Old Bonalbo Public School

NEWSLETTER

Number: 33

Friday 6th November, 2015

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<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Mr Gray Tabulam</td>
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<td>Yr 6 Orientation Day Bonalbo Central School</td>
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<td>Remembrance Day 10:40am</td>
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Special Swimming Scheme
Next week our students will take part in the Special Swimming Scheme at the Bonalbo Pool. Could parents providing transport please be at school by 12 o’clock. Full details of this scheme were contained in the permission note. If parents have not sent in their permission notes could they please do so on Monday 9th November. Could students please remember to bring their hat, t-shirt, rashie and sunscreen.

Remembrance Day
Next Wednesday 11th November our school will be conducting a Remembrance Day Ceremony. This Ceremony is open to all members of the public and we hope to see as many people as possible at the Ceremony. It would be lovely if our parents could help spread the word about this important event. Our Year 5 and Year 6 students will be conducting this ceremony. Could everyone attending please be at school by 10:40am. This will be the last time Mr Bateman will organise Remembrance Day at our school. I’m sure everyone at our school deeply appreciates the time and effort Mr Bateman has put into Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day at our school.

Halloween Sleepover
Last Friday our students enjoyed a fantastic Halloween Parade. There were witches, wizards, ghouls, vampires, skeletons, grim reapers, masked ladies, a racing car driver and other characters that would not have looked out of place in ‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show”. A big thank you to our students and parents who went to so much trouble with the costumes.
We then moved into the Sleepover on Friday night. The students enjoyed many games including spotlight, 1-2-3 home, sparklers, glow-sticks and piñatas. There was a special guest appearance by two very scary characters on Friday night. I understand with good behaviour they should be released in six months!
Students enjoyed delicious food for dinner on Friday night and breakfast on Saturday morning. Once again thank you to our parents who assisted in any way with the Sleepover. Thank you to Mrs Weston for organising the food and to Mr Pierce for organising the Sleepover.
A really big thank you to our students who behaved so well and took part enthusiastically in the activities. It was a wonderful Sleepover.

Benchmarking
Last Wednesday, Lauren Hankinson, Principal of Urbenville Public School, benchmarked our students in reading. Our school is very pleased with the results of the benchmarking. We have many students who are reading well and many students who have made considerable improvement in reading this year. Could parents please contact their child’s teacher to discuss the benchmarking results. A big thank you Ms Hankinson for doing the benchmarking.

Big Room Awards
Beau Whittaker is our student of the week. Beau has a great attitude and has been working very well in all subjects. We hope that Beau enjoys his Orientation Day at Bonalbo next Thursday.
Savannah Thamm receives an award for a consistent effort in Maths. Savannah is working well in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. A pleasing effort Savannah.
Lachlan Makejev wins an award for his excellent effort and attitude in all subjects. Lachlan always does his best. Well done Lachlan.

Principals Special Award
Jasmine Bradshaw receives a Principals Special Award. Jasmine’s behaviour has been improving consistently this term. I have been particularly impressed by her good manners. Well done Jasmine!

Big Room Star Spellers
Star spellers for this week are Braeleigh, Danielle, Annaleise, Lachlan G, Emily, Lachlan M, Travis 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
Benchmarking
Benchmarking or Running Records are one part of a three part process to place students in instructionally appropriate level texts and determine whether or not students are ready to move up a level.
Part 1: Students read Benchmark passages or Benchmark Books, and you capture their reading behaviour on Running Records.
Part 2: Students retell the text, and you use Retelling Rubrics to score their comprehension.
Part 3: Students take an oral Comprehension Quick Check Quiz, and each question answered tells what skill it assessed to help you identify comprehension skills for additional practice.

Most students were assessed this week and have all shown improvements including a number of students doubling their previous levels. All students have developed their skills and strategies to read more challenging texts and I would like to commend them on their efforts. Please be aware that all students develop at different speeds and are all working towards different goals. If you would like to discuss your child’s reading level or find out more details about the assessment and what it determines please feel free to approach me after school.

School Garden
In recent weeks we have had a lot of rain that has significantly improved our fresh produce in the school garden. We still have a number of students offering their time to maintain and water our garden each week. We look forward to harvesting some of the produce soon.

School Sleepover
Thank you to all the people who assisted with the school sleepover last Friday night. It was a wonderful night with good behaviour and a fun atmosphere. The kids played a variety of games including: pass the parcel, put the smile on the skeleton, Piñata, games with Mr Gray, glow sticks, sparklers, spot light, and Halloween disco. We managed to take some wonderful photos and have some great memories from the night.

Swimming Scheme
We look forward to a good week at Bonalbo Pool next week. If the weather is anything like it has been it’s sure to be great fun. Thank you to all parents who have offered transport to and from the pool.

Bird Houses
Last week students in Year 3-6 were given the opportunity to design and draw their idea of a quality native bird house to be put in some of our trees around the school. Most of their designs were suited to a smaller species of bird found on the school grounds.

After careful consideration and using cut wood and natural timber we have come out with five bird houses that have been placed in suitable trees. The kids have used paint, glue and spray paint to make the houses blend into their environment.

Benefits of Group Work
* Students are encouraged to become active rather than passive learners by developing collaborative and co-operative skills and lifelong learning skills
* Promotes student learning and achievement
* Students have the opportunity to learn from and to each other
* Students are involved in their own learning

At Old Bonalbo PS we place emphasis on group work to assist students and improve outcomes. We see the benefits of providing a structured learning experience that can provide students with the skills necessary to improve their decision making, problem solving, values, communication, critical thinking and teamwork.

Benefits of a Small School
What strengths are inherent in small schools? In small schools you will always find a sense of pride, and an attitude and sense of personal possession and involvement on the part of students, parents, teachers, administrators and community residents. To a degree, the school is the community centre in many towns and rural areas. The size of the school doesn’t inhibit personal interaction; it encourages it. Small schools typically serve a community nucleus. This invites strong support from parents and community members as well as closer working relationships among the school staff.

Students
Morale among students tends to be higher in small schools. Students are exposed to more opportunity to develop leadership skills in a greater diversity of situations. Everyone must participate in order to make things a success. This promotes among students a sense of belonging, of pride in their community, their school, and themselves.

Kinder Orientation Days
We will be having Kinder Orientation days from Week 7. First orientation day will be Tuesday 17th November for the morning session, then Tuesday 24th November for half a day, then Tuesday 1st December for a full day. If you know of any children who will be attending school next year please pass this information on.

Benefits of a Student Representative Council (SRC)
The SRC gives students the skills to create and to implement, to lead and to follow, to learn from mistakes and to succeed. Most importantly, they give students the
opportunity to represent the views of their peers, and to succeed in making those views heard.
As society embraces new technologies, teachers embrace new teaching methods and students embrace new pathways and opportunities in their education towards new forward thinking strategies. At Old Bonalbo PS we are so lucky to have such a positive group of SRC members who have assisted with making the school a great environment for everyone. Our activities this year and in previous years have been based on their suggestions and input. While we are never able to do all activities suggested we do what we can to provide these activities for all students.

**Worm Juice**
Worm Juice can be brought from the school at any time. 50c per litre.

**Australian Bass**
If anyone has access to catching any live bait for our classroom Bass that would be greatly appreciated. The Bass eats small fish, shrimps, small crayfish, grasshoppers and worms.

**Little Room Awards**
Erika – for great reading progress
Briannah – for great reading progress
Hailey – for great reading progress
Jasmine – Improved Literacy skills

**Star Spellers**
Star spellers for the Little Room this week are Jordan, Jasmine, Erika, Hailey, Charlie, Tristian, Sharlynn and Briannah. Well done!

**Mr Gray’s Retirement Dinner**
Mr Gray is retiring at the end of the year and our school community has the opportunity of celebrating his 38 years of teaching with a dinner at the Bonalbo Bowling club. A special price has been agreed upon and only students of Old Bonalbo PS are invited to attend along with their families. This is a community dinner as well. Please consider this and let us know soon if your family will be coming to the dinner as we need to let the caterers know.

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**Important Dates**
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th November** – Special Swimming Scheme
- **Tuesday 10th November** – Mr Gray at Principals Meeting at Tabulam
- **Wednesday 11th November** – Remembrance Day
- **Thursday 12th November** – Yr 6-7 Orientation Day at Bonalbo CS
- **Saturday 21st November** – Mr Gray’s Retirement Dinner
- **Wednesday 8th December** – Yr 6-7 Orientation Day at Woodenbong CS
- **Tuesday 15th December** – Presentation Night