Old Bonalbo Public School

NEWSLETTER

Number: 38

Friday 11th December, 2015

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Farewell Everyone

After eleven wonderful years it is time for me to retire. I am very proud of the achievements of our students in these years. Excellent results in literacy and numeracy including NAPLAN, Amazing school assemblies choc full of skits, musical items, plays, delicious afternoon teas and appreciative audiences. The Performing Arts Festival in Casino – rock n roll dancing and Bollywood, with input from ex-students. Sporting achievements with our school winning the Upper Clarence Cross Country for eight of the eleven years, relay team in Sydney, individual students making it to state level in athletics, numerous regional representatives in swimming, cross country and athletics and of course our touch football team, five times in Sydney and state runners-up in 2011.

Our excursions – Disney On Ice, Mary Poppins, The Lion King, Lake Ainsworth, Brisbane, Coffs Harbour and many more. Costa’s visit, CWA night, the gymnastics & circus in the hall, ANZAC Day & Remembrance Day and the list goes on. Through all of this the most important things were, did our students experience a broad range of activities & did they do the best they could? You bet they did and I hope you are all proud of their achievements.

Thank you to Mrs Tart, Mrs Williams, Mr Pierce, Mrs Weston, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Whitney, Mr Roffey & Mrs Atkinson. Thank you to our community members. Mr Bateman for ANZAC and Remembrance Day. Thank you to our parents, grandparents, great grandparents and carers. And of course and most importantly of all – thank you to our wonderful students. You have inspired me and kept me young. Education is a team effort and it never stops. My best wishes to you all. I retire a happy and contented man, proud of the achievements of our students.

Farewell Year 6

I would like to congratulate our Year Six students on their achievements at our school and wish them all the best next year.

Beau Whittaker
An absolute gentleman. This year Beau represented our school at the State Athletics Championships in Sydney. He has been an enthusiastic member of the SRC and an excellent role model. I will remember his strength of character and humour.

Annaleise Barrett
Annaleise never stops trying. Her improvement in literacy and numeracy this year has been outstanding. A fantastic participant in all sporting fields and a wonderful actress and dancer. A happy soul who always congratulates her peers on their achievements.

Danielle Guagliardo
I hope everyone in our school has read Danielle’s contributions to our newsletters throughout the year and read her work on our classroom walls. A wonderful writer. Danielle is the unofficial ‘mum’ of our school. She has looked after our younger students, offering TLC and guidance every day. A caring and sensitive student, a very good actress and dancer and athlete, a very keen member of the SRC and an eloquent speaker.

Katie Robertson
Make no mistake about it. Katie is a student with ability. Her improvement in literacy this year has been amazing. A Strength of character, wicked sense of humour and a genuine caring nature. Katie is the North Coast AWD senior girl’s athletics champion. She won every event she entered in the North Coast Championships. She has represented our school in Sydney in athletics on two occasions. She loves being part of our school and we are all the richer for having worked with Katie.

You are indeed all wonderful students.

Farewell Mrs Whitney

Mrs Whitney thought she would quietly slip off into the sunset, not a chance. Mrs Whitney has been Katie’s aide for 6 years. She has been paid to work with Katie from 9:00am to 11:00am. Cheryl stays on until 1:00pm. That says it all. Her dedication and down to earth, no nonsense approach has been greatly appreciated. Cheryl has also been our unofficial weather forecaster. On behalf of everyone at our school, thank you Cheryl, you will be greatly missed.

Presentation Night

Our Presentation Night and Concert is next Tuesday 15th December. I hope you have invited everyone you know to come along. The night begins in the Old Bonalbo Hall at 7pm. We have some great items from our students and some wonderful achievements to celebrate. See you all there.

End of Term

The last day of school for students is Wednesday 16th December. Have a great holiday everyone and thank you for the memories.

Big Room Awards

Danielle Guagliardo is our student of the week for her consistently caring attitude towards her peers. Well done Danielle.

Braeleigh Newton earns an award for her acting skills. You will all see why next Tuesday evening.

Tess Codrington earns an award also for excellent acting skills. She plays her role to perfection and is not to be messed with.

Big Room Star Spellers

Star spellers for the big room this week are Braeleigh, Lachlan G & Travis. Well done!
**Presentation Night/Christmas Tree**
Just a reminder 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 - a hamper of goodies. **Each family is asked to provide something to go towards this hamper please.**

**Little Room News**

**Christmas Jokes**
What does Santa do with fat elves?
He sends them to an Elf Farm!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
A Christmas Quacker!

Who delivers presents to baby sharks on Christmas?
Santa Jaws

What says oh oh oh?
Santa walking backwards!

**Australian Bass and Fresh Water Turtle**
Thank you to the boys and girls who brought in food for our fish and turtle this term. Both pets have become quite tame and have enjoyed being fed by the students K-2. Next week both creatures will be released back into their natural habitat.

**Home Reading**
Feel free to ask for any extra books for home reading over the holidays. Books can still be recorded in reading Journals.

**Christmas Concert**
Next Tuesday is our Christmas Concert. It will commence at 7pm sharp. It will be an enjoyable night with all students officially recognised for their achievements throughout this year. The concert will also consist of 2 items from the K-2 class and one from Yr 3-6. Awards and prizes allocated. Speeches, Year 6 Graduation and other important achievements acknowledged. Santa will be there to present each child with a gift from under the tree. We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Activities Day**
On the last day of term, Wednesday 16th December, we will be holding a water activities day. Please refer to the attached permission note for more details about this event.

**A Very Special Thank You to Parents**
Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered and gave us help when needed throughout this year. **Thank you for** looking through students back packs for notes and items sent home, **for** calling in when your child was absent from school, **We appreciate all the parents** who made sure your children spent time reading at home, **for** your support with all home activities, **for** assisting with fundraisers, **for** donating items to the school, **for** participating in school based activities, **for** providing private transport, **for** working positively with the school staff.

**Farewell Mr Gray**
I would like to thank you for the opportunity of working on your team at Old Bonalbo Public School. It has been a great journey. Thank you for all the training, advice and tips; it really helped me a lot to become a better person and grow professionally. Your guidance and mentoring was truly helpful. I wish you all the best in your retirement and trust that the qualities placed in your students will remain for many years to come. I know that the students, parents and community will be able to continue to build on the wonderful things that this school can provide for everyone.

**Learning & Support Teacher**
This year we are very grateful to have the assistance of Wendy Weston working as a valuable team member providing additional learning support for students K-6. Wendy worked specifically with K-2 students and provided small group learning opportunities for targeted students. The role of the Learning and Support teacher as a member of the learning and support team is to: work collaboratively with the classroom teacher to support assessment for learning of their students with additional needs and specific learning and support needs, Plan, implement, model, monitor and evaluate teaching programs for students with additional learning and support needs in conjunction with regular classroom teachers, model exemplary classroom practice with adjusted learning programs for students with additional learning needs. Wendy has proved vital in helping students achieve their short and long term goals and allow them to keep improving on their personal best.

**Role of a Teacher’s Aide**
In our school we have an administrative staff member, we have teachers, we have Learning and Support teacher and we have a teacher’s aide. Teacher’s aides fulfil a very important role in schools because they work with classroom teachers to support the learning, social, emotional needs of children with those special needs. Teachers and teacher aides work in partnership in the classroom, the teachers organise the program and the teacher aid helps deliver it, often on a one-to-one basis with a particular child or in a small group of children. Cheryl Whitney has been working as an effective teacher’s aide or many years as well as donating her time as a volunteer. Cheryl has done a special job working with Katie for many years and assisting other students in the classroom. We have been grateful to have Cheryl on the teaching team and for her tireless contributions to the school and community.

**Little Room Awards**
Izack – 150, 175, 200 Nights Reading
Hailey – for effort in our class dance
Sharlynn – for working well in all areas
Izack – for effort during morning fitness

**Star Spellers**
Our last list of star spellers for 2015 are Layne, Charlie, Tristian, Sharlynn, Hailey, Erika and Izack. Well done!

**Important Dates**
- Tuesday 15th December – Presentation Night
- Wednesday 16th Activities Day – Last Day of Term 4
- Wednesday 27th January 2016 – Teachers return
- Thursday 28th January 2016 – Students return
- Friday 29th January 2016 – Kinder students start

**Bonalbo Bowling Club**

**Children’s Christmas Disco**
- Saturday 12th December, 2015
- 6.30 pm start
- Santa arrives at 7.30 pm

Free entry and party food for children

Children under 18 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult