Term 1 Week 6
Monday, 4th March 2013

Dates to Remember

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<td>5th March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7.30pm - AGM</td>
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<td>6th March</td>
<td>McDonald’s Camp Quality Puppets 2pm</td>
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<td>Clean Up Australia</td>
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Expression of Interest for Placement in Year 7 for a NSW Government Secondary School in 2014

Attached to this newsletter for all current Year 6 students is a parent information booklet and Application for Expression of Interest for placement in Year 7 at a NSW Government School in 2014. The application needs to be returned to Mrs Chapman at the school office NO LATER THAN Friday 22nd March.

Apple Picking

Year 4/5 went to the Fruit Bowl on Wednesday 27th to pick apples from the school and P & C sponsored trees. The apples will be available for all the students and any families who would like to come along to school and collect them from 3pm on Friday 8th March. A very big thank you is extended to the Tadrosse family for their generous assistance.

McDonald’s Camp Quality Puppets

On Wednesday 6th March the McDonald’s Camp Quality Puppets will be performing at our school. This is an educational program using life size puppets to deliver a fun and positive message about supporting children living with cancer and other serious illnesses. The information shared aims to help children heighten their awareness of the need to care for and support others who may look, or be a little ‘different’, particularly because of physical problems, such as hair loss due to cancer treatment. The program is not limited to schools with ill students and there is no charge to the school or parents for this program.

UNSW Competitions

We will again be participating in the Australasian Schools competitions in Computer, Science, English, Writing, Maths and Spelling. Any parent who would like their children in Years 3-6 to participate is asked to discuss it with their class teacher first. These tests are very challenging and designed for the most able students. Although we do not discourage any willing participants, we are mindful of the costs involved and also do not wish it to be a stressful activity for students.

The participation cost for each subject is:

- **Computer Skills** - 21 May 2013 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
- **Science** - 5 June 2013 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
- **Writing** - 17 June 2013 ($18.70 GST inclusive)
- **Spelling** - 18 June 2013 ($12.10 GST inclusive)
- **English** - 31 July 2013 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
- **Mathematics** - 13 August 2013 (8.80 GST inclusive)

All of the above - $66.00 GST inclusive

The first competition takes place on 21 May 2013, and an entry form will be sent home with this newsletter. Application form and payment needs to be returned to school by Friday 5th April.

School Photos

School Photos will be held on Thursday 21st March. The students need to wear their school uniform. Girls are to wear their school dress and boys to wear grey shorts and shirt.

Photos will commence at 9.45am with the Kindergarten class. Family photos will follow the class and whole school photos.

Photo order envelopes and money need to be back at school before Wednesday 20th March. No package will be produced unless order and payment is received before 20th March. A note and order envelope have been attached to this newsletter. Please read both carefully before returning the envelope to the school office.

Bilpin Public School P & C Committee are as follows

- **President** Darryl Carle 4567 1018
- **Vice President** Heidi Wilson 4567 0070
- **Treasurer** Nicole McEvoy 4567 1351
- **Secretary** Nikki Wheen 4567 1154

Please feel free to contact any of these representatives if you have any concerns you wish to discuss.
Clean Up Australia Day for Schools

We will again be participating in the Clean Up Australia Day for Schools this year and hope to do so this Friday 8th March, depending on the weather. This is an annual event that the students participate in and helps them to contribute to keeping our country cleaner. The students will need to bring a pair of disposable gloves (gardening or plastic) and a plastic bag to collect rubbish. Students who are unable to bring gloves will be provided with a pair.

The classes will be cleaning up set areas after recess and parents are very welcome to come along to help.

- K/1 - inside the school grounds
- 2/3 - Inside the school grounds
- 4/5 - around the school
- 6 - around the school

Electronic Newsletter Delivery

The school newsletter can be emailed directly to parents and many families have taken up this option. If you have not previously indicated your preference and requested a paper copy of the newsletter, you will find a form attached to this newsletter. Please return it to Mrs Chapman in the school office by Friday 15th March.

Gymnastics

As a result to the inclement weather we were not able to complete our gymnastic activities last Friday. We will make up this day later in Term 1.

P & C AGM

The P&C will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm in the school staffroom. Parents are encouraged to attend and your input is welcomed.

Canteen News

The canteen roster for the rest of term 1 is as follows:-

- Thursday 7th March  - Sabine Koch
- Monday 11th March - Helen Newman
- Thursday 14th March - Christine Plew
- Monday 18th March - Nicole McEvoy
- Thursday 21st March - Heidi Wilson & Fiona Graham
- Monday 25th March - VACANT
- Thursday 28th March - Michelle Leer
- Monday 1st April  - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- Thursday 4th April - Cheryl Baird
- Monday 8th April  - Helen Newman
- Thursday 11th April - Kelly Haines & Sam Craigie

We still require a volunteer for Monday 25th March. If your able to assist please contact Angie Pirie ph 4567 7469.

The Mini Pizza are proving very popular at 20c and small bags of Popcorn are also available for 20c. Sippa Straws are great value for $1.00 and Bilpin Apples are now available for 50c each.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their special day in January:

Genevieve (11), Trent (9), Kaelin (10), Sally-Anne (11), Juliet (10), Patrick (8), Lachlan (5) and Jesse (10).

And in February:

Clara (9), Kylie (9), Bobby (7), Nikola (6) and Kyle (9).

Class News

Kindergarten/Year 1 News -

Well done Year 1 for a great effort with their spelling and Maths homework.

Kindergarten are also doing a great job reading their sounds and book each night. Keep up the good work.

Don’t forget to bring in your photo for ‘Star of the Week’ if you haven't already done so.

Mrs J. Shields and Mrs S. Carroll

Year 2/3 News -

Welcome to Year 2/3.

We are very excited to have started our new class and have lots of exciting things planned for this year. The students have all worked very hard over the last two weeks, they have done well to get used to new routines, a new classroom and two new teachers.

Reading - Thank you so much to all our reading helpers, you have helped make reading groups possible over the last two weeks. We hope you continue to work with us throughout the year.

Topics for Term 1 - This year Mrs Pearson will be teaching science and Mrs Oram will be teaching HSIE. The topic for science is ‘Local and Heritage Structures’ and HSIE is Japan.

Homework - Spelling words will be completed over two weeks. Each week, the children will have a double page of their maths homework books to complete. The children have been asked to bring their homework in each day to be marked.

Mrs N. Oram and Mrs K. Pearson

Year 4/5 News -

The students in Year 4/5 have settled in very well to the new arrangements. I am very pleased to see how hard working they are and they have produced very good work.

We have started our Reading program and a big thank you to the parents who have been able to come along and help. We have completed our first set of spelling words and the results from their tests are in the front of their spelling homework books. This week will see a new set of words to practise.

We have also started our maths homework and it is very pleasing to see all the students bringing their homework books in each day. They will be completing sets 2.1 - 2.4 this week and 3.1 - 3.4 next week.

In Maths we will be completing activities over the next weeks, on fractions, numbers to 9999, addition, multiplication facts, and symmetry in Year 4. Rounding off, patterns, subtraction, addition, 3D and prisms, and pyramids in Year 5.

In HSIE we have been investigating rainforest environments in Australia and around the world. The students have started mini projects about rainforest animals and plants. They will present their information on the computer and to the class.

Miss J. Currey
Year 6 News - Mr Hynds

Our students have done very well in completing their new homework routine over the last 2 weeks, and I have been very impressed with the quality of their work. Keep it up!

Our unit for writing is persuasive texts. The purpose of this style of writing is to influence or persuade the reader. We have been studying different forms of advertising and ways of influencing people. Each student has commenced designing their own ad using advertising tools such as slogans, alliteration, humour etc.

In HSIE we have started our unit on Antarctica, looking at its landforms and political division.

Thank you to all the helpers who are assisting with reading groups in our classroom each week. It is certainly a great benefit to all our students.

Mobile Preschool

Hawkesbury Community Outreach, offers a high quality Preschool Service at Blaxland's Ridge Community Hall - Monday & Tuesday as well as Bilpin Community Hall – now Wednesday, Thursday & Friday;

This not for profit community service operates between the hours of 9am to 3pm during school terms. It is licensed and regulated by The Department of Community Services. The Preschool Service offers a safe, secure environment with a stimulating educational program for 3 to 5 year olds provided by experienced & dedicated Early Childhood staff.

Children & families from isolated areas of The Hawkesbury have the opportunity to meet & build a link with their local community. Fee subsides are available. Please call the office for information. Children develop socially, physically & intellectually with a wide range of skills to assist them in the Transition to School process.

For more information contact the office on 4573 1166 or the Director on 0429 707 858.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
PENRITH OBSERVATORY

Astronomy Night for Dads & Kids
AILENS – NOOO! – What is the likelihood of aliens and are we really unique?
The University of Western Sydney Penrith Observatory is running a special astronomy night for Dads & Kids on Saturday, 9 March from 8pm. The evening will not only include a talk by Associate Professor Miroslav Filipovic; Director of the UWS Penrith Observatory, but a 3D astronomy movie and observing of the night sky through the University’s computerised telescopes. Bookings are essential

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family.
Book online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What’s On

Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135
or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au
Raising kids to be lifelong learners

The world has changed dramatically since we went to school. The pace of change is now so fast that what may have been in vogue just a few years ago is totally outmoded today.

Technology is one area that constantly changes and renews. It was only a few ago that CDs replaced cassettes. Now I drive a car with an iPod adapter but no CD player. CDs are so 2000s! Let’s not even talk about vinyl records...

Advances in technology mean that we constantly need to change our skills and knowledge, both at home and at work, to avoid being left behind. The new social divide is not so much between rich and poor, but between those who can adapt to change and those who can’t. Adapting to change requires you to be constantly learning.

Modern education is no longer about preparing kids to get a job. As the world now expects and rewards continuous learners, today’s schools try their best to help kids see themselves as lifelong learners who are able to easily adapt to change.

Kids are natural copycats
As you well know, kids learn what they live. If you want your kids to value learning then you need to go first. Kids need to see that their parents value learning, not just by giving it lip-service, but by embracing change and being active learners themselves.

There are plenty of ways you can show kids that you are a constant learner. Challenging yourself in the kitchen, using new social media, and researching holidays online are simple ways to show kids that you embrace change and that you are willing to learn new skills and knowledge.

Kids learn in different ways
It also helps to talk with kids about different ways of learning and different ways of being smart. The modern education scene is familiar with the concept of multiple intelligences and different ways of learning. It really helps if you know your preferred style and where you are smart, so you can help your kids to do the same. For instance, I’m a practical learner who learns best by doing rather than being shown. I can be given instructions to work out something technical, but I won’t learn it until I try it a few times. I also know that I do my best problem solving when I have a pen in my hand or I’m in front of a keyboard.

My son, on the other hand, is a very different learner. He is very visual and loves to learn by using charts and other prompts. He’s also at his problem-solving best in a physical environment such as a kitchen or in the great outdoors. He does his most creative thinking when he’s on the move rather than in front of a keyboard. This sort of self-knowledge about learning preferences aids more effective learning.

Mistakes are part of learning
It also helps if you can reinforce to kids that mistakes are part of learning. In fact, most kids fail their way to success. That’s how they learned to walk, talk and play with each other. Your attitude to errors will affect your children’s view of themselves as learners. If you overreact when kids don’t get things right then kids will, in all likelihood, cease taking risks for fear of making mistakes. However, if you see mistakes as learning opportunities, or simply the first step to getting things right, then kids are more likely to develop a healthy attitude to learning, and realise that really effective learning takes time, effort and energy.

As parents we need to nurture questioning, curiosity and problem-solving in our kids so they hook into the concept of being continuous learners. The world we are preparing them for demands nothing less!