School News
Term 2 Week 6, 2014

Bonalbo School Ag Team at Beef Week

Students commemorating Sorry Day

Students with Costa

Dates to Remember
June 9, 2014 - Queens Birthday holiday
June 12, 2014 - Netball, Inverell
June 13, 2014 - Primary Assembly
June 16, 2014 - Writing Competition
June 17, 2014 - Spelling Competition
June 18, 2014 - P&C Meeting 3.30pm
June 19, 2014 - Community First aid
June 20, 2014 - Primary Working Bee
June 25, 2014 - Secondary Captains, Sydney
June 26, 2014 - Merit Assembly
June 26, 2014 - Parent/Teacher Interviews
Uniform Changes

Included in this issue of the Newsletter are some photos of the new parts of the school uniform we are adopting. There is a photo of the new sports shirt the students voted on and a zipper fronted fleecy lined jumper that we wish to make available to students who would prefer this over the current pull over.

As of next year (2015) we will gradually expect all students to wear the sport shirt for Wednesday afternoon sport, PE lessons and when they go away for sport representing the school and there is no designated clothing or shirt available for that particular sport. The sport shirt will be a fully-fledged, compulsory part of the school uniform and will be available with a logo on the left breast. At this stage we do not have a price for the shirts. The price will to some degree be determined by the number ordered. At this stage we would like to gauge interest from those parents who would like to buy a shirt this year and to get some idea of the sizes we will need to order. Could any parent who would like to order shirts for their children straight away contact the office on 6665 1205.

The zippered fleecy lined jumper will be offered in a slightly different way to the sports shirt. As this is an optional part of the uniform we can’t be sure of the level of interest in purchasing it. For this reason we’re offering to order these jumpers for interested parents but on an individual basis with no logo applied. We would like to gauge the interest in these items before making a bulk purchase with logos. Any parent intending to purchase one of these jumpers is free to send their child to school without the logo on the jumper. The school can provide parents/carers with contact details of local businesses who can apply the school’s logo. If demand is sufficient we may be able to arrange logos to be applied to later orders of the jumper.

Trevor Hodges, Principal
Aboriginal Studies

High School visit to Jubullum Flat Camp

On Friday of Week 3 this term, Year 7 and several other high school students attended a day that celebrated the Aboriginal cultural connections to Jubullum Flat Camp and the surrounding landscape.

The students were first treated to a performance coordinated by Lewis Walker and several student dancers who performed a cleansing ceremony. Lewis’ excellent playing of the didgeridoo, the clapsticks, the great dancing and the traditional body paint markings on the performers within a bushland setting, created a great atmosphere for the day.

The day then followed with an informative and emotional talk from Poppy Harry Walker on the cultural importance of the Flat Camp site and how it is an example of how important cultural connections are between people’s identity and heritage and the land we live on. These sentiments were reinforced with talks from other Elders as well.

The students were treated to a sausage sizzle lunch then took a very brief walk around the many interpretive signs and walking tracks in the area before it rained suddenly with some of us getting more soaked than others!

Overall, this trip was a great experience for our students to be aware of, the significance of Aboriginal culture and the importance of maintaining cultural identity and connections to the land.

Matthew Martin
Year 7 Aboriginal Studies Teacher

Agriculture News

Costa

Costa from Gardening Australia has left his mark on our school. During his brief visit he built a 3 bay compost system with the Year 7 students while putting on a show, getting everyone keen about growing and consuming fresh local produce. Most of the school from K to 12 met him and were taken with his energy and love of life and growing food. He was impressed with our gardens and the system we have using chickens to fertilise and weed the gardens. He also visited the primary gardens and spent time sharing his extensive knowledge. Thanks to the Bonalbo Garden Club for organising Costa.

Beef Week

Last Saturday eleven students from year 9/10 Ag met in Casino at 7 am to unload their two show steers and prepare them for the Beef Week competition. Jacob, Layton, Rosie and Justin did a great job leading the steers in the show ring and they presented themselves and their steers with distinction. Other student who helped prepare and look after the steers on the day were; Scott, Shelly, Lachlan, Catriona, Megan, Taylah and Eliza. The ribbons all went to professional cattle fitted however our steers were presented as well as any. The students were invited by the Beef Week committee to a lunch at The Casino RSM Club prior to the Carcass Competition on Tuesday 3rd June. Special thanks to Tom Cooper for transporting the steers to Casino once again. Well done to all the students, they make us proud to be from Bonalbo!!

Stephen Gray

HSIE Excursion

On Friday of Week 10 last term, Year 9 explored the Bundjalung National Park near Evans Head as part of their studies of the unit ‘Investigating Australia’s Physical Environments’ as part of the NSW Geography Syllabus.

The students had the opportunity to explore and record information on the Indigenous culture and variety of natural environments they encountered on the Gummigurrah Walking Track.

Within the two hours it took to complete this walk, students experienced mangrove communities, grassy wetlands, tall woodland and patches of rainforest (where we found the evil lawyer vine – ouch!) each area playing a different role within the surrounding
environment.

The students also saw evidence of Aboriginal use of the surrounding land, such as a scarred tree and the location of a traditional winter camp beside the Evans River.

The day ended with a brief visit to the lookout at South Evans Head, with incredible views over the surrounding coastal environment towards Ballina, and inland over the area we had just explored.

Of course no Geography excursion to Evans Head is complete without the obligatory visit to KFC on the way back, which wrapped up a great experience for our Year 9 students, allowing then to gain a better appreciation for the variety of environments in our part of NSW.

Matthew Martin

HSIE Teacher

Northern Rivers Cross Country Carnival was held on 16 May at Lismore Racecourse. Jeremy, Scott, Hamish, Taylah and Ally all represented Bonalbo. The weather slowed many runners down as there were showers throughout the day. Our team still competed and Ally in her first High School cross country came out with our best result of 8th. Well done to our cross country runners.

The NSW CHS and All Schools Canoeing Championships were held from 17th – 20th May. Jeremy, Catriona, Megan, Chloe, Hamish and Renee competed this year. All athletes did a fantastic job with a number of medals and first places going to our school. Catriona in particular had a great individual carnival becoming the overall women’s champion. All team members contributed to Bonalbo gaining 2nd Place in the CHS competition and 3rd in the All School.

A big thankyou also needs to go to Serene McCormack and David Whitney who assisted me in getting our students ready. Well done to all involved.

Sport Stars has continued in Term 2 with a focus on Basketball. Although the opportunities for our Sports Stars have been limited through other sporting competitions and exams, they are learning new skills with our main focus on the 15yrs Boys and Girls knockouts that will be happening in Term 3.

Mr Gray took our League 7’s side out to Inverell. The boys had been training with Mr Gray when possible and seemed to be working well with each other. Addison, Mitchell, Justin, Brandon, Jeremy, Daniel, Scott, Jacob, Matthew and Jack took to the field for Bonalbo. After a minor setback with Mitchell dislocating a couple of shoulders in the fourth game, Addison showed real leadership in taking over the managing of the team for the last three while Mr Gray looked after Mitchell at Inverell Hospital. It showed the weak link as the boys won their next match and tied in another. The boys were close in every game with their biggest margin being two tries. The boys had a very long day as they ended up waiting at Inverell Hospital until 5 o’clock while Mitchell received treatment. Well done to all the boys and to Mr Gray.

This week sees our school Lawn Bowls team compete in the Central Schools Knockout competition. They will be facing Bowraville and Guyra. Although our young team are very inexperienced, they have worked well with Ms. Ludwig and have shown her a few surprises. Good luck to the team.

Coming up for Bonalbo Central School Sport is the Central Schools Netball competition. With a change of venue from Inverell to Macksville, the girls have been training hard and giving their best. We wish them and Mrs Kilroy and Ms Owens all the best.

The Zone Athletics Carnival will be held in Week 8. Notes will soon go out to students who wish to compete. After a successful school carnival well and truly behind us, I look forward to taking our athletes over to Lismore.

Yours in Sport.
Shaun Flannery

FOR TENDER
John Deere x300 Ride on Mower
Contact Old Bonalbo School on 666503124
for more details
Tenders close 27th June, 2014 at 2pm
**Bunnings $50 Gift Voucher Raffle**

Bunnings has kindly donated a $50 gift voucher for a raffle to Year 11 and 12 Hospitality students to raise funds for an educational excursion to Sea World Resort for the Hospitality School, broadening their knowledge of the Hospitality industry. Raffle tickets cost $1 per ticket or 6 for $5. Tickets are also available at the front office. The raffle will be drawn at Multi-Cultural Day.

There is also a raffle for an Expressi Capsule Coffee Machine and a glass Lazy Susan, $2 per ticket or 3 for $5.

**To Sick for School?**

As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.

School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser [www.bit.ly/1hytn2E](http://www.bit.ly/1hytn2E).

**Teenagers seeking more independence**

Knowing how much freedom and responsibility to give your teenager is difficult, especially if they’re your eldest or only child. To become capable adults, teenagers need to learn to make good decisions on their own and have opportunities to show you they can. The Raising Children Network website has a wealth of expert information and guidance for parents of teens and younger children. If your child is testing the boundaries and pushing for more independence, you may find the article ‘Shifting responsibility to your child’ worth reading. Go to [www.bit.ly/1jCxKhe](http://www.bit.ly/1jCxKhe).

**Study help for high school**

It’s often quite difficult parents to assist their children with their high school homework and study. Even if we have professional experience in the subject area, children tend to find it difficult to take parental advice when it comes to school. (Don’t feel bad, teachers’ own children do exactly the same thing.) [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) is an excellent, not-for-profit website which may help your child study and revise tricky concepts in science, maths and the humanities.