Old Bonalbo Public School

NEWSLETTER

Number: 36

Friday 27th November, 2015

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Thank You Everyone

I wanted to thank everyone who assisted with my Farewell last Saturday night. To Mr & Mrs Tart & P&C thank you for the time and effort you put into this occasion. Thanks also to Shannon Whittaker for the delicious cakes and a special thank you to Cindy Chivers for her amazing retirement rescue kit and accessories. Thank you to the students for your beautiful book. It was fantastic to see so many people from so many schools. I really have been very lucky to work with so many amazing people. It was a humbling experience. Thank you all for a wonderful evening.

Big Room Awards

Emily Weston is our student of the week. Emily has been studying Frank Reys, the first Aboriginal jockey to win the Melbourne Cup. She has demonstrated independent research skills in her project.

Travis Fairfull earns an award for independent reading skills.

Lachlan Guagliardo earns an award for excellent handwriting. Lachlan’s workbooks are a credit to him.

Ballina Excursion

Our excursion to the Ballina Waterslide will not be going ahead. My apologies if this has caused any inconvenience to you.

Big Room Star Spellers

Star spellers for this week are Lachlan M, Tess, Danielle, Emily and Korban. Well done.

Voluntary Parent Contributions

The P&C have set these fees for 2015. They are $20 per student or $40 per family. Please pay these as soon as possible.

Presentation Night/Christmas Tree

At the P&C meeting held last Wednesday, the Presentation night was discussed. It was decided that ‘Santa’s Presents’ will be limited to $20. The P&C will also be holding a raffle with tickets to be sold on the night. This year our raffle will be a hamper of goodies. Each family is asked to provide something to go towards this hamper please.

Little Room News

What are the benefits of Parent Involvement in schools?

Many schools depend on the help of parents to keep some school activities and events running smoothly. When parents pitch in to help where they’re needed, everyone involved benefits in one way or another. If you are interested in getting more involved with your child’s education at this school for next year there are plenty of ways for you to do so.

Homework

Just a reminder that there is just over 2 weeks remaining for homework tasks to be completed and returned to school. A high percentage of activities will need to be completed for children to receive homework prizes at our Christmas Concert.

Australian Bass

Please feel free to send in any suitable insects, small fish or worms for our pet fish over the next few weeks.

Benefits of Teaching Sight Words

All parents and teachers want their children to be good readers. With so many different approaches to reading instruction choosing strategies and activities to help them develop into strong, confident readers is difficult. To compound the situation today’s kids, parents and teachers are all busy! We are constantly faced with deciding what activities is the best use of our time with kids. Sight word instruction is one of the best uses of the time you spend helping your children learn to read.

Best Start/Plan

This week K-2 were sent home with parent feedback that shows where students are at in Literacy and Numeracy on the continuum. The feedback shows what students are working towards and suggested activities to complete from home.

Benefits of a Small School

Small schools offer as much if not more than large schools for individual children. At our school all programs involve and encourage participation from all children from Kinder to Year 6. Small schools offer a unique learning environment, particularly for children when starting Kindergarten and it continues through to primary years in developing children’s sense of belonging. A small school is like an extension of the family, where everyone knows one another and the care of one another. Younger siblings can play with older sisters and brothers in large playgrounds using school equipment at lunch times. Everyone knows your name (not just because you’ve been in trouble). We participate in fabulous excursions and activities to reinforce the learning, as it is relatively easy with a small group.

Small schools offer the same curriculum as large schools. As classes are multi-stage, younger students can learn from older students in class, or if a child is slower in their learning it is easy to group students according to their ability in a particular subject with no stigma attached.

A Learning and Support teacher is also provided for extra assistance for children needing small group and individual attention.

Small schools offer many extra-curricular activities. Over the years Old Bonalbo Public School has provided excursions, farm visits, sports coaching (Tennis, Rugby League), Interest Afternoons, athletics days, multicultural visits, day visits, Ten Pin Bowling, multi-

All students K-6 have ready access to technology programs with banks of computers in or near every classroom. The ration of computers to students is very high in our small school. Interactive Smartboards are in each classroom and video conferencing equipment in the K-2 classroom to interact with other schools and participate in meetings when distance between schools is an issue.

Creative and Performing Arts are catered for as we are always involved in these events. We put on our own community events such as Senior (Term) Assemblies, CWA International Nights and end of the year Christmas Concerts. Cultural Excursions have also been implemented such as the trips to the Brisbane Museum and Urbenville’s local museum. These activities have been put in place to support classroom lessons and to emphasise that learning can and should be fun. Recently children K-6 dressed up in themed costumes for Halloween and had a wonderful time at our school sleepover. Students enter regional art, farming, animals and other competitions at the annual Bonalbo Show. There is always something to look forward to. Innovation is always on the agenda. At school we aim to develop self-esteem in all children. We encourage and teach students to have a good understanding of the needs of others and to maintain healthy friendships. All staff work to develop the full potential of each and every student in our school. The small school learning community together can then achieve greater benefits for the children in its care.

**Michael’s Retirement Dinner**

Thank you to everyone who assisted with Michael’s wonderful retirement dinner last Saturday at the Bonalbo Bowling Club. It was so positive to see new and old friends of Michael attend the dinner and be a part of the night. There were some funny stories told and memorable speeches that took place on the night. I know Michael thoroughly enjoyed the night and everyone’s kindness.

**Little Room Awards**

Tristian – For improved spelling skills
Charlie – for effort in spelling
Jasmine – for creating and reading new sentences

**Star Spellers**

Star spellers for the Little Room this week are Layne, Tristian, Hailey, Charlie, Erika, Jordan, Sharlynn & Izack. Well done!

**Important Dates**

- Tuesday 1st December – 3rd Kinder Orientation – 9am – 3pm
- Wednesday 8th December – Yr 6-7 Orientation Day at Woodenbong CS
- Tuesday 15th December – Presentation Night