**Old Bonalbo Public School**

**NEWSLETTER**

Number: 34

Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} November, 2015

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<tr>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} Kinder orientation 9 – 11.30am</td>
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<td>Mr Gray’s dinner</td>
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Remembrance Day
Students from Year 5 & 6 conducted our Remembrance Day Ceremony last Wednesday. Beau Whittaker, Danielle Guagliardo, Annaleise Barrett, Katie Robertson, Braeleigh Newton & Emily Weston did a great job under the watchful eye of Mr Geoff Bateman. I would like to congratulate our students for their excellent behaviour. I would also like to thank our parents and community members for attending this important ceremony.

Thank You Mr Bateman
Geoff Bateman assisted with his final Remembrance Day Ceremony at our school last Wednesday. Geoff has been assisting with ANZAC Day & Remembrance Day for longer than I have been the Principal. Geoff has made an outstanding contribution to our school by assisting with ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, as our unofficial school photographer and supportive community member. I’m sure everyone from our school would like to sincerely thank Geoff for his outstanding contribution and wonderful support. It is very deeply appreciated. Let’s hope Geoff stays in touch as our unofficial photographer.

Special Swimming Scheme
Our students have been taking part in the Special Swimming Scheme this week. It is always great to see the improvement they make during this week. I would like to thank our parents for their assistance with transport and with taking groups when needed.

Literacy Continuum
Our students were benchmarked in reading recently. The results from the benchmarking have been used to place students on the Literacy Continuum. Parents please contact your child’s teacher to find out where their child has been placed on the continuum.

Big Room Star Spellers
Star spellers for this week are Danielle, Travis and Lachlan G. Well done.

Voluntary Parent Contributions
At the last P&C meeting these fees were set. They are $20 per student or $40 per family. Please pay these as soon as possible.

Little Room News
Special Swimming Scheme
Our school swimming and water safety scheme helps to develop confidence and provides students with basic water skills in water safety and survival. Aquatic activities play a significant role in the lifestyle of many children. This week we have completed 2 x 45 minute sessions over 4 days allowing students to complete the requirements of their next level of swimming competence. Students K-2 have also had access to an interactive dvd on swimming safety, skills and sun awareness to assist them with their general knowledge. The scheme has enabled students to: complete activities that revise skills already learnt, introduce new skills, complete drills to teach new skills, play games that encourage practice of both learnt and new skills & learn basic water safety activities.

Art & Craft
As a learning activity, arts & crafts have been recognised as learning aids for other Key Learning Areas including music, art, science, maths, health and nutrition. Today crafts are great to extend children’s fine motor skills, develop colour or numbers and see scientific processes like gluing and paint drying in action. Craft allows kids to explore ideas or concepts and then express it by making something to keep, entertain others with or simply look at for visual pleasure. Benefits can include: extending their thinking across multiple patterns of intelligence, develop higher thinking skills, enhance multicultural understandings, build self-esteem, gain positive emotional responses to learning & engage through a variety of learning styles.

Christmas Craft, Art, Decorations
Over the next week K-2 will begin Christmas activities as the countdown to Christmas begins. We look forward to completing these lessons at this exciting time of the year.

Christmas Facts
* Christmas trees are also known as the Yule-tree
* Christmas trees are evergreen trees and are usually fir trees, pine trees or similar
* It is believed that decorating Christmas trees originated in 16th Century Germany when Christians would bring decorated trees into their homes
* Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895
* If you received all the gifts from the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” you would have 364 presents
* Santa Claus 8 reindeers are named: Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen.

**Homework**
Five weeks remaining to complete homework activities for this year. Please place all worksheets in homework books and return to school each week. A high percentage of completed activities is expected to receive awards and prizes at our Christmas Concert and Awards night.

**Remembrance Day**
Special thank you to Geoff Bateman for organising and running an impressive Remembrance Day Ceremony on Wednesday this week. It marks the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month back in 1918. All senior students played leading roles in this event and a 1 minute silence was held at 11am to remember the people who have died in wars. Well done to all students for their good behaviour and respect shown on this important day.

**Kinder Orientation Days**
We will be having our first Kinder Orientation day on Tuesday 17th November for the morning session. If you know of any children who will be attending school next year please pass this information on.

**Star Spellers**
Star spellers for the Little Room this week are Hailey, Sharlynn, Jordan, Layne, Izack, Charlie and Tristan. Well done!

**Important Dates**
- Tuesday 17th November – 1st Kinder Orientation – 9 – 11.30am
- Saturday 21st November – Mr Gray’s Retirement Dinner
- Tuesday 24th November – 2nd Kinder Orientation – 9am – 1pm
- Tuesday 1st December – 3rd Kinder Orientation – 9am – 3pm
- Wednesday 8th December – Yr 6-7 Orientation Day at Woodenbong CS
- Tuesday 15th December – Presentation Night