Bonnyrigg Public School Newsletter
Week 7, Term 1

Principal’s Message

Parents and Citizens (P&C) AGM
I would like to thank all the parents that were present at the 2015 P&C AGM. The following members of our school community are our new P&C members for 2015.
President: Yusuf Khaja, Vice President: Richard VanDenBosch, Treasurer: Brooke Blake, Secretary: Jenefar Jamhour
Congratulations to all and I am looking forwarding to working with you this year.

New Uniform
The period of consultation for our school uniform has officially ended. I am pleased to announce the results of this consultation period were overwhelmingly in favour of introducing a new uniform. The colour palette the majority of parents voted for was Ocean and Navy. The new uniform will be available later in Term 2. I will keep you updated as details to support this transition become available.

The issue of updating the school uniform was raised a number of years ago. The uniform committee at the time surveyed staff, students and community and there was an overwhelming response in support of a change of uniform including colours. Staff, students and parents wanted a more up to date look for the uniform in line with surrounding schools and Department of Education’s uniform policy which clearly states that a school uniform needs to reflect a high standard of dress. Whilst surveying the students, staff and community last year to identify strategic areas for improvement for the next 3 year school plan (2015 – 2017), the school community again identified uniform as an area for improvement. The main issues with the current school uniform are:

- The girl’s uniform does not follow the Department of Education’s sun safe policy.
- The brown school pants can no longer be provided by ANY of the local uniform manufacturers. Private manufacturers make costing prohibitive for the school uniform shop which operates as a non-profit organization and our school community. Brown track pants in various shades of brown are not part of school uniform nor fit the DEC school policy expectation that uniform reflects a high standard of dress.
- The majority of current students expressed a wish for a change in the uniform colours. This wish was reflected by the majority of parents also as clearly evidenced in the parent surveys that followed. Students and parents have expressed their wishes to see a more current colour palette in the uniform.

The uniform committee has gone to great lengths to ensure there has been opportunity for consultation at every stage and in varying formats including visual display and in parent target languages. Information was delivered in the school newsletters, school website, notes home to parents, at school assemblies, during Pre-School and Kindergarten orientations, various parent meetings and community playgroups. Prospective uniforms were modelled by the children and available in the school office for comment. The procedure has been endorsed by the 2014 Bonnyrigg P.S. School Parents and Citizens Association, The Director Public Schools and the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group as per uniform policy.

Upcoming Events
- Week 8 – Wed. March 18th Stage 1 Transport Excursion.
- Week 9 - Parent Teacher Interviews. A booking sheet will go out this week.
- Week 10 – Thurs. April 2nd. Year 5 Head Start and last day of Term 1
I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and show respect to past members of the P&C and parents who participated in the process of choosing the current school uniform. They had the opportunity to participate in an exciting process that was part of the establishment of a new school. Not many school communities have this opportunity. Updating a school uniform in line with the Department of Education’s Uniform Policy is the responsibility of every school leader, an expectation of the Department of Education and isn’t a reflection on past choices or a lack of respect for the history or past traditions of the school. The emblem will remain unchanged and will symbolise this link with the past. A smarter, sun safe and hard wearing uniform that will allow students, staff and parents to take pride in our school and serve it well into the future is the beginning of an exciting new tradition for Bonnyrigg P.S.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Uniform Committee for all their hard work: Belinda Howlett (Assistant Principal), Karen Forland (Class Teacher) and Jenefar Jamhour (Community Liaison Officer).

Mrs Fonseca
I would like to announce that Mrs Fonseca has welcomed a new baby girl to her family. Although a little sooner than expected on behalf of all the staff and students at Bonnyrigg P.S. we congratulate Mrs Fonseca and look forward to her return in 2016.

ZEST Awards
I was fortunate enough to attend the 2015 ZEST Awards with Mrs Mariana Herrera at ANZ Stadium at Olympic Park on Thursday 19th February. As Minister for Western Sydney and patron of the ZEST Awards, NSW Premier Mike Baird was present to welcome all the award nominees. We were the only school nominated for an award for the 2 programs ‘Bonnyrigg Breakfast Club’ and ‘Bonnyrigg Kids Write’. To be included in a celebration that honours the many achievements of the community and volunteer sectors was indeed a privilege. I would like to thank Newleaf Community Renewal and St Johns Park Bowling Club for their support of our school.

Swimming Carnival
The Bonnyrigg Public School Swimming Carnival was held on Tuesday 17th February. I had the opportunity to visit the students and deliver their lunches. It was attended by all Year 3-6 students and some 8 year olds in Year 2. Children participated enthusiastically throughout the day and showed good sportsmanship. They are to be commended for their excellent behaviour and for being good school representatives.

Thank you to all the enthusiastic parent helpers, for without their assistance, the carnival could not run as smoothly as it did. The winning house on the day was Boronia, Wattle came second, Banksia then Waratah.

Early Arrivals
An increasing amount of students are arriving to school early before the 8:30am morning bell that signals the start of supervision by teachers. Children should not be at school before this 8:30am bell unless there is a very good reason that has been discussed with the school principal. Coming to school to play with their friends is not one of these reasons as the playground is unsupervised before 8:30am.

Please note: In the morning the canteen will only be selling a few items. Lunch orders are a priority. No orders can be taken after 9:15am.

Before and After School Care
I am currently investigating the viability of establishing Before and After School Care at Bonnyrigg P.S. This is something I am working hard to establish to assist parents and carers that need assistance with this type of service. There will be an Expression of Interest coming to you shortly to ascertain the number of interested families before opening up the service to surrounding schools.

Congratulations to Kayla
Well done Kayla in Year 4! We are proud of you for making it to the zone swimming carnival and representing Bonnyrigg PS.
March is Attendance Month
Bonnyrigg Public School is promoting March as ‘Attendance Month’ to celebrate the students who are at school every day. Students with PERFECT attendance from March 3rd to March 31st will go into the draw to win prizes such as vouchers, games and books.

Daily attendance is essential for a quality education. If your child is absent for just 8 days each term, by Year 6 they will have missed a full year of school. We need to work together to ensure children DO NOT have gaps in their education, as poor attendance results in your child missing vital learning experiences.

During the month of March, full attendance is required to go into the draw and only a doctor’s certificate will be accepted if your child is absent. Lots of prizes are on offer and all children that attend for the month of March will go into the draw.

Year 6 Art Workshop
On Wednesday the 25th of February Year 6 students were involved in an Art Workshop with two local artists. Students created images that were captured through a pop up photo both using a green screen. Their images will be turned into silhouettes by the local artists to produce public artworks which will be displayed as a Screen Mural Concept at Bibby’s Place Bonnyrigg.

NRL Visit
On Monday the 23rd of February students in Years 3 to 6 had the opportunity to meet three NRL players from the Parramatta Eels. Students learnt about the importance of healthy eating habits and regular physical activity.

Year 5 students are getting a Head Start!
On Thursday Week 4, 24 students from across Year 5 participated in the ‘Head Start’ program at Bonnyrigg High School. This program provided the opportunity for our students to experience what a typical high school day would be like. Students attended 3 classes on the day which included visual arts, music and history. At lunch our students roamed the playground and fitted right in with the high school children. All students enjoyed this experience and are looking forward to their next 2 visits this term. - Mrs Hayton & Miss Filippi

Photos from the Year 6 Art Workshop and Head Start
During HSIE this term, Kindergarten students have been learning about what makes them special. Here are some photos of Kinder Blue displaying their ideas about why they are so special.

1T worked collaboratively together to create structured overviews to demonstrate their understanding of a big book which they were reading in class. They have been investigating Friends of 10 which are numbers that add up to 10. The class created wonderful, colourful hats for the book character Mrs McFee.

We learnt about Monet and found out that he loved to paint the gardens and ponds around his home in France. 1T enjoyed painting Monet’s garden using crayons and paint.
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