Newsletter No: 17  
June 1st, 2015

Excellence..................Teamwork...................Support.........................Effort

CALENDAR

June
Fri 5th  Report writing day – Pupil free day
Mon 8th  Queen’s Birthday holiday
Wed 10th  Earth Education –Mt. Clear College (10AM – 2PM) Grade3-4
Thurs 11th  Netball, Soccer and Football tryouts – Warrenheip 1pm-2:30pm
Fri 12th  Regional Cross Country event – Warrnambool
Thurs 18th  School Council (proposed)
Fri 19th  Wathaurung teams sports (those selected Thurs 11th)
Wed 24th  The Very Hungry Bear performance – (Grade F-2)

Student Banking Day is Wednesdays

From the Principal:
Congratulations to Jazmin McMahon on her Cross Country selection after our District comp at Victoria Park a few weeks ago. We had this notification from Tim Beacham, our coordinator from Magpie P.S.:

- “The “Regionals” will be held in Warrnambool Friday 12th June 2015 with the top 15 runners in each age group going onto the “States” in Melbourne. Competition was very fierce on the day and we had two students who have qualified for the “Regionals” in Warrnambool. Both students must be congratulated on their outstanding performances against quality opposition.
  Jazmin McMahon – Lal Lal - who finished 10th
  Brenton Devereux – Bungaree – who finished 4th.”

We wish Jazmin all the best on the day.

Last week’s Country Education Project conference was terrific with an inspiring keynote address being delivered by Professor Yong Zhao who spoke about seizing all the potential for rural education and doing what really matters for our young people and learning communities- how can we create powerful learning opportunities and inspire children “beyond the school gates”? He spoke of the disappointment he has when some schools only focus on Maths and English, neglecting creativity, creative thinking and creative expression through the arts. He warned schools of being too focussed on great NAPLAN scores at the expense of educating the whole child, where many children’s way of being (Intrapersonal, Creative, Musical. Environmental..) is neglected. At that moment I felt proud and gave us a great big tick because we’ve all supported and valued the opportunities we give students in our arts and our environmental (vegie garden, worm farm, hens, pets/caring for animals, science) programs. That’s what makes Lal Lal PS so special – you all support it - I know you have a sense of this school as a learning community too. (more next week on the conference....)

One of the last things to happen at the conference was the sponsor’s prize draw. I said to those at my table, “I’d better sit up the front to be closer for when my name’s drawn out” Guess which name was first? Yes, mine, to win a PM reading kit for Levels 20-22 for the school. Woohoo!

Reminder- no students expected at school this Friday

Enjoy the week everyone,

Jude Porteous, Principal
Kristy Findlay and Peter Mathews reached 100 nights’ reading and Carisa Gabriel, 125- what a great achievement. Our Student Award was given to Clay Donald who is always enthusiastic whether it’s with learning, participating or helping. He’s always polite, respectful and fair and is a great asset to our class. He even brought in the first bag of bottletops!

I am collecting 1000’s of different coloured plastic bottle tops – tops from juice, milk, cream anything else- for a project later in the year. The more colours, the merrier! I have placed a box for them in the office, so start saving them please.

Have a great week, Ms Porteous

Miss Fisher is away ill today

Reading nights awards this week go to Hudson and Gus for 100 nights. Celia receives our maths award this week for great work with teen numbers.

This week in maths we are exploring ways of measuring and recording area. In literacy, we will continue exploration of procedural texts. Last week, we made fruit faces and so we will be writing procedures for making these. Wow, what a group of great fruit eaters this whole class is! All the children enjoyed making the faces then eating the fruit. We will also be talking about writing for an audience and ways we can make our writing more appealing for others to read.

Foundation children should have a set of M100W words in their reading pouches for occasional home practise. The M100W words are the 100 most frequently encountered words in reading. If children can learn to recognise these words quickly, it significantly improves their capacity to read independently. Not all of the words can be sounded out; children need to be familiarised with them so that they recognise them automatically. This can be done using a small group of words at a time, say five words. The child looks at each word and says the word several times. Tracing the word with a finger can help some children improve recognition. Pointing out when these words appear in texts is also helpful. Computer activities such as the Reading Eggs program help to also build recognition of these high frequency words. Some children may like to write some of the words but do not insist on that at this stage as we are aiming for visual recognition rather than spelling. Some children are naturally adept at sight word recognition whilst others need hundreds of repeated viewings of some words to imprint them so do not be concerned if your child does not appear to be learning the words quickly. Patience is the key! Children undertake a range of word recognition activities at school each week but a bit of one-on-one extra practise at home also provides a boost.

This week completes the assessment period in readiness for report writing on Friday. My, how the term flies!

Have a great week,
Mrs East

Kristy, Miranda and Jazmin are dedicated members of the recorder group and they have graduated to playing three-part pieces. They are excited about their progress and would like to perform at assembly next Monday, 8th June.

In Music classes, the students have been continuing with their choreography of contemporary dance pieces. We have also been learning improvisation techniques on a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments

Have a great week
Mrs Lyons
AN INVITATION FROM FRIENDS OF THE BUNINYONG GARDENS:

If you’ve already booked for the luncheon on Saturday 13 June, you’ll be amongst many garden friends as the Buninyong Town Hall is filling fast to hear a talk:

“Dr Tim Entwisle is a murderer: The telling tale of ten trees, ten years ago.”

And if you’ve yet to book, get in quickly and reserve your seats... ticket sales will be closing this week!

Further information and bookings from Karen Hulston on 5341 3947 or wk.hulston@bigpond.com.