

THE BIDGEE SCHOOL

Newsletter

TERM 3, WEEK 10 Friday 22nd September 2017

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From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic term we've had, with celebrating Educational Support Dog, Humphrey's Birthday, designing our Bidgee Tree of Belonging, which is to take pride of place in the entry to the admin building and welcome news of our expansion next year. More about that to come next term.

We are planning on holding our annual Presentation Day Ceremony on Wednesday December 13th so please keep that day free to celebrate the achievements of our young people.

Term 3 has seen a number of new students commence and successfully settle into their new school. Well done and welcome to those students. We also congratulate Judy Schutte on her permanent appointment as SLSO.

A reminder to all parents that students are expected to attend school everyday that it is open during the year unless there is a legitimate reason. A number of students are arriving at school well after the day has started and therefore missing out on prime learning time. School starts promptly at 9am and finishes at 2.30. Students are expected to attend everyday for the whole day.

Following is a report from each class detailing some of the activities/learning experiences they have been involved in this term.

Students will commence Term 4 2017 on Monday 9th October 2017

Class 1 Karen

Thank you Class 1 for another excellent term. How quickly the year has flown. We have continued our commitment to writing this term by experimenting with writing poetry and other

short pieces. We have explored figurative language and how this can enhance our writing. Here is a sample of a few pieces of writing:

Love is:

Love is like a warm hum embracing your body
Love is like sweet kisses
Love is like beautiful eyes looking into your heart
Love is like a soft chirping in your ears
Love is like soft smooth skin
Love is like thousands of roses surrounding you

A Boy Named Billy:

There once was a boy named Billy. He felt woebegone because someone farted in the room! His eyes became droopy and his grin was no more. His body slumped to the ground until someone came in with deodorant and sprayed it all around the room. Billy felt wonderful!! His smile was wide and clear. His body stood tall and straight. His eyes were open wide. Billy felt exhilarated.

In Geography we have been exploring the impact of our ecological footprint. I have been impressed with the way the students have worked together as a team to complete tasks. We have continued BEEP this term with most students choosing woodwork or cooking. In woodwork students have made an iPhone speaker, a toolbox and are currently completing a camping stool. The chefs of the class have been cooking up a storm and have explored different recipes and different ways to cook familiar foods.

Once again thank you Class 1 for your sense of humour, your commitment to learning and for making it easy to come to school each day. Have a fabulous holiday!

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Class 2 Ben

Class Two has been a very busy, productive class this term. Often having 5, 6 or 7 students in the room meant students had to deal with extra voices and more movement in the room, while focussing on their own learning. I was pleased to see students who were able to ignore these distractions and practice using HOW2Learn strategies and focus on their own behaviour choices.

We have begun to have lessons using the MindUp program, which teaches students a basic core practice involving deep breathing. This helps students to be in the right frame of mind for learning by being mindful and focusing their attention where it needs to be. Lessons have involved listening to sound, smelling and tasting different foods and calming activities.

In HSIE students learnt about the Australian Gold Rush of the 1850's. Students used critical thinking to decide what items would be their priorities to bring if they were transported back to the gold fields. Many students also enjoyed creating and participating in a quiz at the end of term to consolidate what had been learnt during the term. Using the Kahoot website to create a quiz, then test our classmates made the task enjoyable for all students.

Have a safe and happy holidays and we will see you all at the beginning of Term Four!

ART Class 2 Rochelle

Class 2 have been working through art stations this term, with multiple options for them to choose from each week. Students have been doing acrylic painting on canvas, spray painting patterns on canvas (both individual and as a class), origami, colouring mandalas, face painting, scratch art, making masks, Art Hub and beading bracelets. Students have had fun creating their own art work during some lessons, and then building on their social skills and working with a partner or group for other activities.

Class 3 Michelle

This term has been packed with learning

adventures and has flown by very quickly. For those students who made positive choices and showed growth in Term 2, this term began with a trip to the snow fields. By all accounts participants had a great day and were exhausted when they returned to Wagga Wagga.

Some older students in Class 3 participated in TVET, congratulations to Jordan for completing his TVET Automotive course. Jordan and Bevan should be proud of themselves for challenging themselves and being open minded when engaging in work experience at a local Welding business and Diesel mechanics.

All students in Class 3 were highly engaged in Geography and learnt about sustainable living and leaving smaller ecological footprints. Students will carry over into Term 4, to build on their knowledge of sustainable living. Students demonstrated their learning in a number of lively discussions around fair trade, inequality in terms of consumerism and the changes one person can make in their daily life.

Class 3 continued to develop their writing skills when producing entertaining recounts, I enjoyed reading students recounts about the snow excursion, Water World and Flip Out. I was impressed by student's commitment to completing all stages of the writing process from planning through to proofreading and editing.

Finally well done to all students in Class 3, I appreciate the effort you have put in this Term and have enjoyed your company immensely. Have a safe holiday and I will see you in Term 4.

Class 4 Shaun

Every student in class 4 has given their very best not only this term, but this year. Everyone has settled in to their new routine and are increasingly attempting more difficult tasks for longer periods of time in order to improve their learning. We began our "Brain Science" curriculum this term called "Mind Up. Students are

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learning about how their brain works and responds to different messages from the environment. They are picking up strategies for changing their response for when things don't happen how we would like them to. A big part of Mind Up is taking the time to be mindful, and I congratulate all our students for taking on this new learning.

This term we revised mathematics concepts of time, money fractions and multiplication. In literacy we began our Macqlit program aimed at improving word attack skills in reading. Every student who has engaged fully in the program and seen growth in their reading confidence and ability in a short amount of time.

Students have continued to grow in the area of Creative Arts, showing they have beautiful singing voices and creating a terrific still life picture of a vase of flowers. Students have also enjoyed our Gymnastics sessions down at Airborne Gym. I am looking forward to another term of fun, growth and development after the holidays. Have a safe break, and I will see you in two weeks.

Wellbeing Carol

This term we deepened our exploration of rational thought and worry. We uncovered the five ThoughtHoles linked to worry and oriented toward practices that bring more accuracy to our thoughts. We continued to develop our unique creative expression to support emotional regulation and engaged in diverse contemplative practices to nurture and nourish self-awareness and creativity. Together, we experienced positive development in mood, attention, communication, self-regulation and self-esteem. Thanks to all for a wonderful term of learning. Best wishes for safe, restful and happy holidays.

Science Rochelle

Theory

Students have been studying the unit of work 'Health and Disease' during Science this term. Throughout this unit students have studied Pandemics including Smallpox, Influenza, Tubercu-

losis and The Black Death. Classes have looked at the topic of Health through nutrition, exercise and wellbeing. Students have been challenged with scenarios to evaluate their own learning progress. We have learnt about Pathology with a case study on Legionnaire's disease. Students have studied Aboriginal Health, looking at both the traditional diet and modern diet, traditional medicine and introduction of European diseases. Classes have gone into learning about micro-organisms which cause diseases and learnt the difference between bacteria and viruses. From here we have studied transmission of diseases and looked at acquired immunity through antibodies.

Practical

Students have been involved in many hands-on Science experiments this term. These have been set up as Science stations which the class rotates through. One experiment involved students growing a stalactite over a period of 3 weeks which creates a formation resembling that of a stalactite in limestone caves. We have been making volcanoes and experimenting with Mentos in Coke. Students have also been experimenting with cornflour and water, finding that it converts between a solid and liquid. We have written secret messages with lemon juice which have then been revealed through exposure to heat. Students have also discovered that eggs in water will sink, however eggs in salt water will float. Students have made borax-based slime and also home-made play-dough. Classes have conducted an experiment to make their own plastic. We have also spent time on engineering designs to construct a theme park out of paddle-pop sticks and related materials. This has been furthered into the construction of Lego projects. Students have learnt about the formation of rain and conducted a symbolic experiment.

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PD/H/PE Rochelle

Theory

Students have been studying the unit of work 'Drug Education' this term. We have been learning about caffeine including what foods and drinks it is found in and the effects it can have on the body. Students have also done work on smoking. Class discussions on multiple scenarios has had students thinking about different options there are in hypothetical situations. We have discussed peer pressure and analysed what chemicals and products go into making a cigarette. Classes have also learnt about alcohol, including the effects it can have on the body as well as decision making. We have also completed research projects into both legal and illegal drugs, where students have learnt the difference between the two.

Practical

Students have participated in a variety of sports during PDHPE this term. Classes have done boxing for fitness, cricket, basketball games, soccer games and football drills. Some students have had the opportunity to participate in bike riding at school. We have also participated in mindful walking during some PDHPE sessions this term, with our school therapy dog Humphrey.



**Term 4 2017
will commence for
all students on
Monday
9th October 2017**

*Regards,
Marianne Mitchell
Principal*