FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It was a pleasure to see our Student Leaders involved in Bellingen’s Seniors Week activities last Wednesday. They assisted with serving and clearing away lunch and were also able to chat with senior citizens who were present. Their efforts were appreciated by the organisers and other volunteers present.

These leaders were also part of a larger group of 14 who I accompanied to Brisbane on Thursday and Friday. 51 students from 8 schools across the Bellinger Dorrigo Learning Community attended the Halogen Young Leaders Conference, hearing inspirational and thought provoking messages from Bindi Irwin, Mike Martin, Juliette Wright, Coen Ashton and James Norton. These included “be the best you can be - don’t try and be anyone else; trust that you will succeed; carry passion with you wherever you go; what I’ve been through makes me, me and seize opportunities so you don’t miss out”.

The theme for the conference was “Get Started”. The entire group of 51 were outstanding representatives of their schools and our Learning Community. Congratulations.

All staff this week will be involved in the further development of our School Plan. Work on this document, which will drive our school for the next 3 years, has continued steadily throughout the term, generating a great deal of discussion. It is envisaged it will be completed and ready for publication next term.

National School Chaplaincy Program

Attached to this newsletter you will find the minutes of the meeting which explain where we are up to in this process. There will be further discussion at tonight’s P & C meeting. We will keep you up to date with the outcome.

I would also like to extend the best wishes of the whole school community to Kim Ellis and Warren Weick. Kim is one of our SLSO team. She recently had an operation which will hopefully alleviate the pain she has from a long term back injury. Warren drives the Brierfield bus and rolled his bus last Friday afternoon, sustaining injuries. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Enjoy a great week.

Elizabeth Mulligan, Rel Principal

Our Peer Support Program utilises Peer Support Australia resources. The *Living Positively* module focuses on developing skills in:

- resilience
- coping
- critical thinking
- planning

The aims of *Living Positively* are:

- identify and use individual strengths
- enjoy life by engaging in activities
- practise positive self-talk
- develop coping strategies
- demonstrate perseverance
- work towards their goals
- develop resilience
- demonstrate gratitude
Whole School Assembly

Students of the Month
Congratulations to the following students who were recipients of the Student of the Month award at last week’s Whole School Assembly. These students have demonstrated outstanding attitude and citizenship at school.

K Magenta  Sophie Selig
K Purple  Grace Douglas
K Orange  Isla McGovern
1 Aqua  Edie Lee
1 Magenta  Elkie Walters
1/2 Orange  Maya Wade
2 Aqua  Daisy Sully
2 Purple  Indiana O’Connor Milne
3 Magenta  Alexa Faunt
3/4 Aqua  Kaia Van Huevel
3/4 Purple  Marlo Gunning
4/5 Orange  Yasmin Ball
5/6 Aqua  Zac Thompson
5/6 Magenta  Ruby Matthews
5/6 Orange  Ellie Cross
5/6 Purple  Georgia Rose

SRC Report

Our Student Representative Council or SRC is up and running and will meet in Weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term. Each class from Years 2-6 voted on two representatives and after a class meeting, these ‘SRC Reps’ bring the issues discussed in their class to the meeting. We have held two meetings so far this year where the SRC decided to pursue arranging to put a clock in the large shelter and having the large shelter marked with handball courts. We also held our first fundraiser last week selling ‘Bullying, NO WAY!’ wristbands and raising over $200 for our SRC. At our meeting this week we will discuss ideas on how these funds can be used.

Ms Everson and the SRC

Harmony Day

Our school turned orange last Thursday to celebrate Harmony Day which aims to promote awareness of the cultural diversity of Australia and Australians with the theme ‘Everyone Belongs’. Classes across the school made paper chains displaying messages of harmony that were hung at the Bellingen markets on Saturday.

Easter Hat Parade - Taking It to the Streets!

Our Easter Hat parade will be held on Thursday 2nd April.

Students are asked to create their hats at home and bring them to school on the day.

We will once again be taking the parade into the community and walking down William St and back up the main street to display our hats! More details in permission note today.

Here are some of Stage Three’s thoughts of what harmony is:

- No need for armoury, if we have harmony- Alex Sommerville
- Harmony is showing love and friendship- Lilla
- If you show respect you are walking down the right track- Georgia Peggell
- Harmony Day is a day to create peace- Tembi
- Different race- don’t disgrace- Byron Livingstone
- Don’t judge the outside, judge the inside- Tanika Russell
- Harmony is like a ray of golden sunshine, wonderful and powerful- James Ruming
- We should always respect each other’s differences- Ruby
- Harmony means recognising different cultures and religions and how they can work together as a team- Charlotte Dillon
- Harmony lives inside us- Sam Case
- Everyone definitely belongs here- Kyan Upsall
- Seeing people smiling and happy together makes me feel that the world is in harmony- Lily Pengelly
- Don’t be a disgrace to the human race- Tyler Danzey
- A day of respect and a day of fun for everyone- Edie Burgess
- Harmony is working together as a team- Elle Vassallo
Student Banking

Do you have 10 Tokens? Don’t forget to redeem your tokens for the great new rewards items this term. Remember school banking day is Tuesday.

Sandra Ruming, School Banking Co-ordinator

EASTER RAFFLE

We are once again holding our HUGE Easter Raffle.

Families are asked to donate ALL THINGS EASTER.

A big THANK YOU to families who have already made a donation.

These donations will be made into lots of prizes and could include chocolate (of course!), Easter books, cuddly Easter toys, Easter craft items etc.

Donations can be left at the school office. Raffle books (sold or unsold) and money due back on Monday 30 March.

Additional books are available at the office.

P and C Meeting Tonight

There will be a P and C Meeting tonight at 7pm in the school library, and included on the agenda will be discussion about the National Chaplaincy Program. David Neville, President of the Bellingen High School P and C, will be present at the meeting to discuss the progress of implementation for this Program. We hope to see you there!

Bellingen Public Choir

In 2015, Ms Scott is working with forty fabulous singers from Stage 3. Known as the ‘Bellingen Public Choir’, this group will be the performers for community events, competitions and also the choir that auditions for next year’s Festival of Choral Music, held in the Opera House.

There has been an audition process to be part of this choir and each child singing for Ms Scott had to have a true voice and to be able to pitch notes confidently. The choir is part of extension activities, recognising children with talents in singing.

Our music programme at Bellingen Public School has always acknowledged and trained the voice as our first and most important instrument. With vocal confidence it is much easier to succeed at learning additional instruments. Congratulations to the members of our 2015 Choir and we look forward to our first public performance on Anzac Day, performing in honour of the men and woman who have defended our country.

Elizabeth Scott

Market Day Performance

The senior string ensemble represented our school, playing beautiful harmonies for Harmony Day at the Bellingen Markets.

Acoustic instruments in the open air are a worry, especially when we were to follow an amplified funky Blues band!

Anna Joy, Community Wellbeing Officer

A large crowd gathered and there was a hush in the audience as these very clever young musicians shared their favourite pieces. They watched their conductor, listened to each other and played confidently.

It was a very positive performance all round and added to our special harmonious community in which we live.

Elizabeth Scott

FREE WOOD

Several large logs which have been on our bottom oval have now been cut into manageable rounds and are available to anyone who may have a use for them, perhaps as firewood. They are unsuitable for our Nature Playground and we would really like to be rid of them. If you are interested in collecting any or all of this wood, please contact the front office.

Thank you for Seniors Week Event

Student leaders from Bellingen Public School contributed to the Seniors Week event last Wednesday. Needless to say, the students were a wonderful addition to the day. Their assistance with the lunch time service to over 100 seniors was invaluable and I have received many comments from both the seniors and the other adults helpers on the day in relation to their manners, positive attitude and the level of respect they demonstrated. I would like to extend my thanks to them and to Mrs Mulligan for organising their participation.
Peer Support Week 3

This week in Peer Support the children will identify their strengths. Children will explore the following important strengths - curiosity, kindness and teamwork. Through the activities, children will be able to recognise which strengths they possess. They will realise how important it is to use their strengths in different situations. During the week encourage your child to share their strengths with you.

Voluntary School Contributions

What are Voluntary School Contributions? Parents in Public Schools are encouraged to pay voluntary contributions which help us to cover costs which are necessary to run our school. These fees help us to pay for paper, exercise books, pencils and general resources needed to ensure the excellent standard of education we provide at Bellingen Public School is sustainable.

Your contribution is crucial - if each family made this contribution it could mean as much as $12,000. Families with 3 or more children attending our school need only pay for the first 2 children. Invoices will be posted out soon.

Our Voluntary School Contribution is only $43 per student.

If you pay this contribution before Thursday, 2 April you will go in the draw to win a fantastic family holiday for a whole week at Valla Beach Resort.

Thank you to those parents that have already paid their voluntary contributions, they will automatically be entered into the draw.

Canteen Roster - March

Tue 24 Kahlia Fletcher
Wed 25 Fiona Galloway
Thu 26 Donal O’Suilleabhain, Elizabeth Joyce
Fri 27 Raelene, Dan Pullinger, Julie Young
Mon 30 Raelene McMahon, Jackie Vassallo
Tue 31 Raelene McMahon

Diary Dates

March

Mon 23 P & C Meeting at 7pm in the Library
Mon 30 Return of sold and unsold Raffle books

April

Wed 1 Easter Raffle Draw

CANTEEN NEWS

After the black of Black Friday, the green of St Patrick’s Day and the orange of Harmony Day, it feels quite mundane not having to adhere to a specific colour regimen this week. All this week the ice cups and mini ice cups will come in a random variety of colours and cheddies will return to their normal cheesy yellow. Although, it is still difficult to make the connection between the Dutch royal family, a minor character in the TV series Buffy The Vampire Slayer and Thursday of last week. What a mysterious world we live in.

The special for this week will see the return of Chinese dumplings, pork dim sims, and vegetarian spring rolls served on steamed gluten free noodles. This as usual will be available on Thursday and Friday only and sell for $3.50 or $5.00 with a drink.

Feeding your children to a better education,

Eddy Vardabasso, Canteen Supervisor

Current Notes

- Easter Hat parade permission note
- Year 7 enrolment forms for Year 6 – Due 20 March

Community Notices

Bellingen Public School does not endorse these products or services.