



Gundagai South Public School

Principal: Mrs Pip McAlister

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, CARE

NEWSLETTER

Phone: (02)69441117
Fax: (02)69441158
Mobile: 0438 441117
Email: gundagais-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Gundagai South Public School
Luke Street
Gundagai NSW 2722

Term 2 Week 9

23rd June 2014

Dear Parents,

This week marks the end of Term 2 – a busy one for everyone with lots of extra curricular opportunities, sporting events and exciting classroom and school activities. The past few weeks have not been easy for everyone – there seems to be a lot of unwarranted unrest, but please remember that the best way to address a problem or an issue is to meet face to face, find out the facts and make an informed decision. Come and see me if you have any issues – as most of you already do. I appreciate your support.

Public Speaking

Congratulations to our three school representatives – **Louis, Jarrah** and **Gabrielle** who did a fantastic job at the Public Speaking Competition on Tuesday. Each student, together with help from home, produced an informative, well-structured speech on such topics as the Meaning of Australia Day and Asylum Seekers. The topics for the impromptu speeches were – Life 50 years from now and Bigger is better. These topics although appearing to be relatively easy, proved to be challenging for all

contestants who come from across the Riverina to participate. Congratulations to the winners of the local competition – for Years 3 & 4 Eddie Dodds from Tumut Public was the winner and in the Years 5/6 section – Rosie Yates from Yerong Creek won with her entertaining speech about Stereotypes. Thankyou to those parents who assisted with morning and afternoon teas.



Gabby, Louis & Jarrah

Choir

Our three representatives – **Claire, Vada** and **Jarrah** travelled with me to Wagga on Wednesday for a whole day's rehearsal with Ian Jefferson, their conductor who travelled from Sydney to work with the students for the day. Although tired by the end of the day, the girls were full of appreciation

and enthusiasm for their upcoming performances.

Disco

Everyone enjoyed a fabulous disco last Wednesday night and it was great to see almost every student attending to enjoy the music presented by Footsteps. Thankyou to the parents who sold drinks and chips on the night. Our final dance lesson for the year will be held this Wednesday. Please ensure that you have paid in full - we do not like to ask students to sit out because they have not paid – this is a bit of a concerning issue at present and it is not fair either to those parents who do appreciate the opportunity and pay for the lessons or to the school.





Training and Development

Last Wednesday Mrs Jackson, Miss Carthew and myself attended a training day relating to the development of the new school planning template for 2015 – 2017. During next term, parents will be encouraged to help to evaluate our current plan and will then participate in completing a survey to determine further needs and direction for the school for the next three years. This Wednesday I will be attending further training to follow up on the Instructional Leaders course in Sydney. This will be held in Tumut in conjunction with Franklin School and will assist us with recording and analysing data and results of school testing of our students.

Dubbo Excursion



Just a friendly reminder that our major excursion to Dubbo is **only 8 weeks away**. It would

be advisable to begin making payments towards the cost of the excursion now. It is anticipated to be approximately \$200.00 for the week. Any amount can be paid off whenever you are able, even \$5.00 a week is helpful and much less of a burden to have paid some prior to the 25th August rather than none at all.

Instructional Leader

Mrs Green had a very busy, but productive week last week working in both the K/1 and Year 2 classrooms, testing and assessing all the students in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Together with the class teachers, results will be analysed and specific areas for improvement will follow. These are indeed exciting times and we are very fortunate to have such an experienced leader in Mrs Green.



Assembly



Our final assembly for Term 2 will be held this Wednesday afternoon in the K/1 classroom. This assembly will be hosted by the senior students, however the

students in K/1 and Year 2 will be highlighting their work for the term. Everyone is welcome at 2.00pm.

Athletics – Small Schools Results

Apologies to everyone who has been patiently waiting to hear the final results from our Small Schools' Athletics Carnival. As we had to hold the High Jump and Discus at school the following week, I completely forgot to announce the major results. Congratulations to the winners for the individual championships –

Junior Girls – **Alauralee Bowditch**

Junior Boys – **Cody Lee**

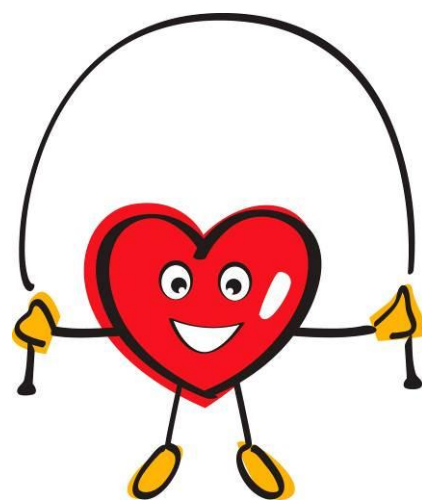
11year Girls – **Claire Lievens**

11year Boys – **Zak Anderson**

Senior Girls – Equal 1st **Holly Young** and **Dakota Anderson**

Senior Boys – **Kyle Monaghan**

Jump Rope for Heart



This Friday, to complete our fitness skipping program, we will be holding a "Jump Off" to demonstrate the skills mastered this term. The jump off will be held after lunch.

Sponsorship forms are attached. These need to be returned next term.

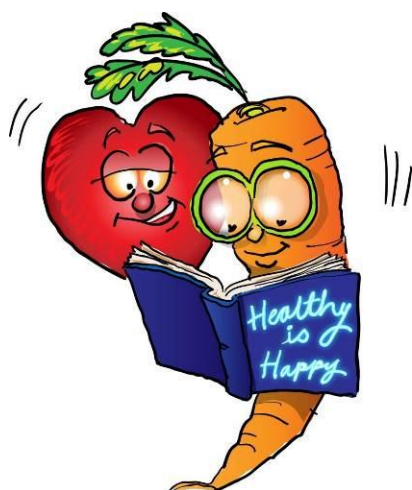
Thankyou

Outstanding Money



All parents and carers are asked to please finalise any outstanding monies owing to the school for dance lessons, uniforms etc. before the end of term as our accounts need to be finalised. Envelopes are attached for those with outstanding amounts. Thankyou

Nutritionist Visit

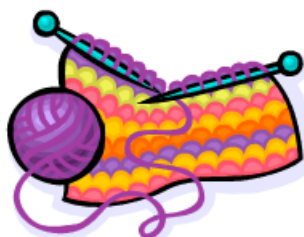


This Tuesday, Alex Walker from Healthy Living, together with a Nutritionist will be visiting the school to speak to the students about the importance of healthy nutritious eating. She will, I'm sure highlight to the children just how much sugar and salt content is in many of the foods that appear in the students' lunch boxes each day. We will share information with you next term to help you make some informed decisions.

Knitting

As this term draws to a close, I would like to ask everyone who has a set of school knitting needles or any completed squares to please return them to school so that we can send them off to "Wrapped with Love" so that the ladies may complete sewing them into a rug.

Thankyou
Mrs Ray



"Good Beginnings" Report from Ms.T.

This term has been a busy one, in my role as the Student Welfare Worker. Some of the activities I have been lucky to assist students with, have been the following:

- *Organised students with the Breakfast Club on Wednesdays and Fridays with Mrs. Jackson's support. This is to help students to eat healthily before starting classwork for the day.*
- *Travelled to Bongongo Public School for the Cross Country carnival in early May, where all the students enjoyed the run and met up students from other small schools. Their efforts and co-operation was highly commendable.*
- *Assisted school staff, both in the classroom and playground, to maintain a safe and happy learning*

environment for all the students at the school.

- *Met with individual parents to discuss support and successes of their children throughout this term. This included assistance with homework, updates of awards and certificates received, involvement of school routines and playground activities for the children.*
- *Assisted the school staff with the garden group during Wednesday group activities. All students enjoyed getting their hands dirty when weeding, planting, or propagating new plants. Aspects of the vegetable garden have been improved by the gardening skills of the students.*

I would like to wish all students and their families a happy and safe two week holiday break. I look forward to being of assistance and meeting more parents of the delightful students at Gundagai South PS.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club success continues to grow

The Breakfast Club at school has continued to grow throughout term 2. The student volunteers have now been organised into two groups: one group on Wednesday s and the other group on Fridays. These students have come from Year 4-5-6 and have shown keen organisational skills and

commitment to this club. Their enthusiasm has resulted in these students being able to work co-operatively in all roles that they have done.

As the weather is cooling down, the menu has also been changing. The offer of cereal with milk and toast has proven to be a success. Most students still prefer to have toast at the start of their school day. For this term, approximately 14 loaves of bread, 2 large containers of vegemite, 12 litres of milk and 12 litres of juice, have been consumed by students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Mrs. Jackson has been able to assist Ms. T. This has been gratefully appreciated as the routines and the opening times have remained the same. Students have benefitted by the smooth set up and running of this program. The area for Breakfast Club in the Library has also been re-arranged. This is to allow more students to sit at a table, with the correct cutlery. The Club is opened from 8:50am to 9:10am.

The whole Breakfast Club team would like again, to extend our appreciation to the businesses of Gundagai, who are continuing to support this worthwhile program for students at Gundagai South PS. They are: the Gundagai Bakery, IGA supermarket and the Bendigo Bank.

With only two weeks left of this term, Ms. T. and Mrs. Jackson hope to increase the breakfast menu at the Breakfast Club by the start of Term 3.

Staffing

Late on Monday afternoon last week I received an email from staffing in Sydney advising that they had made an offer to a teacher for our vacant position, however due to issues that this person had which involved moving from their present location, they had made the decision not to accept the job.

Staffing then proceeded to continue to follow their protocol and searched for further suitable teachers based on their staffing code matches. This included looking at nomination transfers, targeted grads and aboriginal teachers (amongst other things). No suitable matches were found. They have now advised that we are in a position to proceed to merit selection for the position, however, again this takes time and everyone must be patient. As part to the interview process, we require a parent representative, prepared to sit on the interview panel. (Remember previously Karen McGuirk was the P & C representative and helped, along with other panel members to choose Mr Cooper and Mrs Jackson).

Parents may nominate to be part of this process – however, there are requirements and commitments on your part if you wish to be involved it is not a simple process.

Firstly, if you are interested, you must undertake to complete training to be on an interview panel. This would be conducted at school – (may possibly need to be undertaken during the holidays – this will need to be determined).

Additionally, parents who volunteer, should also understand that the utmost confidentiality is required – all parents and volunteers at school and staff operate under a strict ‘Code of Conduct’ by being welcomed to assist at the school. Presently, I’m sure that the understanding around this Code of Conduct is frequently being breached, however if you choose to be involved, you will also receive an indication about what the Code of Conduct actually means for everyone. Additionally, the chosen representative (lots of people

may choose to complete the initial training) must be prepared to spend several days reading the applications and analysing the skills and attributes of each applicant in relation to the selection criteria. The process then involves a day to meet with other panel members to complete the culling process and then this is followed by a further day to meet and conduct the interviews.

If you wish to volunteer to be a part of the process, please complete the attached Expression of Interest and return to school by this Wednesday as we only have a limited amount of time to begin the training with the holidays coming up at the end of the week. As you can appreciate the process is lengthy and we have been forced into this position by the resignation of Mr Cooper.

In addition to this, I will be advertising for a classroom teacher position expression of interest for Term 3 and possibly Term 4 and everyone who wishes to apply for a temporary position will need to apply. This does not relate to current classroom teachers on class. Please bear with me – your students will continue to have fantastic teachers and additional teacher support in small classes. The structure of classes may change slightly next term due to changing number is some years.

Light Horse Visit



Unfortunately last Friday, the students from Rosewood Public school were unable to visit due to a problem with their bus company, so the planned Light

Horse display and information session had to be cancelled.

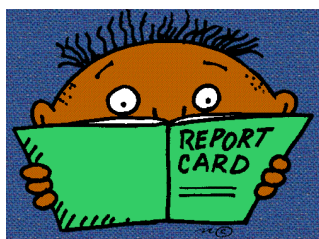
Mrs McMillan Returns

This week we welcome back Mrs McMillan fresh from the Hockey World Cup Championships in the Netherlands. I know it was a fantastic experience – Mrs McMillan was playing for Australia in the 60 years team and they were lucky to have some wins and unfortunately some losses. Mrs McMillan also spent time touring with friends in France, enjoying a special evening at Moulin Rouge.



Action Shots

School Reports and Portfolios



These will be sent out on Friday afternoon. Please take the time to go through your child's

report and portfolio and discuss and praise their strengths and work on areas for improvement. If you wish to discuss your child's progress contact your child's teacher to have a discussion at the beginning of Term 3.

Regional Athletics Carnival

Further changes of dates – it will now be held on Monday 4th August in Albury.

P & C Minutes

Minutes from the P & C meeting held last Wednesday are attached for your information.

Head Lice

HEAD LICE ALERT

Please be vigilant with child/children by checking their hair EVERYDAY and treating if necessary



We had several cases of head lice reported again today. Some children get very itchy and some feel nothing. If everyone is treating their children at the same time and they all follow the treatment protocol then we will have a much better chance of breaking the head lice cycle in the school

Eat It to Beat It



This Cancer Council Eat It to Beat It snippet "The Simplest way to use leftovers " is attached. Information is provided by the Cancer Council in their Eat it to Beat it program.

School Banking



Don't forget to send in your Westpac School Banking. Banking will be collected every Wednesday.



PBL Weekly Focus Area



This week our focus areas for PBL will be "All Settings" in the playground and "Assembly" for our Classroom.

Playground –All Settings

Respect: Follow teacher instructions. Wear uniform with pride.

Responsibility: Hands and feet to self. Be punctual. Wear correct uniform.

Care: Speak nicely. Neat and tidy appearance.

Classroom – At Seats

Respect: Follow instructions.

Responsibility: Sit quietly and listen.

Care: Show manners.

PBL- Uniform Winners



Congratulations to our weekly uniform award winners for week 8: **Amy Myers, Tiara Foster, Ben Crooks and Rory Anderson.**

PBL Red Level

Congratulations to **Angel Clark** who has achieved her Red level certificate.

20 Nights Home Reading



Congratulations to **Kayla Bryne, Sam Crooks and Chase Anderson** who have read for 20 nights.

40 Nights Home Reading

Congratulations to **Michael Monaghan, David Foster, Miah Hosking, Chase Anderson, Jack Clarke, Aiden Morris, Brandy McGrath, Amy Myers, Lilah Norden and Josie Warren** who have read for 40 nights.

60 Nights Home Reading

Congratulations to **Jack Clarke, Brandy McGrath, Amy Myers and Charlie Hourn** who have all read for 60 nights. Well done.

Student of the Week

4/5/6 – Gabrielle Butcher – For participating in and presenting a fantastic speech in the Public Speaking Competition.



3/4/5 – Thomas Casnave – For application to his learning in mathematics.



Year 2 – Noely French – For having a great time dancing at the disco.



K/1 – Grace Field – Working very hard in class.



Catch of the Week

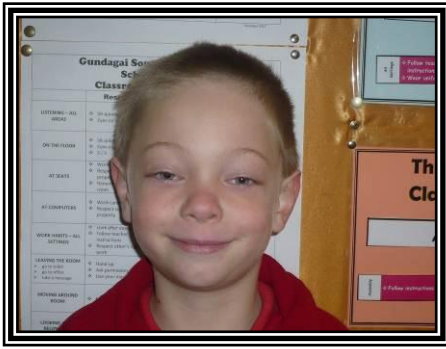
4/5/6 – Dakota Anderson – Showing Respect and Responsibility at the Public Speaking Competition.



3/4/5 – Christopher Afuang – For showing care and consideration for younger students in the playground.



Year 2- Michael Field – For making a great effort with classwork.



K/1 – Amy Myers – For always using her inside voice.



Healthy Recess and Lunch

Congratulations to our healthy recess and lunch awards winners for Week 8

Recess – Wade Foster

Lunch award – Charlie Tresize



Holidays



I wish everyone a very happy and restful holiday. **Students return to school on Tuesday 15th July.** Please put this date on your calendar.

Pip☺

Canteen

Wednesday 25th June – Janet Clarke

Friday 27th June - Cheryl Lanyon & Shan Bowditch

Vacation Care

The Vacation Care program for July is attached for your information.

School Holiday Activities

Two holidays events are being presented by Wagga City Council are **Mr McGee and the Biting Flea**. The show is on for three days – Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July at the Civic Theatre. The second activity is heading to the Village Halls (Uranquinty, Oura, Collingullie and Ladysmith) over the holidays – it's called **HALL-a-day Adventures** and features The Magic Story Coat plus activities from the Museum. For more enquiries please contact Isobel McCallum Marketing and Education Officer Wagga Civic Theatre 69269692