,1,2 will shake, rattle and roll the bottles to turn them into batter. From ‘scratch batter can be made at school with some ‘little helpers’ or can be sent in ready mixed.

Children are to bring a plate, knife, fork (if required) and the spreads they like. Please also pack a plastic bag for the dirty, sticky containers for their return home.

We collect 10c per pancake eaten also with money donated to World Vision—so please send some 10c coins also.

Parents, grandparents and neighbours are also invited to come along and cook the pancakes. Please bring frypans, spatulas, butter/margarine or spray for the cooking of the pancakes.

P& C NEWS

Welcome to the new parents. We would like to invite our new families and existing families to our meetings. New faces are most welcome.

Our Horse Sports are on Friday, 6th March. Come along and help on the day, the canteen is always looking for helpers.

Working bee on Wednesday, 4th March. More details closer to the day.