



Weethalle Public School

Empowering Learners for their future

Term 3, Week 9
13th September, 2010
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PRINCIPALS REPORT

Congratulations to all those students who received awards at last weeks assembly. There were class awards, homereading awards, ICAAS writing and spelling certificates and Spelling Bee certificates. Miss Mac was also surprised by being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the outstanding presentation she made at our last Accelerated Literacy training days in Griffith. The Riverina Literacy Consultants and all the district teachers present certainly appreciated Crystal sharing her experience of implementing AL into her classroom and our whole school approach to AL.



FAREWELL MISS HEALY

Last week we farewelled Miss Naomi Healy. She was a first year prac student from CSU Wagga who had been working for 2 weeks with Miss Mac in the infants class. Miss Healy loved her time at our school and commented that she had learned so much. As a result of her time with us, she said that she was confident that she would like to teach in a rural school like ours. We are happy to provide the experience our future teachers need to equip them with the skills to succeed in their career. Our students benefit from the exposure to a variety of staff with different ideas.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

This week is a very busy one for staff professional learning. After school today, Crystal, Lauren and I will be travelling to Griffith to participate in a training session based on "Teacher Feedback" to students. This is part of the Team Leadership for School Improvement program. Geoff Pellizzer will be conducting this session for staff from Barellan Central School, Ardlethan Central School, Ungarie Central School and Weethalle Public School as part of our involvement in the Low SES National Partnership.

On Wednesday and Thursday our staff will be joined by staff from Tallimba Public School, Greenthorpe Public School and Cootamundra Public School to receive 2 days of "Moodle" training with CAP consultant Jaemie Bennett. This is a very exciting initiative involving innovative technology training. "Moodle" is simply an online space where teachers can facilitate teaching and learning for their students (a blended and virtual learning space). Thank you very much to the P & C for agreeing to cater for these days. It will be a very busy and productive opportunity for staff from all these schools to improve their knowledge and understanding of integrating technology further into their classroom and engaging students in their learning. I am very proud to have Weethalle Public School hosting such a valuable day, showcasing everything our great little school offers our students.

After school on Thursday, an Origo consultant will visit to provide additional training for staff in the Go Maths program and associated resources, which we purchased last year and are currently using. I really appreciate the fact that we have such a dedicated staff who are not only prepared to participate in so much additional training but who are enthusiastic about the opportunities offered to them. Their commitment to improving their own skills for the benefit of our students is to be commended. As I have mentioned before, research strongly supports the fact that it is the quality of the schools teachers that have the greatest impact on student achievement and in particular their improvement in outcomes. We are very lucky to have such a committed and dedicated staff. Any interested parents are welcome to join us in learning more about how maths is taught and especially how it will align to the new National Curriculum.

NAPLAN

Naplan results for students in years 3 and 5 have been sent home today. Any parents wishing to discuss their own child's achievements are encouraged to make an appointment. I am very happy to discuss any aspect of their report at a mutually convenient time.

DAFFODIL DAY

Our students participated in Daffodil Day last Friday and raised \$24 for the Cancer Council by wearing something yellow for the day. This money will combine with our Footy Colours Day to support a very worthwhile cause.

PRIMARY EXCURSION

Finally, a reminder that payment for the primary excursion to Borambola Sport and Recreation Camp is due in full next week (Monday 20th September). Thank you to those who have already paid or have been

making regular instalments this term. I appreciate your promptness. All the necessary information will be sent home with next weeks newsletter.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the students and parents who have already sent in vouchers for the Coles Sports for Schools Program. We have until 31st October to collect vouchers. The box is located in the front office.

CHOW DOWN AND WIN

Starting this week, our students will be involved in a "Chow Down and Win" campaign which promotes fruit and veg and offers each student the opportunity to win great prizes. Each time a student eats a piece of fresh fruit or veg they receive a "Chow Down and Win" sticker to place on their card. This will all take place at school during fruit break. The campaign concludes Friday 24th September which is our last day of term.

REMINDER

If you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am always available. It is best to bring concerns to the attention of the school so that they can be addressed sooner rather than latter. We all want what is best for each and every student in our care and by working together, this can be achieved.

Keep smiling and be happy.....Cheryle

Attachments to newsletter:

- *Rankins Springs Round Robin Permission note*
- *Bland Shire Library School Holiday activities*
- *Griffith Netball Association - Rep Selection Day*
- *Coles Sports for Schools Flyer*
- *Junior Netball - West Wyalong*
- * P & C News*
- *Barellan Tennis Clinic*

P&C NEWS

***** HELP NEEDED *****

CATERING - Wednesday & Thursday

The P&C is catering for a meeting to be held at school on Wednesday & Thursday of this week, for morning tea (11.00am) & lunch (1.00pm) for 10 people.

Items required include; slice, cake, sandwiches, fruit and soup.

Any parents that can help on the day or that can make some food, please contact Steph Healy t.69756128. All help is greatly appreciated & will help raise money for the P&C.



BATTERY DRIVE

The battery drive fundraiser is underway!!!!
Batteries can be dropped at Ag'n'Vet or Fishers Garage.
Any queries contact Brian 0428 410116 or 69756150.

SCHOOL JACKETS

The P&C has had an enquiry regarding school jackets for parents. If anyone is interested in purchasing adult sized school jackets (with Weethalle Public School emblem embroidered on) please contact Michelle. These would be available for \$40 sizes range from M (mens size 16), L, XL, 2XL & 3XL (mens size 24). If there is enough interest some will be purchased.

Michelle Jolly ph. 69756242 or 0427 756242

THANKYOU



A big thankyou to all children & parents that supported 'Dress Yellow for Daffodil Day' - a total of \$24.00 was raised for the Cancer Council.

PERMISSION NOTE - RANKINS SPRINGS GALA DAY

I give permission for my child/ren.....to participate
in the Rankins Springs Gala Day on Wednesday 22nd September at Rankins
Springs School.

I understand that travel will be by private vehicle.

My child/ren will be travelling with.....

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Hello everyone!

I thought I'd take this opportunity to update you on the happenings of the 3/4/5/6 classroom. My, how this term has flown! Some of the children may have told you about some of the new things they have been doing at school.

Unfortunately, as I am not fully trained in Accelerated Literacy, I have been unable to continue the program. Instead, we have been exploring new 'Reading Roles', which allow students to learn how to analyse different texts from different angles. The Children have learnt to be 'Clever Connectors' - linking what they have read to their world or something they have seen before; 'Word Wizards' - finding words, phrases or techniques which are interesting or challenging and discovering their meaning; 'Artful Artists' - identifying and explaining visual techniques the artist has used to make meaning in the story; and finally 'Character Captain' - profiling the main characters and identifying their role in the story. The children work in groups and each take on one of the reading roles in their group.

To date, this literacy arrangement has worked well, with lots of reading, and talking and listening taking place and the ideas that have been developed in their writing has been really exciting, they should all be extremely proud.

The children have been working extremely well in Maths, learning about new strategies with the Go Maths and Mathletics programs. We are also focussing on developing times tables skills each week.

In PDHPE we have been looking at the unit 'Developing Positive Relationships', and analysing good friends and bullies and how we can make sure we're always a good friend. Students are encouraged to think of ways to deal with bullies and how to support people who may feel left out or alone.

In HSIE we have been looking at 'Kids Caring for the Environment'. Students have been conducting enquiry based learning, where they devise questions as a group and search for the answers, presenting their results in the format of their choice. This involves students taking turns at roles such as Scribe, Guide, Designer and Chatterbox. Students will also have a Mini Assignment on this topic which must be completed by the due date (**Thursday 23rd September**) for assessment purposes. It would be fantastic if you could support the completion of this Assignment at home as it will be set in place of Homework for the next two weeks. An Assignment sheet will be sent home today.

Hope you have a lovely week,

Lauren Irvin