Principal’s Message
What Works Best
Schools now have a wealth of information about what works best in education, enabling children to become successful learners, confident creative individuals and active informed citizens.

There are seven key themes:
- High expectations
- Explicit teaching
- Effective feedback
- Use of data to inform practice
- Classroom management
- Wellbeing
- Collaboration

Our school plan is focused on the first four themes. Below is a brief summary of what we do at Blandford Public School.

High expectations
At Blandford Public School we challenge our students to make mistakes and we push them to do their best. We also differentiate the curriculum, that is, we ensure that students are working at different levels of complexity in a given task. In this way we set high expectations for all students.

Explicit teaching
Explicit teaching is all about making the learning ‘visible’ to students. Asking ourselves: do students understand what they are learning about? Do they know what we are looking for? In essence, we decide the learning intentions and success criteria, makes them transparent to the students, demonstrate them by modelling, evaluate if they understand what they have been told by checking for understanding, and retelling them what they have been told by tying it all together with closure.

Effective feedback
Feedback is not simply about ‘yes’ or ‘no’ or ‘well done’. We aim to be specific in our feedback to students and provide them with the next steps in their learning. We give feedback about the task, about the processes students need to use and about what strategies they will need to self-regulate. We encourage self-assessment and aim to provide students with clear examples of what ‘quality work’ looks like as models to strive for.

Use of effective data to inform practice
At BPS we collect a variety of student data that is analysed to help us identify areas in which students’ learning needs may require additional attention and development. We use two broad categories of assessment to collect data: summative and formative assessment. Summative assessment is used at the end of a unit of work to assess how effective the teaching has been. It is often in the form of some sort of test. Formative assessment is used throughout the learning process to allow teachers to know where to take the learning next. It often takes to form of observations, questions or work samples. Formative assessment is far more powerful for learners as it can provide them with useful feedback about how they are going.
The seven themes are not confined to what happens in classrooms. While they offer sound strategies for individual teachers to consider as part of their repertoires, evidence suggests that their effectiveness is stronger when they are implemented as whole-school approaches. Ideally, everyone associated with a school – including school leaders, parents, students and community members – will share a commitment not only to the school’s vision for development but to the mechanisms for achieving these goals, and will engage collaboratively in responding to the challenge.

In the coming weeks and months I hope to engage our whole school community in the implementation of our school plan to ensure Blandford Public School provides for all our students in the best way possible.

Regards

Mr Glen Kite
Rel. Principal

P.S. Good luck to Ebony, Charlotte, Brady & Quinn who are competing at the Regional Swimming Carnival tomorrow
P.S.S. All the best for the competitors in the Horse Sports on Friday.

Students of the Week

- Archie Teague – for working really well in all Kinder work.
- Amina Shahid – for excellent work in all areas.
- Thomas Hubbard – for working really well in all Kinder work.
- Samantha Roche – for consistently producing her best his class. She has also volunteered for a number of helpful jobs around the school.
- Angus Speck – for contributions to class discussions and producing some excellent work. He has provided a role model for other students by being prepared to answer questions and make mistakes.
- Hayden Apps – for demonstrating a mature approach to learning and meeting the challenges that have confronted him. He has produced a variety of high quality work.

Citizen of the Week
Quinn Cornall – for being an excellent role model to younger students and helping them with their games and activities.
REMEMBER—NOTES FOR THE FOLLOWING NEED TO BE BROUGHT IN

- Aboriginal Education Day at Murrurundi Public School—Permission
- Aboriginal Education Day at Murrurundi Public School—Transport
- Horse Sports—Permission
- Horse Sports—Pickup
- Clean Up Australia Day—Permission

Term 1 Calendar
- Scone High School Orientation Day - 9th March
- Book Fair - Week 8
- Parent/Teacher interviews—Week 9 and 10

Scone Netball
Scone & district netball association online registrations are now open. All registrations this year are online only and close on 10/03/2016. Go to the Scone Netball Association website: [http://sconena.nsw.netball.com.au/](http://sconena.nsw.netball.com.au/) and follow the registration links. Alternatively go to the scone netball Facebook page for more information.

King of the Ranges
Our students had a great day out at the King of the Ranges. They experienced some bush dancing, chainsaw carving, whip cracking and saw a few of the horse events.

Bush Dancing
Rory ‘cracking the whip’

P& C Request
If you haven’t returned your Blandford Horse Sports raffle tickets please send them into the school TOMORROW.

Next P& C meeting 21st March 2016 at the White Hart Hotel at 6.00pm. Everyone welcome.