



# NEWSLETTER

STUDENT NEWS FROM BALRANALD CENTRAL SCHOOL

27 June 2022 ISSUE 10

## INSIDE

### *Year 1-2 having fun at the Discovery Centre Park*

On Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June Year 1-2 were invited along with our Secondary sport walking group to participate in a video and photography shoot at the Discovery Centre. The Discovery Centre Precinct was identified as eligible for the National Experience Content Initiative (NECI), a Tourism Australia project delivered in collaboration with Destination NSW.

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# PRINCIPAL'S PONDERINGS

It is hard to believe that the “Shine your light” term is at an end, and we are focusing on our assembly on Wednesday and NAIDOC on Friday. The theme for NAIDOC this year is “Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!” and whether it’s seeking proper environmental and cultural protections, constitutional change, working towards treaties, or calling out racism—the theme implies that we must do it together. It is also time to celebrate the many who have driven and led change in our communities over generations and been champions of change, of equal rights and even basic human rights.

Getting Up, Standing Up, and Showing Up can take many forms and hopefully on Friday we can convey the positive relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians which is based on justice, equity, and recognition of peoples’ rights. My thanks in advance to Danelle Gervasi, Pam Barker for their organisation and the various staff members who are fulfilling roles on the day.

Last week I read all the student academic reports and was pleased with the progress of most students who are making a genuine attempt with their studies. Some need to begin shining their academic light by setting some realistic goals and acting on them. My thanks to all the teaching staff for their efforts with assessment, marking and report writing over the past few weeks and to Mrs Matarazzo for her coordination of this operation.

Our Secondary students will hopefully shine their light this Thursday when the 4th BEAR period of 2022 is due. I am reasonably concerned about the level of absenteeism with some of our students and the impact that this has on their level of achievement. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 20 days per year, negatively affects a student’s academic performance. Hopefully, our number of Blue BEARs will be on the improve however my concerns are for the students who seem to be floundering with their engagement which can be partially attributed to poor attendance.

The Petaurus Education Group made an offer to students in Years 7 - 10 to participate in a second book writing project about intergenerational farming in Balranald. The book talks about generational farming and how the practices have changed over the years. It should be a great read and I am looking forward to the finished product.

I am looking forward to seeing all our parents at Parent/Teacher afternoon on Wednesday 29th June from 3:30-6:30pm. If you are having trouble booking in with a staff member, please ring Admin.

The Whole School Assembly on Wednesday afternoon is based on the “Shine Your Light” theme. I had the pleasure of listening to Julia Baird speak the other day and she happened to be talking about Phosphorescence. Julia is a journalist, broadcaster and author based in Sydney and she hosts The Drum on ABCTV and writes columns for the Sydney Morning Herald and the New York Times. In her speech, Julia challenged the audience to embrace new habits and to adopt a phosphorescent outlook on life, to illuminate themselves even in the darkest times. Julia talked about how she was able to cultivate her own inner phosphorescence and how it allowed her to persevere through the most challenging of circumstances. She talked about affirming our purpose and how we make ourselves strong for that purpose.

Word of the week is “phosphorescence” (a glow or soft light which is produced in the dark without using heat.).

My saying this week comes from Julia Baird “Seek awe and nature daily... show kindness; practise grace; eschew vanity; be bold; embrace friends, family, faith and doubt, imperfection, and mess; and live deliberately.”

I hope that everyone has an awesome holiday break!

*Gus Comí*

# PRIMARY PERSPECTIVE

## Gundagai – Riverina Cross Country

As we got out of the car, we could feel the butterflies in our tummies. Looking at the other competitors and the running track our legs were already sore. Everyone walked the track to know where to go. There were kids that ran through the mud as the track was wet, muddy, slippery and had cow poo on it. It was pouring rain as we were about to start our race, our lips were blue, and we were freezing cold in our singlets and shorts.

Oscar – 28/60  
Imogen – 43/45  
Sarah – 44/45  
Jaxon – 44/45



We all tried our best and enjoyed the experience. Thank you to our parents for taking us.

*Oscar and Ryan*

## Year 1-2 in NSW Tourism Advertisement promoting Balranald

On Wednesday afternoon Year 1-2 got ready to go to the Discovery Centre. We walked safely in two lines to the park.

At the park I played on the swing, and I went to the slide to go down. The reason I was at the park was to be in a video to promote Balranald with NSW Tourism. Joel was filming the movie and Paul was taking the photos of Year 1-2 playing on the playground.

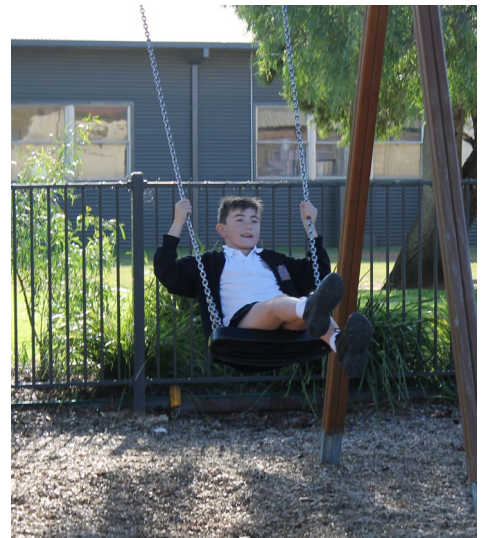
It was fun!

*Layne*



On Wednesday, Year 1-2 got ready to go to the Discovery Centre. We walked there and we made an ad for NSW Tourism. The ad will go on TV to promote Balranald to the people in the city. When we were finished, we got a lolly pop, then we walked slowly back to school.

*Sophie*



## Attendance in Semester One 2022 ...How are YOU going?

You may not realise this, but the most important page in the Semester One report that went home last week is the front cover. We all know that **'Every Day Counts'** at school – and when we take time to look at absences over a semester, we know that a high number of absences WILL impact on grades and comments as we turn the pages in a school report. HOW MANY DAYS ABSENT DID YOU HAVE?

**Firstly, congratulations to the 35 students at school who have attended 95%+ this semester. YOU have made the most of every learning opportunity.**

Harper Barnes	Emma Sutton	Sheridan Dalton
Mylah Burkinshaw -100%	Mitchell Thomson	Rhiannon Lanteri
Tyson Pout	Will Cimino	Helaina Alderuccio
Leighton Soille	Sienna Comitti	Isaac Geroulis
Karson Barnes	Shania Lanteri	Lilian Matarazzo
Layne Burkinshaw	Taylor Thomson	Harry Ross
Dempsy Cimino	Evie Michaels	Livitikus Booth
Josh Comitti	Kyron Michaels	Camden Matarazzo
Cash Hutchinson	Evie Priest – 100%	Jackson Bialobrzkeski
Beau Muscat	Ella Stevens	April Manning
Imogen Gervasi	Armordais Booth	Stuart Matarazzo

But what if you aren't someone on the list above for 95%+ attendance?

You might think 90% is a good attendance rate. After all, it's 'almost' 100%...

But this actually means you have missed between 5 and 9 days of school this semester. That's almost TWO WEEKS of school time. In half a year 😊

The next tier of attendance is 85%+. This means you might have had 10-13 days absent. I'm now going to ask, was this you? What can you do to turn this around for Semester Two?

Once students are attending less than 80%, I have to meet with the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) in Deniliquin and explain the missed days and discuss strategies to improve school attendance. Although there are a lot of explained absences that can't be helped, we can all make sure that we don't add to this with *"a day here, a day there"* over a semester.

On a final note: if you have missed more than 20 days of school, this means you have missed more than ¼ of the semester. That's less than 75%. I'm hoping no one fits this category in Semester Two.

**Let's make it a school goal for EVERYONE to attend school more than 90% next term!**

*Mrs Matarazzo*

## Year 8-10 Petaurus Writing Group

BCS was approached by Petaurus Education Group this year to participate in a second book writing project about intergenerational farming in Balranald. Thanks to a suggestion made to the founder of Petaurus by Ron Murray during the first book project that Year 7 are currently working on, an offer was made to all students in Year 8, 9 and 10 who might be keen to research the Matarazzo family, as well as write, illustrate and produce a book. It is a unique experience to be involved in creating a lasting record and to be officially recognised as “published authors”.

We were joined by Fleur Cullenward, an Education Project Officer based in Hay who has helped students from many



schools produce books on people and places in the Murrumbidgee region, as well as Georgia Booth, who is currently working with Mrs Cullenward.

During our visit to ‘Hipoint’, Joe, Veny and Charlie Matarazzo shared with the writing group many stories of life as 4th generation farmers farming on Windomal Road, as well as the history of their Italian migrant background, changing farming practices over the years, and a recipe or two!

Thank you to Mrs Sharon Nelson for taking some photos that will appear in the book.

*Mrs Matarazzo & the Year 8-10 Petaurus Writing Group*



# Students of the Week

## Week 8



Kinder – Noah & Korban (absent)



Year 1-2 – Olivia & Ava (absent)



Year 3-4 – Nate & Loxlee



Year 5-6 – Ethan & Shania

## Week 9



Kinder – Saxton & Oliver (absent)



Year 1-2 – Karson & Beau



Year 3-4 – Jeanna & Navaya (absent)



Year 5-6 – Jack & Oscar

## Year 3-4

During STEM, students in Year 3-4 constructed a shelter designed to protect an animal from the rain. In pairs, the students planned their structure using various materials, taking time to evaluate their ideas and what improvements could be made to make them more successful. Students then predicted if they thought their animal would stay dry and we conducted the experiment to test their theory outside using a watering can. I was very impressed with some ideas that were used, with students showing critical thinking in their use of materials (and excessive use of sticky tape ... haha).

Mrs Amelia Calleja





# GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP!

## 3-10 JULY 2022

As NAIDOC week falls in the first week of the school holidays, we will celebrate NAIDOC on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Celebration activities will run all day. Students can come dressed in casual clothes.

*This year we will end the day with a Colour Run, so please wear or bring along a white T shirt to wear for the Colour Run. (Students wearing school shirts will not be able to participate in the Colour Run).*

There will be a free sausage sizzle at lunch time, and drinks available to purchase from the SRC for \$2.00.

### **Assistant Principal Kindness Award**

*Chloe & Olivia*





**TERM TWO - 2022**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>27 JUNE</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Wing Puppet Show @ 10am</i> <b>Whole School Assembly @ 2.00pm</b> <b>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 6.30pm</b>	<b>30</b> BEAR scores due	<b>1 JULY</b> <b>NAIDOC Day Celebrations</b> <b>Last Day of Term 2</b>

**TERM THREE - 2022**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>18 JULY</b> Staff Development Day <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>19</b> Students K-12 start	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> State Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>25 JULY</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Riverina Athletics @ Albury (Secondary)
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>1 AUGUST</b> <i>Exec meeting</i> Education Week	<b>2</b> Education Week	<b>3</b> Education Week	<b>4</b> Education Week	<b>5</b> Education Week
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>8 AUGUST</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>15 AUGUST</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>22 AUGUST</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Riverina Athletics @ Albury (Primary)
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>29 AUGUST</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> U16's Netball @ Dubbo	<b>1 SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>5 SEPTEMBER</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>12 SEPTEMBER</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Whole School Assembly/Captain Speeches @ 11.20am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>19 SEPTEMBER</b> <i>Exec meeting</i> Primary State Athletics @ Sydney	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Yr 12 Assembly @ 11.20am	<b>23</b> K-12 Sports Day <b>Last Day of Term 3</b> <b>Year 12 Formal</b>

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