Dear Parents,

Congratulations to all our fabulous students who participated in the 100th Centenary year of celebrations for ANZAC Day on Saturday. We had a fantastic representation of students – some attending the Dawn Service for the first time (together with over 1000 others) and others who participated in the march. Despite the wet weather and hail, those present showed wonderful behaviour and respect for those brave man and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Thankyou everyone, for taking a small amount of time from your day to pay your respects and to support and encourage our students to continue their understanding and appreciation for the meaning of ANZAC Day. We had 40 students out of 51 who participated in the day in some way. Congratulations everyone and thankyou to our school leaders who played such a great part, to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Greaney who helped me on the day and to our parents who helped out with umbrellas for the students. (I have one very nice black and white original style umbrella with a frilled black edging).

Our first dance lessons began on Wednesday, with the students participating enthusiastically with some complicated moves! A reminder to parents who have not paid to please do so as it would be disappointing for the children to have to sit and watch the others. Lessons continue each Wednesday this term – the cost of $3.00 per student per week is also being subsidised by the school.

Congratulations to Alauralee Bowditch and Claire Lievens who were both selected to represent the school in the Highlands Touch football team. Well done to all our students who participated in the trials and thankyou to the parents who took the students to Tumut.
This week Mrs Hillier will be participating in three days of training for numeracy. She will be attending the Targeting Early Numeracy course being held at Gundagai Primary School. Mrs Jackson will be teaching the class in Mrs Hillier’s absence. Ms Dickinson will continue to support her students as normal throughout Monday.

Unfortunately I have had to move the start of our QEA back one week due to Mrs Hillier being away and I will also be away for the afternoon attending training in Wagga. These groups will commence next Tuesday, 5th May. If there are any parents or community members who would be interested in conducting a group activity (for each Tuesday afternoon 2.00 – 3.10pm approx) over 5 - 6 weeks, please let me know.

Don’t forget to return your permission note to school and your money for the bus. If you are ordering lunch, then these orders should have been returned last Friday. The bus will leave school at 9.15 next Monday morning (4th May) and will return in time for the afternoon bus run. Parents are welcome to travel to Bongongo for the day – it is a lovely day out, however all students must travel to Bongongo on the bus. You may return at the conclusion of your child’s race if you wish – as long as you advise me of your intentions on the day. All students will need to wear their sports uniform (with short sleeved shirts and shorts or skort) so that they are not trying to run in heavy, hot tracksuit pants and their jumper. They will need their tracksuit, jumper and possibly a jacket in case it is cold/wet). Please make sure they have appropriate footwear that fits; for running. Our training at school will continue this week and for those students who qualify for the Highlands Carnival or Regional Carnival, training will continue (Highlands Carnival Monday 18th May and Thursday 11th June respectively).

Don’t forget Hannah Woodford our Speech pathologist will be visiting school this Tuesday afternoon to speak with parents. Letters for parents are attached to your newsletters to come along at 2.00pm for any parents who are interested in gaining some ideas to support your children, an open forum is being held at 3.30pm in the room at the top of the stairs (P & C meeting room). Tea and coffee will be available for you in the staffroom.

The P & C will be conducting a special Mothers’ Day stall to be held at school on Wednesday 6th May from 1.30pm. All students will be able to bring money to school on the day to purchase an item for Mum. Items range in cost from 50c - $5.00, so there will be something that everyone can afford. There will also be free gift wrapping and cards on the day with P & C members kindly volunteering their services. There will also be a raffle on the day with a fantastic mother’s day pack.
Leave

This week on Wednesday, Mrs Matthews will be going on leave and she will return to school on Tuesday 19th May. I’m sure she will have a wonderful time, enjoying the warmer climate in Bali. Have fun Mrs Matthews.

Riverina Central Choir

Claire Lievens, Rylee Byrne and Opal Kothe-Champion will be traveling to Wagga this Wednesday for their next choir practise session. They will be working with a guest vocal coach from Sydney for this workshop.

Sounds of the Mountains

This week Hayley Booby and Daniel Anderson will present our report on Sounds of the Mountains, whilst next week we won’t be able to do our report as we will be at Bongongo for Cross Country.

Creative Catchment Project

This term Ms Sini will be working with four of our senior students to develop a Creative Catchment Project. The four students chosen are Kynan Crossley, Thomas Casnave, Claire Lievens and Lizzie Byron and they will work with representatives of the Catchment team who will visit the school on Friday 8th May. The students will be required to conduct an action research project about an environmental issue of concern. This year the topic is noxious weeds. The students will be required to investigate the problem of noxious weeds in the area and come up with creative solutions to address the problem. Other students in the class will be involved in and displaying the art work for the project. This will be an exciting challenging and practical Quality Engagement Activity.

Major Excursion – Sydney Years 3 - 6

Don’t forget our major excursion to Sydney which is a week away from 31st August. It would be advisable to think about making a payment contribution again now, so that it is not such a burden to find the money all at once when we get to Term 3. Any amount paid towards the costs is a sensible approach.

Stewart House Donation Envelope

Don’t forget to return your envelope with a small donation for Stewart House so you can participate in the draw to win a $4000 holiday to a destination of your choice.

P & C Meeting

Don’t forget to come along to our P & C meeting this Wednesday evening at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and discuss our School Plan, QEA and any other issues or ideas.

Hats

As we move into the coolers months it is no longer compulsory for the students to wear their hats during Terms 2 & 3.

Portfolios

Thankyou to those students who have returned their school portfolios from last year. There are still a large number that haven’t been returned. Could everyone please check where their portfolio has been put and please return it to school as soon as you are able so that we don’t have to chase them up. Thankyou.
The calendar for May is attached for your information. Boy it’s busy! Please keep this on your fridge and add any relevant information as it comes.

School Plan

Last Monday, the Strategic Directions for our School Plan 2015 – 2017 were uploaded to the School’s Website. If you have not already had a look, please do so – you may want to add some comments or ideas at our P & C meeting.

In this plan, our school focus is on the development of the whole child.

Our Annual School report for 2014 will soon be completed and uploaded to this site as well.

School Banking

Don’t forget to send in your Westpac School Banking. Banking will be collected every Wednesday.

Nutrition Snippet

This week’s Cancer Council Nutrition Snippet “The simplest way to make a healthy afternoon tea” is attached. Information is provided by the Cancer Council.

PBL Weekly Focus Area

This week our focus areas for PBL will be “Sports Shed” in the playground and “Work Habits” for our Classroom. These two areas complement each other well, as respect, responsibility and care in these two areas are important in helping to lead a balanced life.

Playground – Sports Shed

Respect: Keep equipment tidy.

Responsibility: Return equipment when finished.

Care: Look after equipment. Report problems.

Classroom – Work Habits

Respect: Look after equipment. Follow teacher instructions. Respect other’s right to work.


Care: Neat bookwork. Careful work.

Please discuss our focus areas with your children this week.

PBL Uniform Winners

Congratulations to our weekly uniform award winners for Week 1: Josie Warren, Kynan Crossley, Chris Afuang.
David Foster. Well done everyone.

Healthy Recess and Lunch

Congratulations to our healthy recess and lunch awards winners for Week 1
Recess award – Opal Kothe-Champion
Lunch award – Makena Hourn

PBL Achievement

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved the following levels in our PBL welfare system.

**RED:** Hayley Booby, Dylan Manns, Harri Ralph, Angel Clark

**GREEN:** Gabrielle Butcher, Zak Anderson, Jordan Paton, Meg Wheeler, Jade Harvey, Braith Winner, Indi Tyson, Aiden Morris, Miah Hosking

**PINK:** Shanti Kothe-Champion, Greg Clarke, Kynan Paton.

Home Reading

Congratulations to the following students who have reach 20 and 40 nights Home Reading.

**20 Nights**

Samantha Crooks

**40 Nights**

Lizzie Byron, Gabrielle Butcher, Angel Clark, Hayley Booby, Jess Crooks, Opal Kothe-Champion, Claire Lievens, Zak Anderson, Dylan Manns, Jordan Paton - These students will be able to choose a books from the wide selection of quality literature for our Home Reading program. Congratulations everyone.

Student of the Week

4/5/6 – Kynan Crossley – For his contribution and interest in our ANZAC Day activities and for improved effort in cursive handwriting.

2/3 – Shanti Kothe-Champion – Improving her handwriting.

K/1 – Makena Hourn – For improved reading skills.

Catch of the Week

4/5/6 - Claire Lievens – Always being lined up promptly following PBL rules.

2/3 – Greg Clarke – Trying extra hard to listen to and follow instructions.

K/1 – Samantha Crooks – Always showing respect in the classroom.

Pip 😊
CANTEEN

Wednesday 29th April – Rebecca Morris & Jenna Morris

Friday 1st May – Cheryl Lanyon & Shan Bowditch

Monday 4th May – Cross Country