Mr Frost, our relieving General Assistant admiring the gardening done by the P&C and helpers over the weekend

WHAT’S ON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday-Friday 5 – 14 March</td>
<td>Life Education van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 March</td>
<td>Yr 3-6 Assembly 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21 March</td>
<td>Harmony Day – Orange theme K-2 Assembly 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 April</td>
<td>Gym begins for 1B &amp; 1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 April</td>
<td>Grandparents Day Medallion Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 April</td>
<td>Yr 6 Mid North Coast Science and Engineering Challenge 8:45-3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11 April</td>
<td>Last day for Yr 5-6 camp deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9 May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Raffles at Taree West Bowling Club</td>
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Principal’s Report

I would like to thank the parents, students, staff, community members and local businesses who very generously donated their time and energy to our school working bee last Saturday. Four local businesses also donated soil, grass and plants as well as the free services of a qualified horticulturist.

It was a very successful day with many helpers here from 7am until 4pm. The school improvements include the installation of turf and gardens in the Year 6 seated area, the K-2 area adjacent to the reading recovery offices and the brightly painted Year 5/6 external classroom walls and the outdoor creative arts learning area.

You all did a wonderful job, the areas look amazing!

A special thank you to the P&C for your organisation and coordination of the working bee and for your ongoing commitment to the students and school. We really appreciate it!

Student Road Safety

Parents are asked to speak to your children about road safety when they are coming to and from school. Children should be reminded not to play ball games or other games on the footpath with their friends either before or after school as this poses a major safety risk. Children are asked to promptly enter the school grounds when dropped off or when walking to and from school.

Donna Bensch
Principal
Multi-age classes at Taree West Public School

Multi-age class formation is just one of the devices used to organise classes at Taree West Public School. It is the deliberate mixing of children from various age groups of more than one year in the one class.

**What are the benefits for teachers and children?**

Research has highlighted the benefits for both teachers and children when learning and teaching in a multi-age classroom. Benefits include more holistic, child-responsive curriculum practices that consider the understandings, capabilities and dispositions that children need for future work, e.g. working in diverse environments that seek workers who are multi-skilled, literate, cooperative, creative, adaptable, independent and resourceful.

Children and teachers can have the opportunity to work together for more than one year, which enhances continuity of learning and the forming of positive relationships with teachers and children, and between children.

Because of the mixed age group, the younger children benefit from the positive models of older children, often aspiring to their levels of capability. At the same time, the older children rise to the expectations of the younger children and teacher, being very responsible and having opportunities to lend and use their expertise.

Social constructivist and critical perspectives of learning and teaching affirm the use of a multi-age classroom approach. Strategies used in this approach include:

- recognising and building on children’s diverse backgrounds, understandings and experiences
- understanding how children learn
- building connectedness between learning experiences
- acknowledging children as unique individuals with diverse and complex identities
- recognising children as active “agents” of their own learning.

**What does the research say about multi-age learning and teaching?**

- Teachers concentrate on what children can do, rather than what they can’t do. There is never any fear of failure, which builds confidence.
- Competition is removed from the classroom. There is no comparison with other children and children are always ready to “have a go”.
- Children are allowed to make choices and express themselves in many ways. Creative activities are common.

- Children’s ideas are welcomed, and can be tried out. Children feel good about themselves, which makes an excellent environment for learning.
- There is freedom of choice and exploration of many ideas, which makes learning an exciting and real part of children’s lives.
- Children enter a class where there are older children, so setting in is much easier. Older children are usually delighted to help younger ones, and this helps them to feel very worthwhile and important. Confidence grows.
- Children mix freely and are encouraged to work and play together. They learn the joys of cooperation, which leads to good citizenship.


Multi-age Learning and Teaching; Queensland Government curriculum materials; Queensland Studies Authority: 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
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<th>Class Award</th>
<th>Class Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-1W</td>
<td>Sommer A</td>
<td>Hailey U</td>
<td>Kantinan K</td>
<td>Audrey W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KC</td>
<td>Lachlan B</td>
<td>Jake H</td>
<td>Amelia S</td>
<td>Kyle J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KF</td>
<td>Leo A</td>
<td>Crystal S</td>
<td>Jacinta B</td>
<td>Bryce M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Jack F</td>
<td>Shanti M</td>
<td>Tyler C</td>
<td>William O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Sygh S</td>
<td>Addison R</td>
<td>Hailee C</td>
<td>Riley T</td>
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<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Shay H</td>
<td>Ryan E</td>
<td>Noah M</td>
<td>Nelly B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Jasmine S</td>
<td>Meiga G</td>
<td>Ben W</td>
<td>Jasmine S</td>
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<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Xanthia L</td>
<td>Judah E</td>
<td>Xenae P</td>
<td>Ellie M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2L</td>
<td>Annika S</td>
<td>Jackson E</td>
<td>Jasinta B</td>
<td>Jonnia R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Crystal J</td>
<td>Imogen F</td>
<td>Cooper H</td>
<td>Ruby T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>Chelsea M</td>
<td>Ryder E</td>
<td>Hannah W</td>
<td>Dillon J</td>
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</table>

**Class Awards**

**Contact Details**

If you have changed your home address or home/mobile phone number please advise the school office as soon as possible.

**Volunteers Needed!**

When: Fridays 9-3
Where: Taree West Public School Library
What: To cover new books for the Stage 2 Home Reading Program
Please contact the school on 65521910 if you are interested.

One hour of your time would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

T.W.P.S Literacy Committee
Lost
A pair of child’s prescription glasses were lost in the school grounds on Monday. They are pink with a snow white logo on the the side. If found please hand in to school office.

School Voluntary Contributions
In 2014 the Voluntary Contribution is $25.00 per child in years Kindergarten to Year 6. Fees can be paid directly to the Front Office. Money collected is used to purchase much needed learning materials.

Canteen News
They’re back! Fried Rice and Pasta Bolognase $2.80 each and also Pikelets – 4 for $1.00

Earn and Learn
Our Earn and Learn order has arrived in the school. This time Stage Two classes will receive the games and puzzles for their classrooms. We have tried to distribute these resources equally, with K-2 benefitting from last year’s order and Stage Three will have their turn next time.
Maree Cheney

Visit by Stephen Michael King - local children’s author
As part of our Focus on Literacy, this term our K-2 students will receive a visit from a local children’s author, Stephen Michael King on Thursday 13 March at 9:30 in the school hall. He will be talking to our students about his experiences writing and illustrating some of his well-known published works. Many of these books can be found in the school library.
Glenda Cross

Yrs 5 & 6 Canberra Excursion
Notes have been sent home for the Yr 5 & 6 Canberra excursion. This excursion will take place from Tuesday 21 October to Friday 24 October. A non-refundable deposit of $100 is required by Friday 11 April to confirm seats and enable booking to be finalised.

PBL News
This term all students have been participating in an Anti-Bullying program. The program is taught in classrooms and is an opportunity for students to talk about bullying issues as well as learning about what bullying is, effective ways to deal with bullying and how it can be minimised. Awareness is an important part of combating bullying. At present, students are working on posters for the Interrelate poster competition entitled ‘My School Without Bullying’.

Xenae Payton from 1B has been awarded the PBL Eagle Award for always displaying our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Care. Well done, Xenae!

This fortnight’s rule: Be in the right area at the right time.
Value: Responsibility

PBL Classes of the Week
By quite a good margin, the Primary PBL Class of the Week is 3/4C. Congratulations!
Congratulations to KC! They are our Infants PBL Class of the Week!

Students of the Week
Primary Student of the Week: Sophie Hawkins 4/5/6J
Infants Student of the Week: Amali-Leigh Shultz KC
Keep earning those eagle tokens Taree West!

Ms Cooper
PBL Coordinator
Community News

Want to experience the thrill and excitement of BMX?

Come & Try day
When: Saturday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March 2014
(rescheduled from February)
Time: 10.30am – 1pm
Where: Manning Valley BMX Track
Orara Lane, Taree
The sport is fast and exciting and is great exercise for kids and adults.
Suitable for total family participation.
You need to wear a long Sleeve Top, Long Pants, Shoes and Socks, Gloves
and Full face Helmet (available to loan from the club if necessary)
You will also need to bring your bike.
Free sausage sizzle
Followed by club racing
It’s great fun... see you there!
Further information
E: manningvalleybmxclub@hotmail.com