PRINCIPALS NEWS

NEWSLETTER- WEEK 8, TERM 4

We intend to publish the final newsletter for the year on the last Thursday of term (19th December). This will be a short publication that will list our award winners and a farewell for the year.

SOCIO-GRAMS

We have now collected the majority of socio-grams and these and the current class teachers’ views have been considered to draft initial classes for next year. Senior staff will now ensure that they have had an input and the final class allocations will accompany the end of year report which will be released on Tuesday 17th December. This has proven to be an effective process that has allowed for input from students, parents, teachers and senior staff.

ABSENCES

The attendance of our students this year has again been exceptional. There is a direct link between attendance and student learning and engagement. Our current data informs us that our school has a 96% attendance rate (the percentage of the school’s student population that attends schools each day). We aimed to improve our attendance by 0.5% this year and we managed to do this.

We understand that children are away from school for a number of reasons, but by law these reasons need to be explained by contacting the school. We have endeavoured over the last week to “chase up” our unexplained absences for the year by speaking to parents directly or sending out letters. It would be appreciated if this could be sorted by the end of the school year.

GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

Thank you to the Chamley’s for fertilizing the oval and thanks also to the number of parents who have commented on how well presented the school is at the present time, in terms of the gardens, lawns and new building works. Thanks must go to the Parents and Friends, School Association and Peter Hodgetts for their contributions to the environment. I would also like to commend the work that Angela Streets, Deb French and Rachel Wright undertake to ensure the inside of the school is always neat and tidy. Well done to everyone involved- it certainly makes the school a welcoming place for our school community.
END OF YEAR EVENTS

I encourage all members of the school community to complete the year in a positive manner. I recently spoke to the Grade 6 students about this, but I believe that this is just as important for other grades, parents and staff. One area that I would like to see improve is the time that some students are arriving at school, both for this year and next year. Lateness is becoming a growing issue, and it causes a number of problems for students and staff.

A final assembly will be held on Thursday 12th December in the Jan Milburn Centre. In part 1 of the assembly from 10.00-11.00 am we will be presenting some items from our kinder to Grade 5 Classes. We will have an interval from 11.00-11.30 am with morning tea for grade 6 parents and guests, followed by part 2 - the Grade 6 celebration and award presentation.

At our Kinder parent session last week we released the class placements for 2014. Parents who were unable to attend this session will have their placement forwarded to them in the mail. Yesterday was the last Kinder session and we have received some fantastic feedback about the value of the parent sessions this year.

The Grade 6 dinner will be held on Monday 16th of December from 4.30-6.30 pm in the Launch into Learning room.

The End of year Picnic will be held at the Burnie Pool. The Kinder to Grade 2 group will be involved in Investigations from 9.00 am to 12.00 midday before going to the pool. The Grade 3-6 group will leave for the pool at approximately 10.00 and remain there until about 2.30 pm before returning to school for dismissal.

Burnie High School Orientation Day was held today for students attending Burnie High School next year. While on this matter, I would like to thank the staff of Burnie High School and in particular the principal Ms Judy Fahey for the excellent transition program that occurred for our Grade 6 students this year. They have been involved in a number of afternoon group sessions together with some individualised programs for some students. This has ensured that all students have felt comfortable and are excited about the next important stage of their education - Grade 7.

2014

We have recently been informed that we have no transfers in or transfers out for next year, so our teaching staff have remained very much the same as this year. I am sure that you would agree that this is a very positive situation because as I am often told we have a very dedicated and professional group of people working at our school. We are pleased to announce though that Laura Wilson (nee. Inkson) will be returning in 2014 and resuming her role on an Early Childhood class. We are yet to finalise the roles of our non-teaching staff but again the staff members will remain very similar to this year.

Amanda Lloyd, Nichole Todd, Helen Triffitt and Jeff Triffitt will remain the senior staff in the school but the leadership structure will be different in 2014. Helen Triffitt will be the School Business Manager whose role is the management of Administration and Finance at Burnie Primary School- this has remained largely unchanged from 2013. Nichole Todd will manage Teaching and Learning from Kindergarten to Grade 6 together with a Flying Start/literacy role, Amanda Lloyd will have a teaching role for half a week and be Manager of Learning Support- broadly supporting students with learning needs within the school. Jeff Triffitt will continue as Principal with a role that has remained largely unchanged from 2013.
GRADE 6 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR 2014

During the Grade 5 camp two weeks ago we spent time on tasks discussing various aspects of leadership. From this, students have prepared speeches and posters outlining their strengths ready to present to grade 2-5 students tomorrow. Next year we have the following positions:

House Captains, Student Representative Council, Canteen support, Library monitors, Daily PE leaders.

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

I am keen to hear from students and parents about any achievements that they may have been involved in, in any area of the curriculum or outside of school. These achievements, like the ones throughout this newsletter, will be then be noted on the newsletter to acknowledge the team or individual

Creepy Crazy Freaky Friday

The SRC have organised a Term 4 fundraiser.

It is a Creepy, Crazy, Freaky, Friday.

This will be held on Friday the 13th of December.

You can choose to dress up in creepy, crazy or freaky costumes! If you choose to dress up you are required to bring a gold coin donation. The SRC will then come and collect the money from your classrooms in the morning block. If you choose not to dress up, you need to wear your normal school uniform.

So come on and dress up and have some great fun!

We hope to see you in a creepy, crazy, freaky costume.
Grade 6B and 6C
In Grade 6, in the last few weeks, we have been investigating electricity flow. We have discussed electric current, voltage, resistance, conductors and insulators.

We have investigated how electrical circuits provide a means of transferring and transforming electricity.

We explored the need for a complete circuit to allow the flow of electricity.

We investigated different electrical conductors and insulators.

We explored the features of electrical devices such as switches and light globes.
This term Grade 6 students watched Rabbit Proof Fence as part of the National Free Film Festival. This supported a unit of work exploring how different cultural groups have been treated throughout history and how they have been portrayed in film and literature.

After watching Rabbit Proof Fence, students completed a written response task. Below are excerpts from student work:

I think that the Rabbit Proof Fence symbolises how the white people tried to divide the nation into white side and black side. I find that extremely racist and am disgusted by how aboriginal people were treated.

Rhiannon

When I was watching the movie I had mixed feelings. I felt happy at the start, then worried. Some parts made me feel like crying and sometimes I could feel my heart pounding because I was scared for the girls and was disgusted at the white people, especially Mr Neville.

Shanae

The movie made me feel sorry for the people who were taken to Moore River. They deserved to choose what culture they grow up in. I feel lucky that I couldn’t be taken away.

Lukas

It angers me to see that the original custodians of our land were told that they were unfit to live their own lives.

Laura

The movie made me feel a lot of emotions, especially anger and sadness. Anger because I now know just how cruel people can be- even though they thought they were doing people a favour, but really they were just making the situation worse. I felt sad to watch the three children get dragged kicking and screaming to the car without getting to say goodbye to their family.

Piper

Rabbit Proof Fence is a symbol of home. As the film progressed the fence became the symbol. When Mollie was separated from home the fence gave her the connection with loved ones. In one part of the film the director cross-cut two scenes to create an emotional connection for the viewers. In these scenes we discover the importance of the Rabbit Proof Fence.

Jennifer

I admire how much courage and bravery it must have taken to keep on going.

Emma
**Grade 5 Camp**

Grade 5s jumped on the bus and drove to Gunns Plains lookout and had a photo taken. We jumped back on the bus and drove to Gunns Plains Caves and went in one group at a time. I think we all really enjoyed it.

We then went to Preston Falls, Leven Canyon and we did a tour of Anvers Chocolate Factory.

We travelled to our accommodation at Camp Banksia and moved into our cabins. After that we had a yummy tea and started our quiz.

The next day we had bad weather but that didn’t stop our fun. We spent the whole day at the camp doing lots of activities and challenges. We finished the night with Grade 5 talent quest.

On the last day we headed to Narawntapu National Park and then we went to the Ulverstone waterslide. We all really enjoyed our Grade 5 camp experience.
On Wednesday we left for camp at 9:00 and our first stop was Gunn’s Plains Caves. We split up into two groups. While one group went into the Caves the other ate their recess then the other group went in. We learnt all about stalactites and stalagmites and saw some amazing rock structures.

After Gunn’s Plains Caves we went to Preston Falls. Preston Falls involves a walk down a short path to a lookout where you can view the waterfall.

When we finished at Preston Falls we went to Leven Canyon, at Leven Canyon we walked through the bush and then looked over another lookout. It was quite high but gave us an excellent view of Leven Canyon.

After that we went to the House of Anvers which everyone was excited about. At Anvers we split into two groups again. One group went and watched how chocolate is made then they were able to purchase something. The other group went to the museum and listened to Igor talk about the history of chocolate.

After Anvers we went to the camp Banksia. When got there we picked our cabins and had free time. For tea that night we had roast chicken and for dessert we had apple cinnamon sponge with ice cream.

After tea we had a quiz on what we did that day and then we did a leadership activity with Mr Triffet. Then we had a Quiz with Mr Sutton similar to the Friday Quiz. Because it was Mackenzie’s birthday her cabin got to share a cake between them.

On Thursday for breakfast we had the choice of cereal or toast. We got a little bit of free time. Because it was raining we couldn’t do everything we had planned so we played a few games in the gym. But then the fire alarm went off so we had to evacuate the gym. We had to sit around for a long time because there was nowhere else to do our activities.

When there was a break in the weather we started the photo challenge and then we went in for lunch and we had a Chicken Burger. After lunch we continued the photo challenge.

After the photo challenge we got into three different groups, group one went with Mrs Munday for drama, group two went with Mr Triffet for some work on Narawntapu and group three went with Mr Sutton for games in the gym.

When we finished that we got some free time until dinner. For dinner that night we had lasagne, chips and salad. For dessert we had chocolate pudding with chocolate sauce. After tea we had the Talent Quest. The winner was Dakota who did a great job with her singing. Second place was Maguire and Kyron doing their rap dance and then in third was Charlotte with her magic act.

On Friday for breakfast we had the choice of cereal or toast again. After that we had some time to get organised and pack up our room. The first place we went to on the way back was Narawntapu National Park. At Narawntapu we went and looked at taxidermyed wildlife at the Rangers Station. When we finished that we went to the beach and collected some shells and then talked about what they were and what aboriginals had used them for. Once we finished at the beach the next place was the Ulverstone Waterslide. We all had great fun getting wet. After we finished on the waterslide we went over to the park and had sausages for lunch then we got to have a quick play. After we had a play we went back to school. We were all pretty exhausted but we had had a great time.
Our Early Childhood classes attended the annual Advent Pageant on Wednesday 27th November. We walked through the streets of Burnie with other schools as a way of representing the walk that Joseph and Mary and lots of others took many years ago just before the birth of Jesus. Most of our students dressed the part of angels, shepherds, Josephs, Marys and even donkeys and sheep. We enjoyed a combined service in the park in front of a stable. All our students represented our school proudly and with fantastic manners. Thank you to all the parent helpers who supported us on our walk.
TODD ROGERS NETBALL CARNIVAL

Burnie Primary was invited to enter a netball and a netta team in the Todd Rogers Netball Carnival. Both teams were very successful. The netta team combined well to control the court, despite scores not being kept. They displayed strong skills and good sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The Gr 5/6 team were undefeated throughout the carnival and won the Primary A division of the tournament. The girls played a solid team game and upheld our school expectations of doing their best and being fair and honest.

Thanks are extended to Sue Smith, Kendra Duncan, Yvette Radford and Belinda McCulloch for their contributions to these teams.

NETBALL

Throughout the year there have been numerous netball tournaments held over the state. Teams have been selected by the BNA to represent the association at these tournaments. The BNA has been very successful in some of these tournaments and many of our students have been among the players. Congratulations to the students who have been included in a representative netball team this year.
SCHOOLS TRIATHLON CHALLENGE

On November 27th, 24 Burnie Primary Students competed in the Schools Triathlon Challenge at the Devonport Bluff. While the emphasis is on participation and “personal best”, our Gr 3 triathletes had a very successful day. Individual results have not been forwarded but ______________ and ______________ gained 1st place in the teams event. ______________ also finished in 2nd and 4th place respectively in their individual events along with ______________ who placed 3rd in her division. All competitors gave their best effort, learnt a lot about this discipline and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

We would like to thank Stuart Paine, Matthew Munday and Marcus Mollison for accepting the roles of team managers on our behalf. Your support and commitment to this event was truly appreciated by staff and students alike.

SPORTS TEAMS

Burnie Primary has a proud tradition of providing students the opportunity to participate in as many sporting events as possible including NWPSSA organised events, local sporting rosters and other community supported activities. Without the support of our parents and older siblings some of these experiences would not have been possible.

We would like to thank all the people who have contributed to our teams in any role. Without your generosity and commitment these teams may not have gone ahead. We welcome your continued support next year and encourage others to consider accepting these positions so that our students may experience the benefits of an active life style.
TASMANIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December our Grade 3/4 Girls basketball team competed in the State Finals at Kingborough. The girls defeated both teams in their pool to play off in the cross over semi-finals. The girls won this game earning them the right to play in the grand final against Sacred Heart from Ulverstone. Despite a valiant effort the girls were unable to bridge the advantage that Sacred Heart had created and they finished in a well-deserved 2nd position.

Thank you to Matthew Bentley for coaching the team and to all the other parents, siblings and supporters who accepted roles to enable the team to compete. Thanks are also extended to all the parents for allowing the girls to have this experience and represent the school in such an admirable manner.

Discover Sailing: Tackers Program

January 2014

Tackers 1: from 20th January for 4 consecutive days at the Burnie Yacht Club

Tackers 1&2: from 28th January for 4 consecutive days at the Wynyard Yacht Club

We have 12 positions available in each class for 7 to 12 year olds.

Cost is $190 for each attendee with $90 worth of giveaways.

For more information and registration please contact Chris, 0459 108 066

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**Bernie’s Food in the Piazza**

**Christmas Party**

Friday 20th December
10.30am – 1pm

**WANTED**
Small tuna tins for
Prep to use in
Christmas activities,
please take to 1W

**Information regarding the HIPPY program for 2014 can be found on the Parent Information Board.**

**WANTED**
Preps are in need of any pairs of old sunglasses.
We are also in need of large cardboard boxes for our enormous investigation on the School Picnic Day.

**RIVERBEND CAMP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE**

**Move Well Eat Well**

**We are an Award school!**

Our school has achieved a Move Well Eat Well Award!
This means we...

- Make water available as the preferred drink
- Enjoy fruit and vegetables everyday
- Make ‘everyday’ foods available at school
- Provide equipment and space for active play every day
- Make time for regular physical activity
- Enjoy walking or riding activities each term
- Have positive school policies about healthy eating and physical activity for everyone

For more information and for family ideas on healthy eating and physical activity visit


**WANTED**
Riverbend Camp forms are available from the Office

**Burnie Primary School**

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