Principal’s Message

Thankyou for replying to our survey regarding paper or online newsletters. Around half of our fortnightly newsletters will now be delivered as e news-letters, saving valuable resources and being a more convenient delivery for some of our families.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

Our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a DEC initiative this term: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes, measuring issues that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


This is a great opportunity for our students from Year 3-6, to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

The survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. It is conducted online, will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete and administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April 2015. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home this week. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. If you agree to allow your child to participate, then you do not have to do anything.

Upper Hunter Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Our carnival on Monday was a great success with several records broken as well as a swag of pennants and the winners shield brought home by Blandford. Well done to all of our swimmers who tried their hardest and showed good sportsmanship and good manners all day.

Congratulations to age champions:

11 year girls—Kandice    11 year boys—Quinn
Junior girl—Elinor        Junior boy—Oliver

Congratulations to our record breakers!!
Kandice - 11 yr girls 50m backstroke and 11 yr girls 50m freestyle
Bridie - junior girls 50m breast stroke

Isabel Fox  Principal
Students of the Week

K-2  Henry—Fantastic work in all kinder activities

                       Lawrence—Great start in year 1 reading

Y3-6  Bridie—Neat complete work in every area.

                       Angus — Excellent knowledge and information about the ANZAC Centenary.

Citizenship Award     - Samantha Roche—Always helping staff and students.

Infants Water Fun

Our infants students had a fun afternoon on Monday whilst the big kids were at the swimming
carnival. After slipping and sliding out came the big guns...........the water pistols. We had some
very accurate, and some not so accurate shooting. Children also enjoyed the bubble blowing
activities. I think Kinder, Year 1, Jacob and Sam all enjoyed our afternoon of bubbly slip-
slidey fun.

Pancake Day

Some thoughts from our students from our reporters Anekah and Kandice.

Jensen—I thought it was yummy and delicious.
Jacob—I thought it was fun.
Bella—I had two pancakes and they were yum.
Lucy—I got all honey all over me, but it was fun.
Elinor—At the start it was good but at the end I may have eaten too many.
Jarna—It was fun because I sprayed lots of whipped cream in my mouth.
Angus—It was good.
Brock—I had fun.

School Plan 2015-2017

I have had several workshop meetings to attend over the past few weeks to work towards completing our

We had a parent meeting late last year, and I would like to present the update for this document at the P&C
meeting next week. Whilst our plan is not complete it is important for input and information to be discussed
with all stakeholders in this process.

Zone Swimming Carnival Friday 20th March—Singleton Swimming Centre (Small Schools supervi-
sor Mrs Bettington).

Congratulations and best wishes to our Zone swimming team competing this Friday. Good luck to Kandice,
Anekah, Ebony, Millie, Angus, Quinn, Jack R, Bridie and Elinor.

REMINDER    Upper Hunter Shire & Kia Ora Music Camp

                      Wednesday 18th– Friday 20th March 2015

Enrolment forms, fact sheets and parent consent forms are available in the office for interest-
ed 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.
HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

♦ Please remember to sign your children in and out, in the red folder in the admin office if your children are arriving late or been picked up early. This is an important record which we are required to keep.

♦ Please reverse your vehicles towards the fences in our car park. The safety and well being of our children is everyone’s business.

♦ Please collect your children from the gate in the afternoon from the duty teacher. Our car park is a busy place in the afternoon and our children are precious.

♦ Hats are compulsory for outdoor play, PE and sport. No hat no play. Sunscreen is always available in our office.

♦ Please send absence notes as close as possible to the days your child was away from school. Extended absences for illness or injury require a doctor’s certificate.

♦ We are no longer able to issue exemptions for absences for family holidays during school time. These absences will now count towards our attendance data. Please consider taking family holidays during actual school holiday breaks.

♦ Thank you always for your help with these issues for the safe running of our school.

Zone Cross Country is at Muswellbrook on 27th March, 2015. Please let Mrs Cooper know by 16th March if your child/children would like to attend.

*****Next P&C meeting is Thursday 26th February in the school library at 3.30pm.******

NIT ALERT - PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN’S HAIR

The new date for the Quirindi Horse Sports is 27th April 2015.

LAKE KEEPIT CAMP—Monday 27th—Wednesday 29th April 2015

Mr Leayr from Ellerston PS is organising a camp for our Y3-6 students in Term 2 from Ellerston, Blandford and Belltrees PS. This will be a 3 day, 2 night camp focussing on resilience as well as the usual fun outdoor challenge and fitness activities.

Howard’s bus has been booked with Ellerston and Belltrees students meeting for the pick up at our school carpark around 7.30am on the Monday, returning by around 4.00pm on the Wednesday.

There will be 4 staff attending and 36 students from our three small schools. The cost per student is expected to be between $260-$270, depending on the numbers attending which will impact on the bus costs.

Please return the expression of interest this week to enable further planning for this camp.

NB Lake Keepit will be our senior camp for this year.

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Combined Small Schools Lake Keepit Camp 27th—29th April 2015

My child/children ________________________________ will / will not be attending the fitness and resilience camp at Lake Keepit.

I enclose a $50 deposit per student to cover part of the costs. I understand that the final costings will be available later in the term.

Signed _________________________________ Date __________________