Wednesday, 24 July 2013

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Another very warm welcome to what will be a very busy and productive Term 3 at Buxton Public School. A special welcome to our new enrolments and their families. We trust that your first impressions of our school and community have been favourable.

Staffing

In the last Grapevine of Term 2, I mentioned that Mrs Davies was taking long service leave this term for three weeks. I said that a certain teacher would take her class during this time. At the last minute he was unable to meet this commitment. Fortunately for us Mrs Carbury was very eager to teach 5/6. We really appreciate her stepping in at such short notice. The class are being absolutely beautiful in Mrs Davies absence. They are a credit to themselves.

Education Week

As you would have read in the note sent home last week we are inviting you all to attend activities that we are hosting during Education Week, which is celebrated throughout New South Wales between 29th July and the 4th August. This year the theme for Education Week is “Celebrating our Stories.” We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend our open day. Classrooms will be open from 12.00 midday until 12.45pm on Monday the 29th July. During this time you are invited to visit your children’s rooms and see what happens in a modern educational setting. At 12.45 pm the children will be having a picnic lunch in the playground. You are invited to pack a picnic basket and have lunch at school with your child if the weather is “picnic friendly”. Should it rain we will have to postpone our picnic.

Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday the 30th July the school Athletics carnival is happening at Tahmoor Sportsground. This is a mandatory school activity and all children are expected to travel on the bus and attend the carnival. We are very happy to welcome parents to help with the carnival or to be a spectator. You should already have received a note about a meal deal that the P and C are offering for this day. Please ensure that the meal deal note and money for the bus are returned to the office by Thursday, 25th July.

School Photos

Also during Education Week is our School Photos. The students will be required to come to school on Thursday 1st August in full school winter uniform. Enclosed is the envelope to select and order the photos you require. If you require a Family photo envelope, these will be available in the school office for you to pick up. Please return the envelopes with correct money inside before Thursday 1st August.

P and C

The next meeting of the P and C will be held during Education Week on the 31st July at 6.30 pm. I would encourage you all to come to these meetings whenever possible to get a feel for what is happening in our dynamic school.

Swimming School

During weeks seven and eight of this term, that is from the 26th August to the 6th September, our school will be participating in a Departmental swimming school. This program has been running successfully for many years. If you have a child in Year 2 or older who has not had formal swimming lessons or who requires stroke correction please consider sending your child to this program. Details will be available in the next few weeks. There are 20 places available in the School Swimming Scheme.

School Cleaners

The company that employs our school cleaner is interested in adding casual staff to their emergency list. If you are interested in doing cleaning work in local schools and would be able to work as a casual please contact Melissa on 0418766466. Melissa is the area manager for ISS.

Medical Forms

During 2013 – 2014 the Department of Education and Communities is updating processes and technology systems to support the many aspects of teaching, learning and administration in schools. You will read about the PLASST in this newsletter. Currently all schools are supplying children with new medical forms in order to update the system requirements.
Student Medical Forms
During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child’s health.

If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms and will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do.

The new forms will help us collect your child’s important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we’ll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child.

We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions please call.

From the Library
In Week 6 this term (Wednesday, 21st, Thursday 22nd August) we will be celebrating BOOK WEEK. Our students will be looking at wonderful Australian books published 2012.

This years theme is:

READING ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

The children have talked about how we could dress up as aliens, visiting Earth to read Earth’s books. This would involve a dress-up parade after recess on a Wednesday or Thursday to be decided. We are also hoping to have a visit from the Picton Librarians. They are always entertaining with skits, discussions and promotion of the short-listed books.

While investigating the books for Book Week classes will be completing units of work from Term 2. There are enticing brochures on National Parks from 3/4 Silver. Year 5/6 Ruby and Violet are finishing off letters or diary entries about Antarctica.

Here is Madelin’s letter from the point of view of Xavier Mertz, a member of Sir Douglas Mawson’s team.

"Dear Mum & Dad,
I wish I was back home. It’s sooo cold! I have frost bite and Ninnis has fallen down a crevasse with most of the food and six of the dogs. Mawson and I are making our way back to base camp. But I’m not feeling that good, probably because we had to eat the dogs because we had no food left! My legs are weak, I’m very tired and I’m sweating a lot, which is not normal when you are in Antarctica. Hopefully I will be back home soon.

Yours faithfully
Xavier Mertz.

I would like to congratulate Rheyen and Layney for finishing their Premiers reading Challenge. If your child is entering this year please print off the computer list and send it to school.

BOOK CLUB brochures have been sent home. Orders and money are due back no later than Thursday, 1 August.

Mrs Hanna - Teacher/Librarian
Personalised Learning and Support Tool (PLASST) 2013 Trial
During the next few weeks our school, along with other public schools in the area, will be participating in the trial of a new tool (PLASST) being developed by the Department of Education and Communities for teachers to identify the learning and support needs of their students.

This trial is focussed on the development of a sound and reliable online tool that, when finalised, can be used by teachers in collaboration with parents and carers to identify the strengths and educational needs of students with additional learning and support needs. This information will assist schools in planning and personalising learning and support for individual students who require adjustments in their day to day learning.

The trial will involve teachers completing an online questionnaire about the educational needs of some of their students. Students themselves will not be required to complete any additional work or be formally assessed as part of the trial. This trial will not impact on students’ education provisions.

Further information about the PLASST trial, including the collection and use of data in the trial, will be provided by the school in a letter to parents and carers.

If you have any questions about the PLASST trial, would like to discuss your child’s involvement or would prefer that your child does not participate, please telephone the school on 46818229.

Need a Boost to Your Mid-year School Budget?
The second payment of the Schoolkids Bonus is coming in July. If you are eligible you could receive up to $205 for each primary student and up to $410 for each secondary student.

You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school and receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or you are a primary or secondary student receiving an income support payment.

If you think you are eligible and you haven’t already updated your child’s education details with Centrelink, then visit Online Services to ensure you receive the correct amount and are paid on time.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund in January 2013 so eligible families cannot claim education expenses in their 2012-13 income tax return.

To ensure you receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment in July, check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

CANTEEN ROSTER - TERM 3, 2013

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<tr>
<td>Monday, 22 July</td>
<td>A. Odgers</td>
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<td>C. Harper</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 24 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 25 July</td>
<td>L. Remfry</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 30 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 1 Aug</td>
<td>K. Peachey</td>
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<td>Friday, 2 Aug</td>
<td>L. Remfry</td>
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<td>Friday, 9 Aug</td>
<td>L. Remfry</td>
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CANTEEN NEWS
Welcome back to everyone from the holidays. Don’t forget Breakfast will be up and running on Thursday mornings once again.

A little sad news we are losing one of our lovely canteen ladies who has worked really hard for us in the past, good luck Amber. With Amber leaving we now have a position open every second Monday, also every Wednesday the canteen will now be closed due to no volunteer help. Unfortunately with no volunteer help we CAN NOT open the canteen and give our children a great recess or even a healthy lunch or even those special treats.

We have our athletics carnival coming up I need help in the canteen at the oval. If anyone is available it would be very much appreciated.

If you would like to join us in the canteen please contact me Lorraine on 0408242672.
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE
Wollondilly Youth
Concert and Stage Band

We want to start ASAP but first we need to fill a minimum level of participation.

Rehearsals will take place on Friday evenings from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm (venue TBA).

Cost each week will be $2 per student.

You will need to audition for the band. The audition piece will be emailed after you submit your expression of interest.

Please email or phone the director Dr Marc Noakes to register your interest
marc.noakes@gmail.com
0422-067888

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No particular fitness level required
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Train with a friendly, supporting group who are non profit motivated
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BUXTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
Monday & Wednesday
6pm – 7:30pm

For further information call Ivan or Sonya on 4683 2370 or mobile 0413 776 424.

Patricia Yvonne Academy of Dance & Drama

THIRLMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL
Monday & Thursday afternoons.

~ Classical Ballet ~ Drama ~ Tap ~ Jazz
~ Musical Theatre ~ Modern ~ Hip Hop
Students trained for E.D.T.A Examinations and Stagecraft
Beginners from 3 yrs to Advanced.

$10 per class payable by Term, Registration fee $15 for the year.

Fully qualified and caring Teacher who believes in correct and careful training. President/Organiser/Life Member/Examiner for Education in Dance & Theatre Arts.

Enquiries & Registration: contact Miss Patricia
46477728 or 0418273115 (Mornings best)
Email: pyaddta@bigpond.com

TAHMOOR CRICKET CLUB

Tahmoor Cricket Club Registration days Friday 2nd August 5-7pm, Saturday 27th July and Saturday 3rd August 3-5pm at Tahmoor Inn, and Sunday 28th July and Sunday 4th August 10am-12 midday at Tahmoor Sportsground. Age 6 to adult all welcome. Girls are welcomed and encouraged in Juniors. Enquiries phone Jane on 0419 296 508 for Juniors or Cathy on 0403 029 718 for seniors.