Old Bonalbo Public School

NEWSLETTER

Number: 28

Friday 18th September, 2015

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Performing Arts Festival
What a fantastic time we had at the Performing Arts Festival in Casino on Monday night. We saw some great items from twelve schools. I would like to congratulate all of our dancers for their amazing effort and attitude at both the rehearsal and the performance on Monday night. These students learnt their steps, supported each other and delivered when it counted. The performance was excellent and our entire school community should be very proud of you, I know I am.
I would like to thank Madeleine and Isabella Barrett and Mrs Weston for their incredible choreography. Thank you also to Mrs Tart, Mrs Thamm and Mrs Codrington who helped with the costumes. These costumes were stunning and looked so good on the stage. Thank you to our parents who helped with hairstyling and transport. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our dance team – students, parents, teachers, ex-students, grandparents and great-grandparents – you are WONDERFUL PEOPLE!!

End of Term Three
I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our school this term. Our students have achieved great things in Literacy, Science, Art, Sport and Dancing this term. Next term we have lots of interesting activities planned and we look forward to the continued support of our parents and community members.

Today is the last day of school for this term. Students and teachers return to school on Tuesday 6th October, 2015.

Big Room Awards
Lachlan Makejev – A great effort in Bollywood dancing
Korban Newton – A great effort in Bollywood dancing
Travis Fairfull – A great effort in Bollywood dancing
Beau Whittaker – A great effort in Bollywood dancing

Little Room News
Outcomes
Each Key Learning Area (KLA) has outcomes that address a particular concept in the area of study that is related to what stage level your child is at. All students are assessed as to whether they have not achieved, achieved or have gone beyond each outcome at the particular stage of each KLA.

Home Reading
The books that come home should be easy for your child. Reading at home should be an opportunity for your child to practise a smooth clear reading voice. Reading for them at home needs to be enjoyable and not a time for struggling and arguing. You can ask lots of questions while your child is reading to check that they are understanding the story line or facts of the text.

Performing Arts
Well done to all the Big Room students who participated in the Performing Arts last Monday. I was so impressed with their skilful dance moves, great costumes and wonderful attitude displayed during practise and on the night! Fantastic effort to all involved.

Phonics awareness lessons and activities
This term K-2 have had focus placed on their phonemic awareness skills and knowledge. Specific areas taught include:
* ability to recognise individual sounds in a word
* ability to identify the same sounds in different words
* ability to recognise which word in a set of three or four words has the ‘odd sound’
* ability to listen to a sequence of separately spoken phonemes, then combine the phonemes to form a word
* ability to break a word into its separate sounds
* ability to recognise the word that remains when a phoneme is removed from another word
* make a new word by adding a phoneme to an existing word
* substitute one phoneme for another to make a new word.

Phonics is understanding how letters are used to make sounds and words. Kids learn to ‘sound out’ words and begin reading. Kindergarten Phonics starts with learning the alphabet. Children learn each letter by associating it with words starting with the same sound. Using our Reading Eggs Program is a great opportunity for all students to improve their reading skills, knowledge and confidence. If you don’t have the internet I am happy to provide similar interactive cds to assist your child’s learning and development in this area.

For students working beyond the basics we have started to cover the following areas as part of our phonics program:
* consonant blends
* consonant sounds
* tricky word strategies
* short and long vowels
* word families

The Reading Eggs Program provides lessons which are visually rich and highly interactive, using animated ‘role model’ characters, immediate feedback and positive reinforcement to provide a positive learning experience for your child.

Toys from Home
Starting at the beginning of Term 4 I would like to ask that no toys from home be brought to school for general play unless it’s for show and tell/news/SCUMPS. We have a large number of suitable playground sports equipment that can be accessed by all students at recess and lunch 5 days a week.

Different Teachers
As each child is different, each teacher is different as well. Each teacher has their own idea of the most effective way of teaching eg reading. therefore some focus on moving up levels, some want to ensure a child is really secure before moving them up and some want a child to have more exposure to different texts at that level before moving up. Your child...
will have to work with all different types of people in their life so it is important they are given that opportunity with each teacher they have.

**Facts about People**

* Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, was actually afraid of the dark.
* The tallest man in this world was Robert Wadlow, a Chinese man who was 7’1” tall.
* There were about 300 bones in your body when you were born, but by the time you reach adulthood you have only 206.
* Vincent Van Gogh only sold 1 painting his whole life and that was to his brother.
* Sir Edmund Hilary was the first to climb Mt Everest and return back.

**Reading the book many times**

This year I have had some discussions with parents about their child reading the same book/s for a few night, week or longer. I would like children to feel like reading is easy at home and to show someone at home the skills that they are developing. Harder texts are given in the classroom under guidance from the teacher. There has also been some more challenging texts studied during our reading activities with parent helpers. As I read through the parent comments in the children’s yellow reading diaries I have been so happy to see such a large number of positive, constructive comments recorded and displayed for the student and teachers to see. Please continue to praise your child for how they read. Emphasise how smooth their voice is or congratulate them on working out an unknown word. Reading the same book each time can be made into a different experience. Have a different focus for each time you read it with them. You could focus on the use of punctuation one time, working out unknown words one time, the story line one time and what’s in each picture another time.

**Reading Strategies**

A child needs to develop a variety of reading strategies to work out unknown words in text. While listening to your child read, try to encourage them to work out the word independently. Informing the child of the word straight away will not develop their reading skills. Many children cannot move to a new level as their undeveloped reading strategies will not support them at a new level.

**Comparing Children**

Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, children are no different. Each child develops their reading skills at their own pace. Most students K-2 are reading at different levels. Most children when they are learning to read have times where they move up levels quickly and other times plateau for a while. As long as they are making some form of progress including Reading Eggs progress or recognising a larger list of high frequency words there is nothing to worry about.

**SRC Sleepover/Halloween Theme**

On Friday 30th October (the day before Halloween) the SRC have elected to hold a Halloween theme-school sleepover. The day before the sleepover (Friday) will include students dressing themselves in a Halloween theme costume for a 9am start. The day will include a morning parade followed by classroom lessons, afternoon Halloween activities, dinner, sleepover and then finish at 9am on Saturday morning (Halloween).

All other details will be provided closer to the event and we will again be requiring some assistance from parent helpers with dinner preparations.

**Halloween**

Halloween used to be considered an American tradition, but Australians are embracing the idea of dressing up in spooky costumes and trick-or-treating on October 31st.

This week all K-2 students have been sent home with coloured folders with completed work from this term. Feel free to go through these folders with them.

**Awards**

**Student of the Week – Charlie.** Charlie has been working to the best of his ability this week. He works to complete all set tasks and reflects on his work – regularly looking to improve.

Layne – For effort in Maths
Izack – For progress with sight words

**Important Dates**

Friday 18th September – Last day of Term 3
Tuesday 6th October – Students and Staff return for Term 4
Wednesday 14th October – Beau competes in Sydney
Wednesday 21st October – School Photos – 9am
Tuesday 14th July – K-2 Dental Hygiene Visit
Friday 24th July – Urbenville Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 28th July – University English Comp
Friday 31st July – District Athletics at Tabulam
Tuesday 11th August – University Math