From the Principal

For many years, Burnie Primary School has had an outstanding reputation in the community. This is still the case today and has come about, not by chance, but through high quality teaching and learning, an extremely supportive school environment and the ability to embrace change for the betterment of the school community.

It has been my intent as principal for the last four years, and for all staff that have worked in the school during this time, to continue to enhance our reputation and grasp every opportunity to improve. Below is a list of some of the vast amount of significant achievements and opportunities that reflect this.

The most recent of these opportunities has been through the PICSE Science. I had the pleasure of viewing our students’ work, both at Burnie Primary and at the UTAS campus last Thursday and it certainly filled me with pride. The work that has been carried out this term has definitely seen every student make significant gains in their scientific knowledge and understandings. At the same time, the support of parents and staff in guiding these investigations is recognised. With the work that has occurred and the comments I have received our reputation as a leader of science education in Tasmania has definitely been enhanced. The students’ work has been displayed in the front foyer and there is another article in the newsletter about our achievements.

We have introduced the Walker Learning Approach to our school over the past four years, and the work that has been done in this area has confirmed our standing as lead school in Tasmania. We have had and continue to have many teachers regularly visiting our school to observe best practice. Most importantly our student outcomes have improved as a result of the introduction of this approach/pedagogy.

Our Physical Environment has seen significant change particularly in the last year. It is important that our school always looks good and is welcoming for our school community and visitors. I have mentioned on previous newsletters the scope of work that has been completed in the school, with further plans in place for the remainder of this year and in the future. Whilst on this note I would like to congratulate Peter Hodgetts for his recent promotion. This has been just reward for the high standard of work he has done during this time.

Father’s Day

A belated happy Father’s Day to all the Dads in our school community. It was great to see the activities that were being conducted around the school in the week leading up to Sunday 1st September.

Uniform Orders for 2014

Please return orders to the office by Friday 20th September

Department of Education
Our staff continue to improve their practice, by undertaking and leading professional learning within and outside the school. Each staff member has also developed a professional development plan that outlines their goals and the processes in place to achieve them. This desire to self-improve and adapt to changing educational reforms is to be commended. Research suggests (and this is supported with what I see at Burnie Primary School) that staff improvement is comprehensively linked to improvements in student learning outcomes. To enhance this, I believe that our staff provide an outstanding learning program that caters extremely well for individuals, groups and the school as a whole. This is reflected in our students’ willingness to learn, as well as their eagerness to access, participate in and achieve at whatever is offered to them.

Furthermore we have recently been recognised for our work with students with needs. Soon to come into being is the “National register for students with disabilities”. We have been commended by a number of Department of Education personnel on the processes and practices we have in place to recognise and support students with disabilities. The commendation should recognise the outstanding work that is done by our staff, but in particular the administration and senior staff.

Our school received National Partnerships funding to improve Literacy and Numeracy outcomes, engagement and attendance and cultural knowledge and understandings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (and for all students) This has been in the form of Next Steps funding. Our staff and students have embarked on a journey of reflection and improvement in the previously mentioned areas. A number of surveys were conducted for students and staff to ascertain where we were at the beginning of this journey and a follow up survey will be conducted at the end of the funding period (December 2013). We were commended recently by being selected as the only school in the Tasmania to undertake a case study with Dr Bruce Burnett (Queensland Institute of Technology). In a recent visit to Burnie Primary School, he asked us to share our practice so that he could in turn use this as an example for other schools in Australia.

I have previously mentioned the concept of Burnie Primary being a life-long learning institution. I have had a conversation with Jean Petterwood who is the co-ordinator of the teacher aide program at the TasTAFE. She is using the relationship that currently exists between Burnie Primary School and the TasTAFE as an example of best practice to her colleagues across the state. We are very grateful for the work that Jean and the students do in our school to support our students. Together with this our school participates in work experience programs for Grade 9 and 10 students and has an excellent relationship with the University of Tasmania developing and enhancing the practice of our pre-service teachers. As well as this we have recently hosted our Grade 1 grandparents’ morning which gave our students an excellent in-sight into life in the past as well as allowing our grandparents to learn how education has changed since their school days.

There is an amazing array of best practice occurring at our school and as I said previously it continues to enhance our reputation as the best school in Tasmania.

With this in mind, I would like our school community to reflect further on the practices that occur here in this great school. I have asked staff to take every opportunity to speak positively about Burnie Primary School to others and I would like you to join them. Furthermore, if you witness or hear people speaking negatively about our school, I would like you to stand up and voice your positivity to them- not just accept their comments.

There is a saying that says that “It takes many good deeds to build a reputation and only one bad one to lose it”.

I invite the school community to provide feedback to the school as a way of continuing to improve our practices. There are a variety of different avenues to pursue this.

They include:

- The feedback and suggestion box in the front foyer.
- Feedback section on the school webpage.
- Making an appointment to see senior staff.
- Responding to the parent survey that was sent last week to a randomly selected group of parents.
- Discussing any issues (positive or negative) with your child’s class teacher.
Congratulations to Laura, Maeve, Tayla (netball), Emily, Charlotte (hockey) and Briar (football) who have been selected to play in the NWPSSA Teams. They will compete against teams from the NPSSA on Friday 13th September.

NAPLAN Reports
to be distributed in the week beginning Monday 16 September 2013

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) reports for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who sat the national tests in May this year will be sent home during the week beginning Monday 16 September.

Students in all government, Catholic and independent schools were tested and all parents across Australia will receive results in a common reporting format.

Your child’s report will show national information including how your child performed in relation to other students in their particular year group, and in comparison to the national average score for each of the Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy tests.

For students in Years 5, 7 and 9 the 2013 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since the 2011 NAPLAN testing.

Teachers will be provided with a complete analysis of their students’ results and parents are invited to contact their child’s teacher in order to discuss any aspect of the tests.

321 Go Kids Race
YOU CAN BE LEGENDARY
If your parents or family are dairy farmers, work in the dairy industry, in the milk processing industry or provide services to the dairy industry then you can get a free LEGENDAIRY polo shirt to wear in the 321 Go Race on October 27th in Burnie.

Donations Wanted

Early Childhood classes are after donations of preloved gumboots and wet weather gear to support their outdoor program. Perhaps people are spring cleaning or having a sort through their child’s wardrobe and come across items that are too small. We would gratefully accept them!

Thank you
A huge thank you to our Parents and Friends Association for the generous donation of funds to support our Launch into Learning Water Awareness program. It was a valuable and fun experience for all involved.

Dates to Remember

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Association Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday 12th September</td>
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<td>First Pre-Kinder session from 1:15 – 2:15pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th September</td>
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<td>Burnie High School Production Gr 4-6</td>
<td>Friday 20th September</td>
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<td>Grade 3 Overnight Excursion</td>
<td>Friday 20th September</td>
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<td>Assembly (ECE)</td>
<td>Monday 23rd September</td>
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<td>Term 3 Finishes</td>
<td>Friday 27th September</td>
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<td>Term 4 commences for Students</td>
<td>Monday 13th October</td>
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In Grade 3, we have loved reading Roald Dahl books. First we read Matilda and then The BFG. Here are some of our fantastic drawings inspired by the books. We wonder if you can work out which story they are from!

We all wrote what we thought could happen next in The BFG. Here is Maya’s version: ‘The BFG becomes an Olympian and they have built a big stadium for him. The BFG trains everyday with weights. He does push ups (lots of them). The BFG asked the Queen to build a football oval for him to dance on. Sophie is 15 and is living in the Queen’s palace in Fiji. Sophie loves to swim in the pools and is enjoying the ice-creams. The Queen is always sun-baking. Every night the BFG wakes up all the children of the world and has a party.’

This is Charlotte’s version: ‘The BFG is ten years older than he was, and Sophie is 16. The BFG is living in Australia with Sophie, getting taught how to play games that she always plays. They are best friends and they are famous. They are always both seeing the Queen. Sophie is so famous that she is too famous to go to school according to the Queen. They are on the TV and live in the palace with the Queen. They always get treated like they’re part of the Royal Family. They go on lots of double decker buses and lots of trains. They are having a fabulous time. They’re happy that the nine human eating giants aren’t there anymore.’

We are all so excited about our big Grade 3 Excursion to Rocky Cape and Stanley and our overnight stay at school which happens next Friday, the 20th of September.
Manganinnie  By Mia
In History we read the book Manganinnie. It is a book about an Aboriginal lady who lost her people when they were driven out of Tasmania by Europeans. She had to find food and shelter by herself and survive without her people. I thought the most interesting part was when Manganinnie’s husband was shot and she burnt her husband and kept the ashes in a little pouch that hung around her neck. About half way through the story Manganinnie took a white child called Joanna or Jo-Jo. They lived together and taught each other things about their cultures. They hid from white men and women for two years until Manganinnie was shot on the arm and knew she was going to die. She returned Joanna to her original home and then died. Joanna’s father buried Manganinnie and had a funeral. The movie was quite different to the book. The movie said that Jo-Jo burnt Manganinnie’s body because that is what aboriginal people thought was the right thing to do.

Manganinnie is a fictional book and a movie about a white girl named Joanna and an old Aboriginal lady named Manganinnie. It is set in the early 1800s in Tasmania. Manganinnie had lots of hardships in her life such as her husband Meenapeekameena who was killed by the white people while the rest of her people got shot or captured. She also saw other Aboriginal people who were dead from poisoned flour. She had a fire stick to protect her from the evil spirits but believed in good spirits too. I enjoyed the story and learning about what happened to people in the past. We made ‘Fishbone’ Diagrams of the story. By Lachlan
Over the past few weeks grade 5 and 6 students have been working hard on their Science Inquiries in preparation for the PICSE Science Competition on Thursday 5th September. Burnie Primary students did incredibly well, taking out most of the awards on offer for their age categories. Past students of BPS were also very successful. Below is a list of prize winners:

Grade 5 –
1st Place - McKenzie & Gabby

Grade 6 –
1st Place – Emma
2nd Place – Laura
3rd Place – Jennifer

Grade 5/6 Environmental Science Award – Arnaka & Georgie

Previous Students:
Grade 7 –
1st Place – Joe
2nd Place – Amy & Isabella
3rd Place – Jack & Aaron

Grade 8 –
1st Place – Lauren
People’s Choice Award – Mikaal
Overall Best Science Inquiry Grade 7 & 8 – Liam

Overall 10 out of the 48 awards (Grade 5-12) were won by current or recent Burnie Primary School students. Five out of a possible eight primary prizes were won by Burnie Primary students.

It was great to see our winning students supported by their families and Grade 5 and 6 staff, Shaun, Tameika, Gordon and Diana, and sector leader, Nichole at the presentation awards last Thursday evening.

We would like to congratulate all our students both past and present on the wonderful work they have undertaken. Judges’ comments on competition day celebrated the high standard of work submitted by all Burnie Primary students – we made the task of judging a winner very difficult! PICSE competition boards will be on display in the front corridor for the next week. Other Science inquiry posters are on display in Grade 6.

Congratulations from Paul O’Halloran MHA
Burnie Primary School has done very well at the PICSE Scientific Awards. Congratulations to staff involved with what is a very impressive outcome.

Paul O’Halloran MHA, The Greens Tasmania
The dragon who made himself at home in our classroom earlier on in the year is slowly being restored to his former glory. Painting has begun and very soon work will begin on the manufacture of his scales. Stay tuned for more updates.

During term 2 Grade 3J completed personal inquiry projects on living things. Each student chose an animal to research, discovering 15 facts about their animal, then creatively presenting their information in poster form.

As a part of our science work this term we have been investigating what causes day and night on earth, why we have seasons, and our solar system. We each paired up with a buddy from 3Mc and researched some facts about a planet in our solar system.
Milo in2Cricket Program

Hey Kids! During your school holidays, Cricket Tasmania will be holding MILO in2CRICKET Have A Try Days for 5-8 year olds at the Acton Recreation Ground. There will be two sessions one at 10am-11am and then 2pm-3pm.

This fun introductory program will involve bowling fast and taking spectacular catches, learning new skills along with playing some games.

The program will be run by Cricket Tasmania’s Game Development Staff on Thursday 3rd of October at the Acton Recreation Ground with two sessions being held at 10am-11am and 2pm-3pm with registration closing on the 2nd October.

To Register call Sam O’Keeffe from Cricket Tasmania on 6424 1835 or 0448 904 609 or email sokeffe@crickettas.com.au

Get in2 Action, Get in2CRICKET