



# NEWSLETTER

STUDENT NEWS FROM BALRANALD CENTRAL SCHOOL

21 MAY 2013

ISSUE 13

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Notes to be returned to the school's front office:

ICAS Competitions due

Physical Activity & Sports Studies due 22 May 2013

Inaugural Riverina Regional Youth Mental Health Forum – Leeton due 24 May 2013

Secondary Zone Athletics due 29 May 2013

### Parent/Teacher Interviews

Wednesday, 22 May  
in the Library

## BCS @ UTS



Last week, five lucky Balranald Central School Students were given the opportunity to experience university life along with seven other schools from Country Education Foundation communities located in rural NSW. *Please read full report on page 4 of this Newsletter.*

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Please note change of date:

Tuesday, 21 May

*In the Library*

*From 3pm to 5.30pm*



Education & Communities

# PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVES

Welcome to all parents and students to week four of term two. Last week saw the school hold its Athletics Carnival on Friday. A clear cold start to the day with a cloudy end was the backdrop with an impressive number of students taking part in most events. Most age groups were very competitive all day with students participating in track and field events. The Year 12 students played their part with their theme of superheros highlighting some very imaginative costumes. Needless to say there were no reports of any criminal activity while they were in attendance. Their efforts at building participation in the various roles they have were very commendable. The food was absolutely fantastic with the efforts of the P & C ladies on the BBQ, plus the many cakes that families brought in for the day were greatly appreciated by everyone. Combined with jelly cups, drinks sold by the SRC students and soups provided by the Year 12 students and helpers were all much in demand during the day.

From all accounts the group of lucky students who participated in the UTS University experience all had a very worthwhile time. The entire group have a number of stories to tell about what they managed to see and the many people they had conversations with. I'm quite sure they will be in a daze for a little while as they bring together all the information and experiences they have had during their time away. From some of the feedback there are few students who have revised their career goals as a result of what they discovered.

Last week we found out that both Tamara Bax and Jessica Leggatt had made the finals of the Riverina section of the NSW State Training Awards. This is a fantastic achievement for both young ladies and is testament to their hard work across the board. They will be attending the night for awardees when the representative for Riverina is announced on 13 June in Wagga Wagga.

Can I thank all the kind people who have supported the school and parents in the seemingly endless variety of fundraisers. In order to be fair on all the various groups who will need to access this stream of support, the school must clearly know which fundraisers have been planned for any event. As a school I have asked staff organising any excursions that they limit the number of fundraising events to only three for each activity. Even with this limit there will be a huge number of these happening in the next few weeks and the rest of the year. While I admire the enthusiasm of parents and carers striving to reduce costs for excursions there does need to be a limit for everyone's sake. Any fundraising activity associated with a school based event falls under the schools banner and as such needs to be approved. If we could all be mindful of this as we rapidly approach a

fundraising apocalypse it would be very appreciated by all members of the community.

Last week saw our Year 3, 5 7 and 9 students sitting their NAPLAN assessments. The week was in many ways impacted by this as the three mornings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each had an assessment to be negotiated by these students. I have it on good authority that Friday's carnival was a very welcome respite from all this.

This week will see the Book Fair operate in the library on Tuesday afternoon. I hope as many parents as possible get a chance to have a look at the range of wears. The theme of this Book Fair is "Possum Magic" which fits in with work being done by the K/1/2 class as well as their planned excursion to Mildura to see one of the last outings of these characters. I know there is a story melded in there somewhere but it escapes me at present.

This week will also see the school's first parent/ teacher afternoon for the year on Wednesday. This is an important time to get a conversation happening with the class teacher so that we can all be working together in improving every student's outcomes. It is vital that we share where each child's learning is at so that we can assist each other in progressing to the next in class learning goal.

Students in Year 7 to 10 will be sitting their half yearly examinations in the Hall next week. This is a chance for them to show what they have learned during the last twenty weeks of school time. As we all seriously do the Maths, I'm imagining some curious expressions? If we remember our secondary students started their study in this year's courses at the end of last year, with five weeks of work. I suspect that many of us will have forgotten this as I am sure most students have. This makes the need for revision even more important.

So make sure your kids give themselves the best chance possible in the lead up to examinations by looking over work that has been done in the past. Better still do some practice and share ideas with other peers. All these things help enormously. Give it a try and see what the result is.

Once again we have made an impressive start to the term with a full book of activities. Not that this will reduce too much in the coming weeks.

All the best.

# Primary Ponderings

## NAPLAN

Last week primary students from Years 3 and 5 joined their high school counterparts from Years 7 and 9 to sit the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (**NAPLAN**). All of our students are to be commended for the positive attitude they displayed during the sitting of the four assessments.

## Stage 2 and 3 Excursions

Expressions of interest have been sent home for the Year 3/4 student's excursion to Borambola Sport and Recreation Camp; these are due back by Monday 27 May with a non-refundable \$30 deposit. Fortnightly instalments for Year 5/6 students attending the Ballarat excursion are being accepted at the front office with payment 2 of \$35 due Friday 24 May.

## PreService Teachers

We would like to welcome Mrs Gina Haines and Miss Zoe Fuller to Balranald Central School as they complete their teaching practicum. Mrs Haines, in her first year of study at Charles Sturt University, is in the K/1/2 classroom and has enjoyed her first week with our very busy group of students. She has another week to spend with Mrs Lockhart, finishing this Friday. Miss Fuller, in her third year of study at LaTrobe University, will be joining the students in Year 3/4 for three weeks. I hope both Mrs Haines and Miss Fuller enjoy their time at Balranald Central School.

## Welcome Mrs Gaston

Welcome to Mrs Janaya Gaston who will be taking the Year 5/6 class while Mrs Linnett takes long service leave for three weeks.

## Athletics Carnival

On Friday our primary students ran, jumped, leapt and shot the put. They were wearing their red and green with pride, cheering on Mungo and Yanga with gusto. Lots of students bettered their personal best, putting in a big effort in every activity. It was particularly pleasing to see those students who are not regular participants in athletics having a go and doing their best. See full report in next week's Newsletter.

## Literacy and Numeracy Tips for Parents

As children move into the upper primary years, they are beginning to investigate the world beyond home and school and are moving towards becoming more independent learners.

Below are a few activities to help your child in this journey:

- use language that encourages thinking and reflection such as 'do you agree with what was written in that newspaper article or story?' — have your child locate sources within the story or text to support their point of view
- talk about movies you have seen — discuss why a filmmaker may have created a movie in a certain way, the purpose of the film, the intended audience and what points of view or values are conveyed. Talk about language choices and why characters are represented in certain ways
- help your child plan and create a budget and discuss how to maintain it — you could focus on saving for a particular item that they would like to purchase
- play card and board games together.

## 2013 ICAS Competitions

The entry fee per student is as follows:



### Closing Date

English 03/07/13  
Mathematics 16/07/13  
ALL of the above

### Cost

\$ 8.00  
\$ 8.00  
\$60.00



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please tick choices to be entered:

- ☐ English (\$ 8.00)  
☐ Mathematics (\$ 8.00)  
☐ ALL of the above (\$60.00)

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:     /     /



## University Excursion

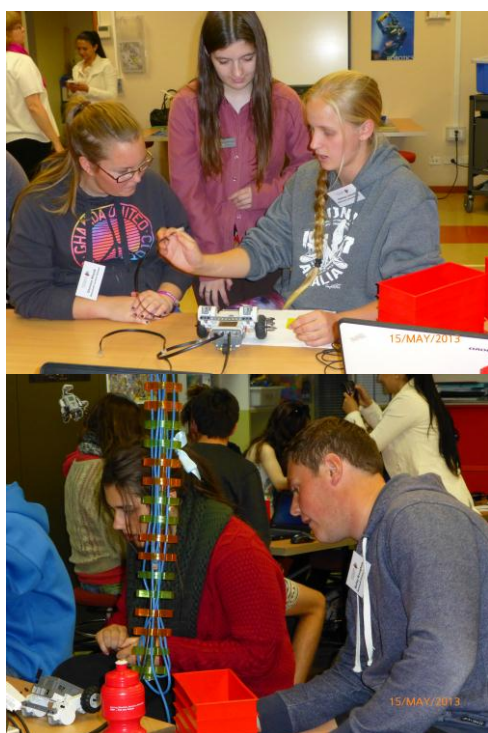
This trip was fully funded by the University of Technology Sydney, Macquarie University and the Country Education Foundation Australia. This meant that students were not restricted by cost to attend the week. All schools were lucky enough to be flown to Sydney and provided with opportunities that they wouldn't normally access.

On the University front, at Macquarie University students had the opportunity to attend vocal workshops and play with robotics in the Engineering faculty. Students were also given a taste of student life when they toured the accommodation. Macquarie opened up its world class sporting facilities and students were able to participate in a Hip Hop dance class.

At UTS, students joined Western Sydney schools and had the opportunity to select workshops in Engineering, Education, Nursing, IT, Business, Science and Law. This once again was an eye opener as students navigated their way around a very busy and complex inner city campus.

Recreation activities included ice skating, a visit to the Powerhouse Museum and the highlight was a quick sail on the harbour before we had to catch our plane.

I would like to commend students Bailey Brougham, Chelsea Campbell, Kaitley Linnett, Sally Cocks and Gabi Ryan on the way in which they represented our school on the trip. They were a credit to our school, their families and our community. It was a pleasure to spend the week with them. I know from talking to them, that they now have a greater appreciation for what university is and what it can offer.



## UPCOMING ART COMPETITIONS:

### Young Australian ART Awards

Students can enter computer art, drawings, paintings, and photography. Artwork is judged in three categories: Junior (k-4), Middle (year 5-8) and Senior (Year 9 – 12)

**AWARDS: HONOURABLE MENTION** Presented for work worthy of recognition on a national level.

**GOLD AWARD** Most exceptional works in all categories. Up to 15 Gold Medals awarded.

**SILVER AWARD** High honours in each category.

**DUE: 4TH OCTOBER**

### NRMA Bicycle NSW Artwork Design Competition

Students design a helmet that is BRIGHT, ORIGINAL and can be worn by ANYONE who wants to ride a bike.

**First prize:** The winning design will be made into a real helmet available in shops and online. It's a work of art you can wear!

**Runner up prizes:** Nine lucky regional winners will also receive a bike and helmet package. Plus eighteen lucky regional winners will receive a pack of cycling accessories.

**DUE: 29TH JUNE**

**Please see Miss Woods if you would like to enter or would like some more information.**

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Jessica Leggatt and Tamara Bax on making the finals of the Riverina leg of the NSW State Training Awards. There are only three spots in the final and Balranald Central School has two of these.

A big thank you to the girls employers – Balranald Early Learning Centre – Tamara Bax and Bidgee Haven Hostel (Balranald Shire Council) – Jessica Leggatt.

Good luck to both girls. Winners will be announced at a dinner in Wagga on the June 13.

Stay tuned for the results.

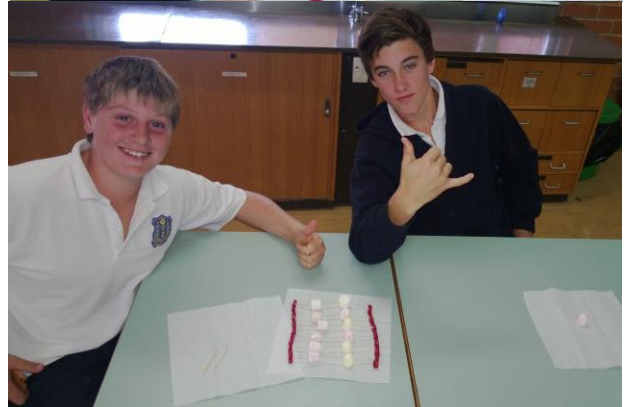
A large red starburst graphic with a white outline, containing text about Canteen Corner.

Canteen Corner

**RED DAY**  
**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Making DNA and eating it TOO!!!!**

This term in Year 9 Science, the students are learning all about life. We are currently looking at the building blocks of life. To give the students a break after their NAPLAN examination, we built a model of DNA from raspberry licorice, marshmallows and tooth picks. This model allows students to form an understanding of what DNA is made out of and how all the elements connect together. We will be looking further into DNA and discovering how DNA is the basis of all living organisms.



Balranald Hospital Auxiliary  
are holding the  
Biggest Morning Tea

Friday, 24th May  
RSL Function Room  
10am  
(Gold Coin Donation)



## TERM TWO – 2013

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 4 B</b>	<b>20 MAY</b> <i>Merit Awards due for processing</i> <u>Exec meeting</u> PSSA Netball Trials Art Club @ 3pm <b>P&amp;C Meeting @ 6pm</b>	<b>21</b> Homework Club @ 3pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Secondary Sports Day Cross Country	<b>24</b> Primary Sports Day Primary Assembly
<b>Week 5 A</b>	<b>27 MAY</b> <u>Exec meeting</u> Art Club @ 3pm	<b>28</b> Homework Club @ 3pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Secondary Sports Day	<b>31</b> Primary Sports Day Zone Athletics @ Finley
<b>Week 6 B</b>	<b>3 JUNE</b> <i>Merit Awards due for processing</i> <u>Exec meeting</u> Art Club @ 3pm Work Experience	<b>4</b> Homework Club @ 3pm Work Experience	<b>5</b> Work Experience	<b>6</b> Secondary Sports Day Work Experience	<b>7</b> Primary Sports Day Primary Assembly Work Experience
<b>Week 7 A</b>	<b>10 JUNE</b> <b>Queen's Birthday</b>	<b>11</b> Riverina PSSA Cross Country	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Secondary Sports Day	<b>14</b> Primary Sports Day Secondary Cross Country <b>Bronze &amp; Silver Awards due for processing for Whole School Assembly</b>
<b>Week 8 B</b>	<b>17 JUNE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Secondary Sports Day	<b>21</b> Primary Sports Day
<b>Week 9 A</b>	<b>24 JUNE</b> <u>Exec meeting</u>	<b>25</b> Whole School Assembly @11.00 am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Secondary Sports Day	<b>28</b> Primary Sports Day Last Day of Term 2

*Italic:* K-Yr 6    *Normal:* Yr 7-12    **Bold:** K-Yr 12

## Students of the Week

For Week 4 Term 2, 2013:

K/Year 1/2    Logan Gaston  
Year 3/4    Alex Calleja  
Year 5/6    Tanisha Stevens

