YEAR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION

Last week Year 6 made the big trip down to Canberra. Mrs Everson and I were accompanied by Pete Rowe and Ian Dillon as parent helpers and fifty three Year six students. This was a wonderful educational experience for everyone. The student's behaved beautifully and maximised their learning through asking all of our guides thought filled questions. I would like to thank Roz Everson for her tireless care for all the students last week and her ability to negotiate tight timelines and the unexpected events that always accompany major excursions. My thanks and three big cheers to our parent helpers who were always keen to participate and lend a hand to help to make this a very successful and fun excursion for all.

Kate Sommerville, Stage

Questacon

What Year 6 did at Questacon is fun science. There were robots, tornados, lightning, video controllers, air rockets, and many more. My favourite thing was the robot. You can make it exercise and say movie lines. You can even ask it questions! You also get to make helicopters out of foam cups. We learnt a lot of things. It was so much fun and when next year's year 6 go to Canberra, Questacon is defiantly going to be their favourite place. There was also a slide where you let go of the bar and slide. There is also this camera that makes you look younger than you are right now. There is also a tornado and when you touch it, it stops. If you're in year 6 next year, you'll have fun.

Dan Sheather-Dean

Australian Institute of Sport

Last week at Canberra (Tuesday night) all yr 6 went to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). Our guide Reece was a world class 1500m runner and showed us around.

We went to the Kids Fun Zone first which was a room filled with activities that we could do like the skeleton simulator, basketball cage, chin up bar, jump test, reaction test and many more things that we could explore, play and learn with. After, our guide took us around the AIS training facilities which is only used for people that are going to be world class athletes like Reece. First the Gymnasium and then the volleyball court. On our way around Reece told us so many facts like the high jump record was set in 1993 and is only 2cm higher than the volley ball net. We went around

Dan Sheather-Dean
AIS until it was well over 9pm so it was time to go but over all I loved it!!!

Jessica Sanders

On the 9th to the 13th of November, Bellingen Public School year six went to Australia’s capital territory the ACT. We stayed in a farm called Westwood farm in Canberra. We went to lots of places such as:

• Questacom
• Old parliament house
• New parliament house
• War memorial
• Australian national museum
• NASA space station
• National art gallery
• Mint
• Mount Ainsley
• Arboretum

And we all had a lot of fun with Mrs Sommerville, Mrs Everson and the parent helpers (Ian Dillon & Pete Rowe). We hope that others share the same experience as it was amazing and everyone had so much fun.

Annabelle Nixon

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government has contributed funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program toward travel expenses incurred. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Year 6 returned safely from Canberra on Friday afternoon after a fantastic week touring the Nation’s capital. We received wonderful feedback and photos from local member Luke Hartsuyker after he met with them last week. Thank you again to Mrs Sommerville, Ms Everson, Ian Dillon and Peter Rowe for taking a week away from their families to accompany our students.

Attendance

It is important that students attend school every day. The Education Act (1990) requires parents to ensure that children between the ages of six and fifteen attend school on each day that the school is open for instruction. If children are absent from school, parents are required to provide the school with an acceptable explanation within seven days of the absence. Our 2015 attendance rate is 91.9%, down from 93.4% in 2014 and well below the state average of 94%. Establishing consistent routines and maintaining academic progress, engagement and social connections all depend on consistent, committed attendance at school. One day per week of missed school over primary school is nearly a whole year missed.

We have had scheduled maintenance happening around the school this last week including a new dish drain in the big shelter and reconfigured drainage outside Miss Bugden’s room. Hopefully in a big downpour both of these measure will assist in minimising any flooding.

Kindergarten Orientation continues this week. It is lovely being able to get to know both the new students and their families as they visit our school.

Have a great week.

Elizabeth Mulligan

CANTEEN NEWS

Another Friday the 13th has come and gone and we all survived to commence a new week of expanding the mental and physical abilities of our diminutive developmental dependants. As a part of this development, some of our less buoyant bubs are embarking on the second week of swimming school, a marvellous yet inconveniently timed exercise. Inconvenient in that it clashes with the regular school lunch break, making it impossible for the canteen to provide ordered lunches to participants.

Last week, in the confusion and mayhem caused by the disruption to routine, this slipped the mind of some of our caring and committed parents who in good faith sent their budding aquanauts in with lunch orders. Fortunately, the miracle working volunteers in the canteen managed to prepare something for these hydraulic homunculi to take with them. Sadly this situation means that while these miracles are being performed, the miracle workers are detracted from...
providing for the rest of the students and these will miss out in some way.  

*Please*, if your child is going to swimming this week, do not send them to school with lunch orders. *Please!*

This week sees the return from Canberra of our year 6 adventurers. Since they missed out on the delicious special last week it will be continued for this week to give them the opportunity to enjoy the Neg Kelly pie. The special will be available on Thursday and Friday only at a cost of $3.50 or $5.00 with a drink.

Feeding your children to a better education,

**Eddy Vardabasso**
Canteen Supervisor

**CONGRATULATIONS ABI MAYO**

On Saturday the 14th of November (World Diabetes Day) Abi Mayo travelled to the Sydney Gymnastics Centre at Rooty Hill where she competed in the 2015 NSW State Gymnastics Competition. She represented herself and her club (Coffs Coast Gymnastics) with pride and came away with 3 red ribbons (for scores between 8.0 and 9.0 on beam, bars and vault) and 1 blue ribbon for a score of 9.35 on floor. She received a silver medal for her overall score (narrowly missing out on gold by 0.275). This is Abi’s last competition for the year and she is looking forward to training hard again in 2016.

**BUS APPLICATIONS**

Students in year 2 who are progressing to year 3 and have a bus pass would have recently been sent a new application form. Students may reapply if they fall under the following criteria.

- The straight line distance from their home address to school is 1.6 km or further.
- The walking distance from home to school is 2.3 km or further.

Students who do not fit this criteria may contact the office for details on how they may appeal and apply for a bus application.

**HEAD LICE**

Head Lice have been detected in a number of classes. Would you please check your child’s hair and treat with the appropriate treatment if you detect lice or eggs. Students should not return to school unless this treatment has been administered. We recommend that students with long hair keep it tied back. Thank you.

**NATURE PLAYGROUND**

This Wednesday an arch is being made from Bamboo for our Nature Playground. If you can lend some time or muscle collect your children at the end of the day and come and see if you can help. If you would like more information please call contact Liz Brown on 0405 667 441

**SurveyMonkey®**

Bellingen Public School BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Program

BPS is researching the possibility of a Bring Your Own Device program at the school. We are currently looking at the support for such a program and have devised an online survey for this purpose.

If you click on the web link below it will take you to the survey, which will only take a couple of minutes to complete. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated and will allow us to fully assess the viability of such a program.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSNWSFB](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSNWSFB)

Thank you for your time

Mel Wilton
ICT coordinator

**Canteen Roster - November**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Name 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 17</td>
<td>Leonie Jennings, Dan Pullinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18</td>
<td>Donal O’Sullivan, Raelene McMahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 19</td>
<td>Sharon Benelle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20</td>
<td>Julie Young, Leonie Jennings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23</td>
<td>Leonie Jennings, Jo Barr</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 24</td>
<td>Leonie Jennings</td>
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**PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**CHOIR**

The choir really made an impact on the audience at the Golf Club, with their polished singing and their exuberant behavior. The morning was enhanced with great humour! The singers remained composed as a golf cart ‘got away’ from and golfer and he made chase,
out the window mid song!! I was very proud to take this group out into the community.

STRING GROUP
The junior Player Link workshop held at Chrysalis was a huge success. Working with 8 members of the Sydney Symphony, the children played together in a string orchestra of 60. Their combined sound was awesome and they also worked in sectionals, receiving professional instruction. The focus was on following the leader from each section of the orchestra, how to be one and what to watch for. The young conductor, Toby was able to boost the tone produced in the final performance and all children came away chuffed with their improvement. It is delightful to know that the SSO chose Bellingen for their country outreach as they were aware of the strong instrumental program for young students in our town. Congratulations to learners, teachers and families who are investing in their child's future through music education.

A special thanks to parents driving our students to the workshop.

VIOLIN GRADUATION
The graduating students are writing about their experience so hear about this in next weeks news letter!

Elizabeth Scott, Music Co-ordinator

Library News

The final Bookclub Issue for 2015 has been given out and is due back at school this Wednesday 18 November.

We are also having our school Book Fair next week in the library, so lots of opportunities for Christmas present purchases.

At the Book Fair we will also be selling various items as a fund raiser for the Centre for Orangutan Protection in Borneo which we have been recently supporting.

Thank You
Carole McFaul, Librarian

CURRENT NOTES

- FOEI Enrolment forms (with the orange note)
- Year 6 High school enrolment forms

Diary Dates

November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9 – Fri 20</td>
<td>Year 2 &amp; 3 Swim School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation – Home/School relationship building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 21 &amp; Sun 22</td>
<td>Family Portrait Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 8</td>
<td>Thank you Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation HSIE – No Parent/Carer Session</td>
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</tbody>
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December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4</td>
<td>4.15 Guitar Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4</td>
<td>All Schools Orientation Day - Bellingen High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 7</td>
<td>Year 7 Parent/Carer Information Evening, 5pm-6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 8</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9</td>
<td>Combined Piano Concert 9-11</td>
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<td>Thur 10</td>
<td>Presentation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11</td>
<td>Reports out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11</td>
<td>String concert in the hall, 1pm to 3.10 (includes solo performances and shared afternoon tea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 16</td>
<td>Last of Term for Students</td>
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</tbody>
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Community Notices

Bellingen Public School does not endorse these products or services.

**ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ARTISTS**

The BELLINGEN YOUTH ART PRIZE 2015 is calling for entries!

Entry forms are available from our school office, The Nexus Gallery or The Youth Hub, so start creating now as entries close on Friday 4th December.

To encourage participation we are running workshops for those who want assistance with framing 2D Works. The sessions will be short 20 - 30 minutes and students can bring in their works for assistance. We will look at how students can mount/frame works themselves and what they need to consider when taking works to a framer.

It will be an interactive session and a learning experience for the students. Parents and teachers are welcome to attend.

Information sessions dates and times November

Workshops

THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER - 4pm
TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER - 4pm
THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER - 4pm

All framing sessions will be at Bellingen Shire Youth Hub, Cnr Church & William St Bellingen

(See the Brochures with further details are available from the office)