Old Bonalbo Public School

NEWSLETTER

Number: 32

Friday 30th October, 2015

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What a great week we've had at our school. So many positive things are happening. It's terrific to be associated with such a wonderful school.

Congratulations Beau & Katie
I hope everyone has had an opportunity to read the article about Katie & Beau in last Saturday’s Northern Star. In addition to this article Katie & Beau have each received a letter of congratulations from Mr Kevin Hogan, the Federal Member for Page. This is indeed a great honour for Katie & Beau. Again can I say how proud we are of the achievements of Katie & Beau in athletics this year.

Welcome Back Tristian
We would like to welcome Tristian Robertson back to our school. It’s great to have Samantha & Tristian back with us and we look forward to Courtney being in Kindergarten next year.

Special Swimming Scheme
All students will be participating in the Special Swimming Scheme from Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November. Full details of the Special Swimming Scheme are contained in the attached permission note.

Halloween Sleepover
It’s the Halloween Sleepover tonight. We have lots of great activities planned. I would like to thank Mr Pierce for the time and effort he has put into this event. We look forward to a great night.

School Evaluation
Thank you to our parents who completed and returned the School Evaluation Survey. Thank you also to the parents who attended the School Evaluation Meeting on Wednesday afternoon. The positive comments we’ve received from the written survey and the evaluation meeting have been overwhelming. The meeting looked at the results of the student’s evaluation meeting. The meeting also looked at the achievements obtained from the three Strategic Directions of the School Plan. Everyone was very happy with these achievements and wanted to see the strategies used in these Strategic Directions maintained next year.

Our school depends on the support and co-operation of parents, students, community members and staff. This support and co-operation is very apparent and makes this such a great school.

The information gathered from the School Evaluation will be used to write the Annual School Report and guide preparations for next years School Plan.

Remembrance Day Ceremony
The school will be holding a Remembrance Day Ceremony on Wednesday 11th November. This is a community event and we would like to see as many parents and community members as possible at this important occasion. Our senior students will be conducting the Remembrance Day Ceremony under the guidance of Mr Geoff Bateman. Once again thank you to Mr Bateman for the time and effort he puts into Remembrance Day. Could everyone attending this ceremony please be at school no later than 10:40am.

Student Benchmarking
Our students will have their reading skills benchmarked in the next few weeks and this information will be used to update student placements on the literacy continuum. Parents are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher to discuss the benchmarking results and placement on the literacy continuum.

Big Room Awards
Emily Weston receives an award this week for a consistent effort in weekly spelling lists. Emily has taken her spelling words home each week and learnt each word resulting in very consistent results. Well done Emily.

Travis Fairfull receives an award for being a helpful, well-mannered student. Travis is always willing to help his peers and his teachers. He is a polite, well-mannered young man. Congratulations Travis.

Big Room Star Spellers
Star spellers for this week are Beau, Savannah, Emily, Danielle, Annaleise, Braeleigh, Lachlan M and Korban. Well done!

Voluntary Parent Contributions
At the last P&C meeting these fees were set. They are $20 per student or $40 per family. Could these please be paid as soon as possible.
Little Room News
Halloween/School Sleepover
Thank you to all parents who have offered some assistance for tonight’s activities as well as the effort you have put into costumes for today. Without your help and support we would not be able to run these special events.

Worm Juice
Pure worm juice can be purchased from the school for 50c per container. All money raised goes towards our sponsor child Inthya. Feel free to ask any of our Year 6 students for assistance with worm juice.

School Books
As the end of the year is approaching quickly I would like to ask all families to start to return any books that belong to the school that are no longer in use. There are a number of books to be returned over the next few weeks. (This doesn’t apply to books currently in use).

Coping Skills for Children
As children get older they encounter situations where they feel worried, nervous and sometimes even scared. Coping skills are what we think and what we do to help us get through difficult situations. Children learn to use different coping skills to adapt to their environment. You can build on the skills they are already using, as well as assist them to learn new ones. This may include asking for help, talking with friends, problem solving and taking time out when they need a break. It is normal for every child to encounter some ups and downs throughout their primary school year. By helping your child to learn coping skills it will strengthen your child’s mental health and well-being now and into the future.

Importance of Physical Activity
There are many different types of physical activities: walking, running, swimming and cycling just to name a few. Physical activity can be a part of:
- Family activities- Games- Sports- Playing with friends- Getting to places by walking or cycling.

Why is Being Physically Active Good for Kids?
Physical activity helps kids to be fit and healthy in all sorts of ways, such as:
- maintaining a healthy weight- having strong bones and muscles- improving balance and flexibility- improving posture- having a healthy heart and blood vessels- preventing disease later in life- helping you relax- improving self-esteem- developing social skills and making friends.

Kids aged between 5 and 12 years need at least 60 minutes a day of moderate and vigorous activity. It’s even better to be active for up to a couple of hours each day. At school we aim to allow children to participate in 20 – 30 mins of structured physical activities each day as well as promote and encourage physical activities at recess and lunch. It is wonderful to see such active students at Old Bonalbo PS who value the importance of keeping active at school.

Interesting Facts about Schools Overseas
In Armenia, all children aged 6 and up are taught chess at school, as it is a mandatory part of their curriculum.

Australian Bass
Our classroom Bass is still alive and well and requires a regular supply of live bait to eat. Students are welcome to bring in any little creatures such as small fish, insects, tadpoles, shrimps etc that would be greatly appreciated.

School Turtle
The K-2 classroom has currently got a Bellinger River Turtle in a fish tank until the end of term 4. The species originated from the Bellinger River system on the NSW mid-north coast but have since habituated much greater regions. It has a broad yellow stripe along each side of the face and neck and a yellowish plastron with dark outlines on the edges of the shields. It’s an omnivore, eating plants as well as a variety of aquatic insects. The turtle has been living in captivity for 2 years and is comfortable around people. The species is also nicknamed “snapping turtle” and this one lives up to that expectation and loves to bite fingers. It will be released back to the same creek it was taken from later in the term.

Quote of the Week
“Good things come to people who wait, but better things come to those who go out and get them.”

Spelling Test
No spelling test will be done this week due to Halloween parade and craft activities.
Maths
This week we have purchased some great new resources for kids in the K-2 classroom. All content is based on the NSW Syllabus and linked to the Australian Curriculum. Resources include a Maths Box that has:
- varied and extensive problem solving
- individual and class development of concepts
- 300 learning activities
- motivational maths for boys and girls
- reasoning and working mathematically concepts

The Maths Box also includes:
- problem solving
- concept development
- 30 maths topics
- graded questions
- questions written by very experienced teachers

We are so lucky to have such great learning resources and look forward to allowing the students to develop their mathematical skills, knowledge and interest levels.

Other resources include: New Wave Mental Maths, Maths Minutes – 100 minutes to practise and reinforce essential skills, Working on Number – aligned with the Australian National Curriculum, Multi-Maths – Multiple purpose pages K-2, Number – Consolidating numbers 1 to 20, Maths Homework – Ages 6-7 & 7-9.

Little Room Awards
Student of the Week – Jordan. Jordan has made a super effort in all activities this week and has completed some impressive work.
Izack – for impressive artworks
Sharlynn – for helping to make a Jack-O-Lantern
Jordan – for impressive fabric design

Homework
No homework will be allocated for this week due to the school sleepover. Thank you for your ongoing efforts and support with these tasks and enjoy a week off!

Important Dates
Wednesday 4th November – Student Benchmarking
Monday 9th – Friday 13th November – Special Swimming Scheme
Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Day
Saturday 21st November – Mr Gray’s Retirement Dinner
Tuesday 15th December – Presentation Night