School News
Term 1 Week 8, 2014

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Bonalbo Central School
Lifelong Learning for a Positive Future

Kindy 2014

Dates to Remember

March 27, 2014— Y7 & 9 boys Vaccination
March 27, 2014— Chess Comp. St Marys
March 28-30, 2014- Canoe Championships
March31-April 4, 2014—Year 12 1/2 Yearly
April 4, 2014– Primary Assembly
April 4, 2014 Yr9 HSIE Excursion, Evans Head
April 8, 2014– ANZAC Ceremony 10am
April 11, 2014– Last day of Term 1
April 28, 2014– Staff Development Day
April 29, 2014– All students return to school for Term 2

P&C Meeting -
3rd Wednesday of every month
Uniform
The P&C and I spent some time discussing uniform at the most recent P&C meeting. Uniform is always a topic that will draw a lot of opinions from parents and P&C members, and so it should: uniform is a key element in how a school is judged by parents and the wider community. Uniform is important and changes to our uniform policy need to be practical and have an eye to cost and quality. I want to hear from parents and students, what they think about possible changes to our uniform. Change must happen within a framework and once the uniform is settled the school needs everyone to support it and ensure that all students come to school every day in that uniform. If you have any ideas or thoughts you’d like to contribute about uniform please feel free to come along to the next P&C meeting which is held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

NAPLAN
I would like to remind parents that NAPLAN testing will be held in Week 3 of Term 2 on 13, 14 & 15 of May. While this is still a couple of months away it’s surprising how quickly the time passes and we will find ourselves in the middle of the tests. While NAPLAN tests are important they are important for a different reason to other public exams such as the Higher School Certificate exams. HSC exams are held to determine a student’s final relative performance at school and possibly help decide whether a particular student will gain entry into a tertiary institution or career pathway.

The intention underlying the NAPLAN tests is primarily to give teachers a diagnostic tool to help direct their teaching programs and the strategies they put in place to assist students achieve their best. NAPLAN tests do not determine school funding or allocation of teaching positions and they play no role in determining class placement. From year to year it is impossible to know exactly what will or will not be covered in the NAPLAN tests and for this reason “coaching” or sitting practice tests is often of little value in improving a student’s NAPLAN results. Good NAPLAN results come from excellent teaching in the classroom day in and day out. This is something our teachers provide and are constantly striving to improve.

School Contributions
Information regarding general school contributions will be posted shortly, along with invoices for secondary student’s elective fees. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already paid their contributions. Please contact the school if you have any questions or difficulties regarding these payments.

ENROLMENT INFORMATION UPDATE – REQUIRED AT SCHOOL BY 1.4.14
From time to time, we are asked by the Department of Education and Communities to update our enrolment information as given to us by you on your child’s enrolment in our school. We understand that people’s circumstances can and do change. Information will be sent home this week requesting you to check and update your information, and to return it to school before 1 April 2014. As part of its school funding model, the Department can use the statistics to allocate money to the school for your child’s benefit. It is therefore important that our information is accurate.

Updating Student Information
Earlier this term, forms requesting updates to student’s information were sent home. This information is vital in maintaining accurate records for contacting parent/ carers in the event of an emergency, and for student’s medical conditions. We also require permission to publish student’s photos in our school newsletter. If you have not already done so, could you please return these forms to school as soon as possible. Please contact the school if you would like additional forms sent home, or if you have any enquiries.

Trevor Hodges
Principal

Congratulations to Shania Hickling, for her outstanding achievement. Shania was selected for the Nanga Mai award for the North Coast region. From there it went to Sydney for the State selection, Shania was selected and she is one of three students to be awarded out of all the schools in NSW. Shania was selected for the outstanding student achievement award.

It goes to show Shania takes her schooling seriously. Thank You to everyone that made this achievable for Shania. Shania will be off to the Power House Museum in Sydney, Wednesday 9th April, to receive her award.
**Primary Report**

Week 8! How the time flies when having fun! All students are working hard in their classes producing some outstanding work and have settled into school routine well.

Thank you to all Parents/Carers and community members who attended the 4/5/6 Assembly last Friday! The next Assembly will be on Friday the 4th April and will be hosted by Kindergarten in their classroom. Hope to see you all there!

Last Wednesday March 12, Caroline and Brad represented Bonalbo Central School in the Regional Swimming at Lismore. Congratulations on their effort to reach so far.

On Monday March 17, Bonalbo Central School hosted Senior Citizen’s Day in the Multi Purpose Centre. The day was a success! The P&C catered for the day and were assisted by the High School Food Technology and Hospitality classes. Entertainment was provided by a professional entertainer, Kindergarten and 4/5/6 who performed some musical and class items.

Wednesday March 19, Years K-3 will attend a Road Safety workshop presented by Macarthur Amey from NRMA in Casino. It is important for students to understand Road Safety especially relating to our school bus lines. We appreciate the NRMA organisation for coming out and supporting our school.

In Week 10 on Wednesday April 2, Cheryl Baxter from the Department of Education and Communities will be visiting the K-3 classes and will be giving students a lesson on ear, nose and throat well being. This is an important lesson especially with the winter months creeping upon us.

A big thank you to the parents and carers who have put up their hand to do some reading with our students during literacy time. We are keen for any interested parents and community members to come into the school to help with maths and/or reading groups. Please come in and see the teachers to discuss any times you may have available. The only requirement is the filling in of a form, which is available at the front office.

Last year two students sat the NSW UNE Maths assessments. We would like to congratulate Samantha in Year 6 for her Participation Certificate and Zach in Year 5 for his hard earned Credit. Well done to both students.

**Primary Staff**

**English News**

Currently, all three Year 7/8 English classes are working on their advertising assessment tasks. All tasks are due in Week 9.

In DEAL time on Tuesdays, Year 7-10 students are working on improving their literacy skills. Each student has a work booklet which they work on independently during this time. These booklets were put together with the help of the Learning Support Team and have been designed to meet the individual learning needs of each student. This term, the focus is on spelling, grammar and punctuation.

*Kate Schumacher*

Head Teacher, English/CAPA (relieving)

**Agriculture News**

**Costa is Coming!** Monday 26th May, Costa (the hairy bloke on Gardening Australia!) is visiting Bonalbo Central School. He will be here at 2.30 pm at the gardens near the MPC. He is going to help the students build a compost system. Special thanks to the Bonalbo Garden Club for organising Costa’s visit. All are welcome to come along and meet Costa!

Year 7 have hatched some chickens in the incubator and are enjoying looking after them. They have started planting winter vegetables including lettuce, carrots and broccoli. They drenched the sheep last week and everyone had a go at catching and holding a sheep. They are working on their first assessment task to design their own unique garden. This task is due Friday Week 9.

Year 9/10 have trained three steers to lead for Bonalbo Show and Beef Week. They now have to train them to wash and parade. They are completing their project on “Ag in Australia” due Friday Week 8.

Primary Industries have nearly completed the unit on animal handling and communication and are moving on to Chemicals and treating weeds. They have just calibrated the boom spray and have a new appreciation for why maths is important!

*Stephen Gray*
Brandii and Catriona began the last few weeks of sport by competing at the North Coast CHS Open Girls Basketball championships in Lismore. Both Girls represented the Northern Rivers Zone and showed great skill and sportsmanship on the day. There was nothing but praise from their coach and they should both be very proud of their efforts on the day. Brandii has again shown her outstanding athletic ability as she has been selected in the North Coast CHS Open Girls Basketball team. She is travelling down to Berkeley near Wollongong in Week 9 to compete at the NSW CHS Basketball Championships. We wish her all the best and look forward to her results.

Jacob has had a very busy few weeks. Both he and Matthew went to the Northern Zone Rugby League trials. While both boys worked hard and enjoyed themselves, Jacob was named in the Northern Rivers Zone 15yrs Rugby League side. He is competing at Ballina on Friday. Good Luck.

Jacob also went with Taylah and Chela to try out for the 15yrs Northern Rivers Touch teams. Chela and Taylah played well and scored a few tries but found it hard to demonstrate their full ability. Jacob made an impression and has been selected in the Northern Rivers Zone Touch team to compete this week at the North Coast championships.

Our Opens netball team competed in the Northern Rivers gala day during Week 6. With such a large range of age and experience for our team, the girls took a while to adjust to new players. The girls were able to bounce back from a tough loss to Woodenbong to defeat the much larger schools Lismore High and Kadina and tied with Evans River. All the girls really put in a big effort with Brandii being a standout. Well done netballers.

Michael, Brendan, Larze and Jeremy travelled to Goonellabah to try out for the Northern Rivers Open Soccer team. The boys played really well and with limited touches showed their ability to compete with the high level set. Well done on making it that far boys and keep up the training.

The school Table Tennis team travelled to Goonellabah to compete in the State Knockout competition. Mitchell, Justin, Claire, Jeremy, Logan, Catriona, Samantha and Emily represented the school on the day. Results will come in our next newsletter.

Week 9 also sees our canoeing team travel to Nymboida to compete in the North Coast Canoeing Championship. The team has had to train themselves, yet we are sending a very strong group of paddlers. Good luck to you all.

Secondary Cross Country will be held later this term on Thursday of Week 11. Students have again been thrown a challenge by Mr Gray as he is looking to bounce back from last year’s defeat to once again become Bonalbo Cross Country Champion.

Yours in Sport
Shaun Flannery

Community Liaison Officer
As was mentioned in the last school newsletter, the position of Community Liaison Officer was recently advertised and I was lucky and privileged enough to gain the position. Although I have been filling the role for the last 2 years, I am now officially the CLO. I grew up in this area and have chosen to stay on to live, work and raise my family here.

Due to my commitment to stay in this area, I definitely have ulterior motives when it comes to promoting the success of local services, businesses and most importantly kids. I feel that my job as CLO is to promote a healthy relationship between the school and the community, and also to encourage the students to keep on trying to better themselves, whether it be academically, in sports or just on a personal level.

I am always open to suggestions, so if you have any questions, problems, suggestions or constructive criticism you can contact me either at the school on 66651205 or email me nicole.wright-bernhagen1@det.nsw.edu.au .

Nicole Wright-Bernhagen
CLO

P&C Report
The P&C have already been busy this term we have had a canteen for both the Primary and Secondary swimming carnivals and on Monday 17th March we catered a morning tea and lunch for visiting Senior Citizens from our district to celebrate Senior Citizens Week.

Remember we hold our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3.45pm in the primary. Last meeting we had some new mums come along to our meeting which was great. Please remember this is your P&C so come along and join in on any discussions we have.

Things that were discussed at our last meeting were –
acquiring a new NSW flag, sand for sand pits, new school blazers for school captains, school uniform policy, Seniors Citizens Day on the 17th March, EFTPOS for front office.

There will be a baby sitter at each meeting to watch any small children if you need to bring your child with you.

Hellan Whitney

Red Cross Breakfast Club
Red Cross Breakfast Club is up and running once again for 2014, we run on Monday and Wednesday serving toast, cereal, juice and soup and Thursday we serve pancakes. Thank you to all our volunteers who help each morning. If you would like to help out please contact Mon Petty on 66655113, all volunteers welcome.

Stratheden Public School Celebrating 100 years 1914-2014
Saturday 12th April 2014
Starting at 10am
All welcome to attend

RSVP
Stratheden Public School
710 Stratheden Road, Stratheden
Ph: (02) 6667 3266
Fax: (02) 6667 3241
Email: stratheden-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

On Friday, APRIL 11, I will be locked up in a ‘cell’ at Lismore Square as part the PCYC Time 4 Kids fundraising initiative until I raise the minimum bail of $500.

My goal is to raise well over $1000 to support (through you), the PCYC programs and services that help young people learn life skills.

By giving to Time 4 Kids you’ll help the PCYC continue to impact the lives and personal development of young people.

To help prevent crime, create a safer area and encourage good citizenship, I ask you to support me by donating lots to this initiative. You can always pass the hat around at the school.

If you can let me know via email your support, I will be in touch on the day to grab your payment details.

If you are paying in cash/cheque or require an invoice, please advise me as soon as possible so I can arrange to pick up the funds/invoice from you before the day.

Thanks for your support!

Richard

NOTE:
To find out more about Time 4 Kids, a national event this year, visit http://www.time4kids.org.au/ and http://www.everydayhero.com.au/pcyc_lismore_club is Lismore PCYC’s fundraising site, where donations can be made to the club. Otherwise, Club manager, Nicole Crook, or office manager, Sharon Irwin can answer enquiries.

Tabulam Family Day Care
Care and education for children from 2.5 years of age upwards.
Would you like a shopping day? Would you like your child to socialise with others?
Prices as low as $25.04 for 1 day (plus receive up to 50% rebate for CCR, making it $12.54 per day) depending on your child care benefit percentage and CCR eligibility. This service is accredited and registered for CCB and registered with Northern Rivers Family Day Care scheme. You would pay $20 an hour in the city to have your child cared for! $25.04 is a bargain!

Please call 0418 438 653
Visit 20 Court St Tabulam and see Tash
Tuesday to Thursday – your local educator
Please help support this service!
Remind to Parents of all Year 7 students and Year 9 boys
Could you please return Vaccination Permissions notes ASAP if you would like your child vaccinated.

Date for first Vaccination March 27, 2014

Celebrate Attendance
Hints and Tips No. 5: Tips for Parents

Going to school is important. It makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children.
• Keep your child home only when they are sick.
• Advise the school of any absence.
• See doctors and dentists after school times.
Friends are important.
• Show an interest in your child’s friends
• Invite friends to come and play
• Encourage your child to play with other children.
Helping your child have a happy day at school is important for you and your child.
If you are having difficulties in getting your child to school you should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the problem and ask for help.
The principal may ask a Home School Liaison Officer to contact you for further assistance and advice.