



BALD BLAIR

PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Term 1: Week 8

19th March 2020

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Monday 6 April**
Centenary Committee meeting 6pm
- **Thursday 9 April**
Last day Term 1
- **Friday 10 April**
Good Friday
- **Saturday 25 April**
ANZAC Day
- **Tuesday 28 April**
Students return Term 2



Remember to wash your hands every time you:

- Sneeze
- Cough
- Use a tissue or handkerchief
- Use the toilet
- Eat (before & after)
- Play (before & after)

Principal's Message

Ros Edwards

Welcome to the 2020 school year – I apologise for the lateness of our first newsletter – my unexpected absence over the first 8 days of school has left me feeling a little bit behind!! I would like to thank our wonderful staff, Mrs Lenehan, Mrs Purvis, Miss McNeill, Belinda and Lando for keeping the school running during my absence. We are so fortunate that with such a hard-working, dedicated team, staff absences are barely noticed!

Sadly, we said goodbye to Miss Natalie McNeill, who has accepted a full-time position in her home town of Dorrigo. However, we have welcomed Miss Emma Lindeman to our team for the remainder of Term 1 and Term 2. Miss Lindeman is an extremely experienced teacher and has worked in a small school environment for many years. We are very lucky that she was able to fit us in to her busy schedule.

Coronavirus (COVID19)

The recent declaration that COVID-19 is now a global pandemic has raised many concerns within communities about the role schools will play in slowing the rate of infection. Bald Blair Public School will continue to follow the advice of the Department of Health and the Department of Education. These include the cancellation of all excursions, assemblies and sporting events until the end of Term One. As yet, we have not cancelled any Term Two events, but we will continue to follow the advice of relevant authorities.

Events that have been cancelled include:

- Primary Boys and Girls Hockey trials
- Easter Hat Parade and Assembly
- Parent afternoon tea
- Finlayson Sports Day
- School banking

Harmony Day activities will go ahead as planned on Friday 20th March.

The RSL branches in NSW, QLD, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia have made the decision to cancel some ANZAC Day services and ban the public from attending others in an attempt to thwart the spread of COVID-19. As a result, Bald Blair Public School will not be marching at this year's ANZAC Day parade.

Please note that schools have received the following advice from Mark Scott, Secretary, NSW Department of Education, in accordance with NSW Health:

"If your child has a sore throat, heavy cold, cough, fever or flu-like symptoms – now is the time for them to be staying home until they are better. This is an important strategy in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Schools will be contacting parents to come and collect their children if they are showing these symptoms."

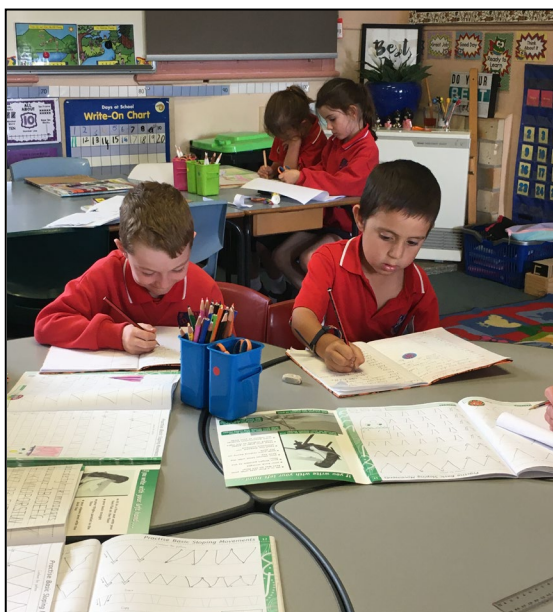
Please keep your child home if they display any of these symptoms and seek medical advice.

Kindergarten/ Year 1 – Possums

Mrs Purvis

Spelling

In spelling, we have been using the spelling program, Soundwaves. Each week the students in Year One focus on one grapheme. All students complete a variety of activities associated with this grapheme and complete a spelling test at the end of the week. The kindergarten students have been learning to orally hear, segment and blend phonemes in words. Each day the students in Kindergarten are introduced to a new phoneme. By the end of the term the students will have been exposed to all 43 phonemes in the Soundwaves spelling program.



Cruz & Ricky

Writing

In writing, we have been completing a unit called 'Let's Build a Sentence'. This unit is designed to introduce students to the key components of simple and compound sentences; specifically, capital letters and punctuation; verbs, nouns, adjectives and conjunctions. Each day the students also complete handwriting drills focusing on the Soundwaves focus grapheme of the week.

Reading

In guided reading sessions students have been learning strategies appropriate to their reading level and developing their fluency. They have also been taking part in word attack activities, fine motor activities, reading comprehension activities and phonemic awareness activities.

Number of the Day

Each day in K/1 Possums we focus on a number and represent that number in a variety of ways. I have been impressed with the mathematical language the students have been using in this activity to discuss the number of the day. When we reach 100 Days of school we will celebrate with a class party.

Science- Watch It Grow

This term, in science, K-2 students have been working in collaborative learning teams to investigate the life cycle of a mealworm. Each day the students are required to observe the mealworms and draw what they look like. At the beginning of the unit the students were asked to predict what they thought the mealworm would look like when it changed into an adult. It will be interesting for the students to see what the mealworm will look like at the end of the 30 day observation period.

Creative Arts

In Creative Arts, all students collaboratively helped make our mural for the Guyra Show. All students entered individual paintings, drawings and sculptures in the show. I thoroughly enjoyed viewing these artworks at the show over the weekend.

Personal Development/ Physical Education and Sport

In PE and sport this term, the students have been taking part in games and drills in preparation for the Finlayson Sports Day. We have been developing our throwing and catching skills for our ball games and this week have moved the focus to running. We will then move onto high jump and long jump activities. In Personal Development lessons we have been learning about how to get along with others. The students have been introduced to two characters in the You Can Do It program; Felix Friendly and Bartholomew Bad Friend.



Year 1 & Mrs Purvis

Homework

Each week the students in K/1 Possums will be given tasks to complete at home. Homework will be handed out on Mondays and is due on Fridays.

NEWS

All students have enjoyed taking part in our weekly news sessions. News takes place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after lunch.

Monday- Cruz, Claudia and Elka

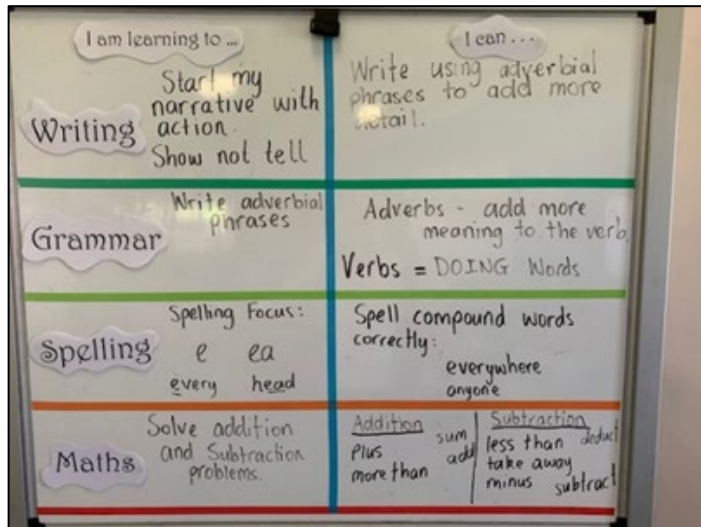
Tuesday- Sydnee, Ricky and Grace

Thursday- Ruby, Harriet and Molly

Year 2/3 Jungle Explorers

Mrs Lenehan

Over the past few weeks, students in years 2/3 have settled back into the classroom routines. We have completed all start of year assessments in both literacy and numeracy. Students have become familiar with our classroom rules and expectations for the year. At the beginning of each week, we make learning goals as a whole class for all the students to work towards and try to achieve by the following Friday.



Reading

Students have been grouped into their guided reading groups, which happen four days per week. These are very flexible groups and are easily adapted to meet the learning needs of the students with reading. Throughout guided reading time, students read aloud to myself and their peers in the group. We discuss the orientation of the text, make predictions and describe the setting and plot. We talk about any word work that we are focusing on. This week we have been learning about compound sentences and compound words, so throughout reading groups this has been the focus. Please ensure you try to listen to your child/children read at home aloud for at least 15 minutes a day. A reading log will be attached in weekly homework.



Henry, Isabella, Emily

Writing

This term, writing is going to be a huge focus for all students. We need to be engaged with really explicit writing lessons, and set expectations and learning goals to assist in the progress for each student. We are learning about the structure of narratives. There is a huge emphasis on 'SHOW, DON'T TELL' the reader your story. This means students need to be writing with greater detail.

Mathematics

Throughout maths time, students are engaged in a variety of hands on activities to support student learning. After recently attending professional learning around 'additive strategies' it became very clear to me that learning through mathematics needs to involve tasks and tools to engage and foster student talk. Students need to become confident with the language in mathematics and be able to use flexible strategies to solve problems and communicate their reasoning.



Polly & Katie

Library day – every Tuesday, students need to return their books before borrowing.

As part of our speaking and listening program, students in years 2-3 will present short fortnightly speeches in front of their peers and myself. Speeches are to be finished and ready to present every ODD week. Weeks 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Your child's **homework** will be handed out weekly on Monday's. Your child/children will have:

- Spelling words which align with our soundwaves focus for the week.
- Homework contract book, 1 unit to be completed per week.
- Time tables activities
- Sight words and reading

Students will need to return their homework every Friday or earlier if finished.

As part of our reward system, students who bring homework in will be able to roll on our 'HOMEWORKOPOLY' game board.

Congratulations to all the students in Years 2/3 who helped construct our 'Emergency Services' diorama for the 2020 Guyra Show, which received highly commended. Well done!

Year 4-6 Wild Wombats

Miss Edwards

Year 4-6 have settled well back into their classroom routines, with the Year 4s adapting well to the change in classroom and teacher.

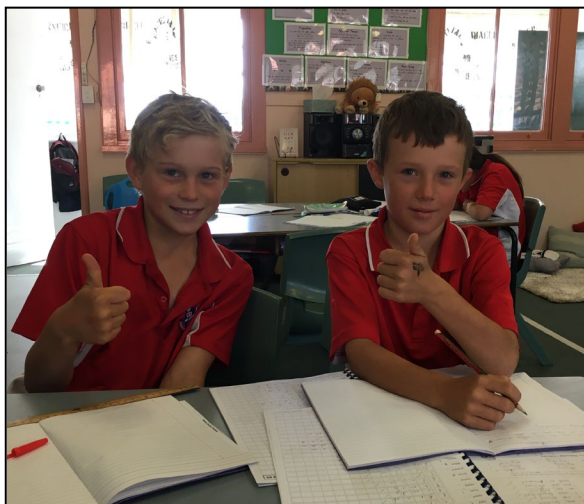
English

We are continuing to follow the Soundwaves spelling program which is a synthetic phonics and word study program. Synthetic phonics is recognised as one of the most effective ways to teach spelling and reading skills. Successful spelling relies on understanding that words can be constructed from meaningful parts such as prefixes, suffixes and Greek and Latin roots. The Soundwaves program is structured for teachers to expertly manage our multi-stage classrooms to maximise student understanding and achievement.

We have focusing on reading comprehension with the students developing confidence in reading and competence in all areas of language, including grammar, punctuation, spelling and writing. We are accessing a wide variety of text types along with developing understanding of the text, interpreting and responding when reading.

In writing, we have been completing a unit of work called "The Lost Thing" based on the book of the same name by author Shaun Tan. We are learning to write using a variety of verbs, adjectives and noun groups as descriptive language features within compound and complex sentences. We are also learning about conjunctions for combining clauses and different types of verbs and adjectives for descriptive language.

As part of our Speaking and Listening strand, we have set up a bank of speech topics to be delivered each week. In Term One every student will deliver one speech, timetabled for every Friday. In Term Two, students will deliver two planned speeches throughout the term. It would be beneficial for them to be able to work on their speeches at home as well as in class. So far this term, we have had Emily and Ashlee deliver their speeches in Week 6; Max, Clem and Darcy in Week 7; and we are looking forward to Rubi, Piper and Harry in Week 8 and Wil, Brock and Bridget in Week 9.



Clem & Wil

Mathematics

In mathematics, we have already covered a range of topics, including whole number, time, addition & subtraction, length, multiplication & division and area. Throughout the rest of this term we will focus on fractions & decimals and volume & capacity. We are working in groups of 3-4 students per group. We rotate around various activities, giving each group time with the teacher every day, as well as focusing on everyday skill development such as tables and using mental strategies to solve everyday mathematical problems.

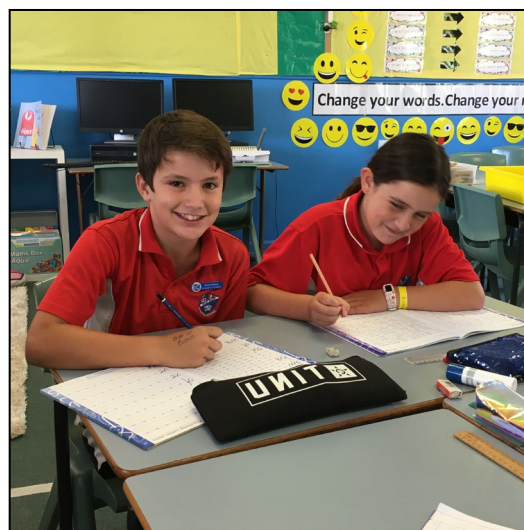
Library and Homework

Homework continues to be sent home every Monday. It is important that students give their best effort to complete their homework and return it every Friday. We have introduced a points system whereby students earn points for their table group, scaled according to their effort in attempting their homework.

Our Library day is Tuesday, with students able to borrow and return books on a weekly basis. We are also completing a mini-unit in the library based on learning about how we can effectively use the library for research, writing book reviews and enjoying quiet reading time.

History

We are completing units of work with Miss Lindeman called "First Contacts: Stories of the First Fleet" and "First Contacts: Contact". In these units, the students are learning about the early years of European (British) settlement in Australia. They are studying the reasons behind the establishment of the Sydney colony, the First Fleet journey and what life was like for the early colonists. The unit uses stories, drawings and other records from the era to teach a range of historical concepts, skills and knowledge. The focus here is on the colonists, with the "Contacts" unit shifting focus to the Eora Aboriginal people of Sydney. This unit studies the different forms of early contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers. The students are developing an understanding of the impact that the British colonisation of Sydney had on the lives of the Eora people and are developing some understanding of the varied and complex nature of the early relations between the Eora and the colonists.



Brock & Bridget

School Swimming

Our Snow Gums Swimming Carnival was held on Monday 10th February. As usual, Bald Blair were keen competitors and we finished the day with a number of age champions and runner-up age champions. Congratulations to everyone who participated and showed such great sportsmanship.

We then sent a team of nine students to the Armidale Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival in Armidale. Our relay team of Brock, Ashlee, Harry and Darcy came first in the Small Schools relay, qualifying them for the North West Regional Carnival, also held in Armidale.

Other representatives on the day, including Taharn, Clem, Isabella, Abbey and Bridget all swam really well.

At the North West Carnival, Bridget replaced Ashlee in the relay team where they all swam strongly and enjoyed the day. Congratulations to all our swimmers.



Welcome Kindies

This year in Kindergarten we have welcomed two new students, Claudia Evans and Grace Schaefer. The two students have settled into the routines of school beautifully and are working hard on their counting, fine motor skills, cutting skills, computer skills, learning to write their name correctly and working on learning all 43 phonemes in our school Soundwaves program.



Assembly

Our Week 5 assembly award recipients were:

K/1: Star Student – Grace Schaefer; TED Award – Claudia Evans; Sports Award – Sydnee Everett; Homework Award – Claudia Evans, Ricky Foster, Cruz Little, Ruby Little, Molly Morgan, Harriet Ulrick.

2/3: Star Student – Henry Evans; TED Award – Emily Campion; Sports Award – Abbey Grills, Taharn Masuk-Purvis, Isabella Purvis; Homework Awards – Jay Buckland, Emily Campion, Katie Campion, Henry Evans, Polly Kane, Taharn Masuk-Purvis, Alby McKemey, Isabella Purvis.

4-6: Star Student – Wil Schaefer; TED award – Brock Hoffman; Sport Awards – Clem McKemey, Bridget Foster, Darcy Grills, Brock Hoffman, Ashlee Morgan, Harry Purvis; Homework awards – Max Schaefer, Wil Schaefer, Rubi Swilks, Emily Ulrick, Piper Kempton, Ashlee Morgan.



Birthdays



Harriet



Emily



Grace



Cruz & Ruby



Clem & Alby



Emily