PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Remembrance Day
Our school will be hosting a Remembrance Day Service on Monday 11th November at 10:45am. Parents and interested community members are welcome to attend.

Stage 3 Excursion
I was delighted and very proud to receive a call from Luke Hubbert, principal of Bellbird Public School and Cathy from the Art Gallery telling me how impressed they both were with the manners and behaviour of the students who attended the recent excursion to Sydney. Well done girls and boys, you are certainly excellent school ambassadors.

Leadership
We have many wonderful students who have taken on leadership roles in 2013. Not only do we have our formal school leaders, our captains Amy and Josh and our vice captains Phoebe and Seth, we have many informal school leaders, Kaydee and Mattison who initiated and run our Stage 1 Dance Club. Matiah, and her assistants Hayley and Shalee, who have organised Glee Club. Phoebe and Amy could see the benefits of the Dance and Glee Club and volunteered to run a Drama Club. These Year 6 students are inspiring and empowering a new generation of school leaders e.g. today we had Mikayla and Lara (Year 2) organise netball skills and a game, last term we had Lila (Year 2) organise an art group and Maddi (kinder) a skipping competition. These clubs and activities operate during recess and lunch and are well attended and greatly enjoyed by participants.

Learning Management and Business Reform
Over the last few months our administration staff and I have undergone a great deal of training that will enable us to manage the many changes that are currently being phased in around the way public schools in NSW manage student welfare, student wellbeing, school budgeting and planning and financial management. Mrs O’Rourke and Ms Laurie were at budgeting training yesterday and are there again today. I will be attending further training on Thursday and Friday.

Student Welfare & Student Wellbeing – we will have an online system that brings together information about a student's wellbeing (counselling, custody, learning plans, health, and behaviour) and administrative information such as curriculum, timetables, attendance and student payments.

School Budgeting and Planning - The Schools Budgeting and Planning Solution provides schools with the capability to manage their school budget at a local level. The solution will assist principals in local decision making by providing them with the financial management tools to support quality educational outcomes for all students.

Schools Finance - A new online tool that will provide modern functions and when integrated with the Student Management tool will enable schools to manage all aspects of a school’s finances. Currently schools use OASIS (a very antiquated system) to invoice, receipt and expend funds as well as a variety of school-specific manual processes to complete financial management activities. The Schools Finance system will replace OASIS and allow schools to do much more than what OASIS let them do. It will be integrated with other new school systems such as Student Wellbeing, Student Management and the Schools Budgeting and Planning solution. It will also be integrated with the new HR/Payroll system when implemented in 2014.

We anticipate that you will be able to direct deposit excursion payments, voluntary school contributions etc. into our school bank account and we hope to
offer EFPOS facilities by the end of Term 1 next year. I know many of you will be very pleased to hear this.

**Expressions of Interest to Operate School Canteen**

- Special Dietary Requirements: Gluten/Lactose/Additive Free
- Healthy Canteen Policy
- DEC Nutrition
- Safe Food Handling
- Working with Children
- Insurance

Please contact Michelle Floyd for further information.

The P & C AGM is on Wednesday 20th November at 6.30pm.

Topics on the agenda are:

- Election of office bearers for 2013/14
- Naplan Results
- Expressions of Interest for Operating the Canteen.
- Playground equipment options and opinions.

If you have any items that you wish to be raised and added to the agenda please contact the school.

Michelle Floyd – Principal

**CANTEEN NEWS**

There are no LOL drinks available at this time.

**The canteen roster this week is:**

**Wednesday 6th November**
- Amanda Wilks
- Jodie Mayall

**Friday 8th November**
- Mathew Weaver
- Linda Turner
- Michelle Ison

**BELTTREES HORSE SPORTS**

On Friday Chloe, Georgie, Millie, Hannah, Mikayla, Harry, Luke, Megan and Emily made the trip to Moonan Flat sports grounds for a very successful Belltrees Horse Sports Day. Plenty of ribbons, championships and Encouragement medals were won! Well done to all riders, we look forward to our Equestrian team growing bigger in 2014.

Mikayla collected a number of ribbons at the Moonan Flat Horse Sports on Friday: 4th in Riding Class, 3rd in Mug race, 5th in Keyhole, 5th in American Pole Bend, 5th in Bending and = 5th in Barrel Race.

On Saturday in Sydney at the Horseworld Rodeo Mikayla came 6th in the under 11’s Barrel race and her father came 5th in the steer wrestling.

**STAGE 3 SYDNEY EXCURSION**

On 28th October, Stage 3 took off in their double decker bus to Sydney for 3 jam-packed days of fun! It was a long – very, very long trip, but we finally arrived in Sydney with lots of energy and enthusiasm.

We first walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge where the views were amazing! We could see the Opera House, a massive cruise ship and lots of tall buildings in the city.

Following that, we walked to The Rocks area where we ate our lunch. We continued walking to the famous Sydney Opera House, where police officers informed us that Princess Mary was upstairs at the time. Wow! The next day apparently Katy Perry was there too!

By that time, we had to depart to Nammmaroo Conference Centre where we were able to kick back in our cabins. We all had showers and then went down for dinner. We had lasagne and vegies. For dessert we had ice-cream cake – yum!

The next day we travelled to Parliament House. It was very fancy, and if I say so myself, quite posh! First we went to a room called the Upper House. This is where the bills are passed and where the government and opposition argue...a lot!

We did role play and some lucky students got to have roles. It was actually pretty fun. We then went to the Lower House, where we again did role play where again it was fun!

After Parliament House we walked to the Art Gallery. It wasn’t really a bunch of paintings (that’s what I was expecting); it was more like, um... Art! They were all really amazing, but one particular artwork really stood out for me. 103 big heavy rocks hung from strings from the roof, together making the shape of a circle. They were suspended about 25cm above the ground, it was so cool.

When leaving the Art Gallery, the weather had taken a pretty bad turn. There were big black clouds, the wind was horrendous and it was freezing. So because of this wild weather, the trip over to Cockato Island was cancelled. Instead we went to the Discovery Museum and the Australian Museum. The Australian Museum was really cool! There was a dinosaur exhibition on at the time; there were massive big dinosaur skeletons... above our heads!

After another big day we travelled back to Nammmaroo Conference Centre where we had nice long sleeps! Well maybe a bit too long for Mrs Moorings liking!

The next morning I would not wake up (according to Kaydee!). Matty, Kaydee and Phoeve were yelling at me, Mrs Wright apparently took my iPod away until I woke up, people from other cabins came in to see what was going on and Mrs Mooring then squirted water on me! Then I finally woke up! I must be a bit of a sleepy head.

The first thing we did on the last day was go to the Aquarium. If you have been to the Aquarium, you would know that it is awesome. The animals are from cute, to scary, to just awesome!
This was actually the first day we were able to visit the souvenir shop! We all stocked up on as many fluffy toys, pressies and yes, lollies!

We then walked to the IMAX Theatre. We watched “Born to be Wild”. It is an inspirational movie about orang-utans and elephants, I can’t really explain it all, but I definitely recommend anyone to watch it!

We then went home, all tired and stuffed!

I enjoyed the Sydney Excursion, it was a very memorable last excursion at Aberdeen Public.

By Amy McC.

**School Bus Transport in 2014**

A reminder to parents of students going into Year 3 next year who travel to and/or from school by bus. If you live within a 2.3km radius of the school, your child will not be eligible for free bus travel, unless an exemption has been requested and granted. A letter to Transport for NSW is required stating the reasons and concerns you feel your child should be eligible for free transport to and from their school ie the dangerous nature of crossing the New England Hwy. Once an exemption has been granted, a new bus pass application form will need to be completed and forwarded to the bus company.

Letters to Transport for NSW can be posted to:

P.O Box 871
Ground Floor
239 King Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

OR faxed to: 4929 7006

**SRC FUNDRAISING**

Thank you to everyone who came out of uniform on Friday and donated a gold coin. We raised $218 to donate to the Rural Fire Service. Well done everyone.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

The Willow Markets are on 1st December 2013 from 9am – 2pm. The markets are a fundraising activity for our school library. If anyone from our school or community would like to have a stall or provide food on the day as a fundraising opportunity let us know by email: willowmarkets@outlook.com or see me in the library.

Are there any parents or carers interested in helping out in the library? There is a lot to do between purchasing books and putting them on the shelf. The children are wonderful helpers when they can but there are a lot of activities happening in the school and often there is no one to help in the library. I would appreciate any help at all.

I will be having a Buy 1 Get 1 Free Scholastic Bookfair. Usually we have this bookfair and parents donate the free book to the library, however, this year I wanted to give something back to the families as a thank you for all the support you have given me in fundraising for the Library. I will let you know the date in the coming newsletters.

**FORTHCOMING DATES**

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**ABERDEEN JUNIOR CRICKET**

Aberdeen Junior Cricket is still taking registrations for U10’s and U11’s. Training on Monday and Wednesday at Jefferson Park, Aberdeen at 4pm.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking is on Mondays. Please bring your bank book and money to the office by recess. If you have 10 tokens please claim your reward as you will not be able to use your tokens next year. Pictures of rewards are below.
Three Choices Parent Program
incorporating
1–2–3 Magic & emotion coaching

To help parents & caregivers manage difficult behaviour in Children 2 – 12yrs:

- Learn a simple technique to get your kids to STOP doing what you don't want them to do (whining, arguing, tantrums, etc.).
- Learn several effective methods to get your kids to START doing what you do want them to do (cleaning rooms, going to bed, homework, etc.).
- Learn techniques that reinforce your bond with your children

Facilitated by:
UPPER HUNTER FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

Where: Aberdeen Public School

When: Tuesday 12th November

Time: 9.30am – 2.00pm

Cost: FREE

Bookings Essential: Ph (02) 6542 3555

😊 Childcare available & light lunch provided.