Principal’s Message

I mentioned several things last week that we know make a difference to the educational outcomes of our students. In our school plan for this year we are focused on a few key projects. Predominantly we will concentrate on teacher quality, because as we know—teachers make a difference. To do this our teachers will work with other teachers from around the area in a project we are calling Quality Teaching Rounds. The idea is based on rounds made by doctors. In our case, several teachers will observe a teacher and code them against a framework of best practice. Teachers then have the opportunity to reflect on that feedback and make adjustments to improve their work.

Another area we are focused on is goal setting. Teachers will use the Australian Standards for Teachers to set goals which will be reviewed throughout the year. Teachers will also have the opportunity to engage in professional learning to help them meet their goals.

Our third project is about using student assessment data more effectively to monitor the effectiveness of our teaching and provide targeted support to students in areas that will lead to the greatest improvement. Data from a variety of sources will be used from our literacy and numeracy continuums and classroom assessment, which will be analysed frequently.

Our fourth project will focus on student goal setting and self-reflection. Students will be asked to set goals for literacy and numeracy and reflect on these throughout the term. Students will also be challenged and taught to self-assess the work, enabling them to become more independent learners.

These are some of the big projects for us at Blandford Public School this year. We hope that they lead to great teaching and excellent student outcomes. If you would like input into the directions of the school, then come to our P & C meetings. There you can give feedback and provide information that will inform our school plan.

Regards

Glen Kite
Rel. Principal
Horse Sports
The Blandford Horse Sports was a huge success. Although our numbers were a little down on last year due to a couple of schools being unable to attend, the P & C still made in excess of $5000.00. It was wonderful to see so many students competing with enthusiasm and great spirit. A special mention goes to Ella Watson for the highest points score for a Blandford PS student. A massive thank you to all those volunteers on the day, from the canteen to the marshalls and organising committee – you were all brilliant and we couldn’t have done it without you!

Aboriginal Education Day
Murrurundi hosted small schools from around the area for an Aboriginal Education Day. Students had the opportunity to engage in some storytelling, art and sporting activities to develop their understanding of Aboriginal culture. All of us at Blandford PS thank Megan Druitt and her team at Murrurundi for a wonderful day.

P & C meeting
The AGM is on 6.00pm, 21 March at the White Hart Hotel followed by the P & C meeting. Everyone is welcome. It is a great opportunity to find out the direction the school is going and have input into planning for the future.
Reminder—notes for Timor Dog Trials catering for this weekend to be sent in tomorrow or contact Gail on 0409 325 531 by phone or text

Harmony Day
Harmony Day, 21 March, celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs’, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. Blandford PS will celebrate by creating posters of flags and faces which will be displayed out the front of our school.

ANZAC Day
ANZAC Day will be on the Monday of the week students start school for Term 2 (students start Wednesday, 27 April). We would like as many students to attend the march and the ceremony. The 3-6 students will be performing a poem by Rupert McCall and our leaders will lay a wreath.
Senior Citizens Day
We are having our Senior Citizens Day on Thursday, 7 April starting at 9.30am. The day will include time for grandparents and guests to visit students, some dancing (bush dances), our assembly and of course a delicious morning tea provided by our parents. We hope to see you all there.

School Photos
School photos are on the first day back in Term 2 – Wednesday, 27 April. Make sure you put this on the calendar – it will be easy to forget. Please ensure students are in winter uniform. Family packs will be out shortly.

Interviews
We will be conducting parent-teacher interviews in Weeks 10 and 11. A time schedule will be sent home in the following weeks.

Tissues
We are running into the ‘snotty’ season once again and our tissue stocks are running low. Please send in a box of tissues to ensure your child’s sleeves stay clean.

Students of the Week
Jack Roser – great effort in Maths
Bridie Crowe – continually striving for accuracy
Lachlan Teague – being an excellent role model
Alec Crowe – excellent effort in writing
Jorja Roser – enthusiasm and commitment to all school activities
William Whalan — great effort in writing and reading