



NEWSLETTER

STUDENT NEWS FROM BALRANALD CENTRAL SCHOOL

21 March 2022 ISSUE 4

Kinder learn the letter 'S'

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Kinder had been learning the letter 's', so on Friday 11th March, Blair brought in his python to show them. Kinder were looking for as many words starting with 's' as they could to put in a sentence. Mrs Helgeland made each of the kinder students a strawberry smoothy for the children to enjoy. They ended up slurping the strawberry smoothy through a straw while they watched Sally the Snake!



PRINCIPAL'S PONDERINGS

I must admit that it is great to have the COVID restrictions eased so that students and staff can engage in learning activities in a more meaningful and unrestricted fashion. Hopefully as the year moves on, we will enjoy further freedoms.

Thanks to Blair Manning for bringing in his pet snake Sally last week. She was a hit with all the students, and I can't wait for the letter Z when Mr Barrie brings in his pet Zebra for show and tell.

Our blue BEAR students (those with an average of 8.5 or above) enjoyed a BBQ last Wednesday as a reward for their engagement and achievement efforts in the first 5 weeks of school. This initiative will continue into the future, and I encourage all secondary students to strive for their personal best BEAR scores. Thanks to Mr Cutting, young Mr Comi and the SRC for their organisation of the incentive BBQ.

The first MY awards were awarded last week. The MY (Mungo- Yanga) awards are for students who display one of the four school values of Respect, Responsibility, Care and Personal Best. Zaidyn McAlister (Year 4) and Sheridan Dalton (Year 8) were the recipients for their excellent work with cleaning and restoring the Balranald Cemetery.



I would like to encourage all students to participate in the NSW Premiers' Reading Challenge. This challenge encourages children and students to read a set number of books over the year and record their efforts online. I would like to encourage all parents to pick up a book and join their children on their reading journey throughout the year.

The school is gearing up for the annual Beach Carnival which will be held at Lake Benanee on Tuesday 29th March from 10am-2pm. Students will be transported in Moore's coaches to the venue, and we have ordered a 32-degree day, so hopefully we will have as much participation as last year. Thanks in advance to Mr Cutting and Mr White for their preparation in the lead up to the day.

International Pi Day was very exciting on 3/14 with many pies being consumed and students trying to remember as many decimal places as possible. Some interesting facts about Pi are that it cannot be expressed as a fraction (called irrational) and its decimal representation never ends and never settles into a permanently repeating pattern. I can currently recall Pi to 30 decimal places and my aim is to have 100 decimal places by the end of the semester. The world record for Pi recall is held by Sharma, Suresh Kumar who recited Pi to 70030 places which took 17 hours and 14 minutes in 2015. Surely, I can remember 100 if he can do over 70000.

Word of the Week is irrational (a number that cannot be expressed as a fraction and has an infinite non-recurring expansion as a decimal)

My saying this week comes from Albert Einstein who celebrated his birthday on Pi Day "If you can't explain it to a six-year-old, you don't understand it yourself." I am reminded of this saying every time I step into the Kindergarten classroom. It highlights the challenge that teachers face daily of breaking down information into small chunks that can be easily understood by students.

Gus Comi

Deputy Principal's Message

Tests

I've started to see more students using their own headphones when completing individual tests on their laptops this week. Well done to Year 7 – I think they are leading the way on this.

If we need to consider using different learning space options over the next few weeks it is VERY important that everyone, particularly in secondary, has access to their own headphones asap.



- Headphones
- Headphones
- Headphones

Minutes lost = days lost per year
 A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss days per year
5 mins per day	= 3 days
30 mins per day	= 18 days

Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au

Attendance

The end of Semester report shows two different sets of information about attendance. Whole Days Absent and Partial Days Absent are reported on twice a year.

Please note that partial days (“a little bit late” or an “earlier finish to the school day”) add up. The HSLO (Home School Liaison Officer) will tally those days to equate with a whole day absence, when discussing attendance at BCS. Please consider this if your child runs late to school or makes plans before 3pm.

Resources

Don't forget to make use of the DET Learning from Home Hub resources if required to support learning when away from school.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home>

Mrs Matarazzo

PRIMARY PERSPECTIVE

School Starting Time

A reminder that students should not be at school prior to 8.30am each morning, as there is no supervision before this time.

Paul Kelly Cup - Deniliquin

Woody and the Primary boys have been having a few training sessions at lunch honing their skills ready for the Paul Kelly Cup on Wednesday 30th March. Good Luck to the boys.

BMX Show

Students from Kinder to Year 8 have the opportunity to attend Scott's BMX Trick Bike Show on Tuesday 22nd March at 9:30am. This is a show about self-discovery designed to encourage students on their own life journey with a can do and what if I, questioning approach.

Year 5/6 Easter Raffle

Year 5/6 students have raffle tickets to sell. The tickets cost 50c each. All proceed to go towards their main week-long excursion. Tickets can be purchased from the front office. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of Term 1 at the Easter Picnic. All students in primary are asked to donate an egg towards the raffle. Thank you to those families who have bought their eggs in.

Beach Carnival

The annual BCS Beach Carnival is on again! Notes have been sent home and activities are being organised. Please make sure notes have been handed in by Friday, 25th March.

Good to Great School

BCS Primary has partnered with Good to Great School Australia. Good to Great School Australia support Australian education systems and communities to help their schools successfully deliver 21st-century programs that meet the needs of all their students. They have decades of experience developing and implementing innovative education solutions. The Good to Great School education model is based on extensive research supported by international evidence. They invest substantially in innovation and continuous improvement through co-design with students, families, teachers, school education systems and education experts. They form strategic partnerships and collaborate with experts who have decades of experience in large-scale school implementations.

At BCS we are working with the GGS on Writing, Mathematics and Science. Writing and Science have commenced in most classes, Mathematics will start in all primary class in Term 2.

Footy Trials – Leeton

Thank you to Sarah Old and Stacey Johnstone and Jeana Murray for getting out of bed extra early and travelling to Leeton so that our boys could participate in the AFL Trials. Unfortunately, none of our boys were picked but they all enjoyed the experience and ready for the football season ahead.



Kindergarten Excursion

On Monday 14th March Kinder had their first excursion. They were lucky enough to visit Mrs Heather Murphy and her collection of birds. A big thank you to Mrs Murphy for her time.



Blair Manning and his Pet Snake

Primary students were excited and terrified to have Blair’s pet snake grace the classrooms. His snake is a Jungle Python that is 4 years old. Thank you, Blair. Mr Comi enjoyed the snake’s company in his office when he wasn’t on show in the primary classrooms.



Pi Day

Pi Day is on March 14, and any day that combines fun, education, and pie is a day worth celebrating! Pi, also known by the Greek letter “ π ,” is a constant value used in math that represents the ratio of a circumference of a circle to its diameter, which is just about 3.14....15...9265359... (and so on). Not only that, but the fourteenth of March is also Albert Einstein’s birthday, so altogether it’s nothing short of a mathematician’s delight.

Year 5/6 Celebrated Pi Day by cooking vegetable pies.



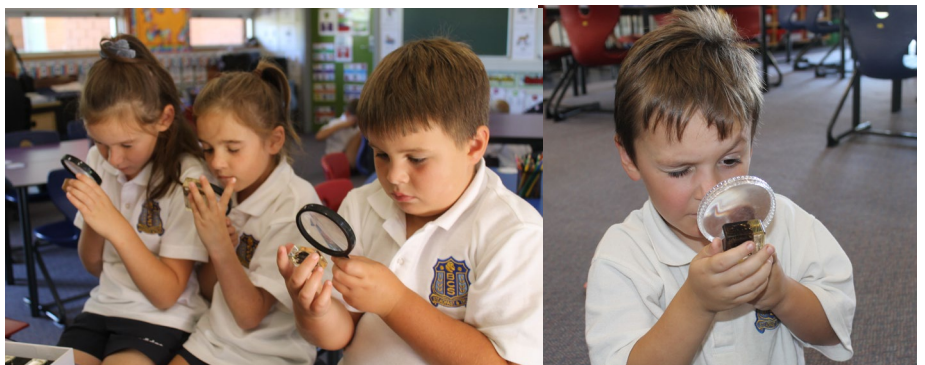
AFL Gala Day

Students in Primary were treated to a session of AFL skills with Josh Hodgson and David McNicol from AFL Victoria. A big thank you to Josh and Dave as well as Jordyn and Turp who assisted on activities.



Riverina Environmental Education Centre Visit

On Monday the 7th of March, Year 1/2, Mr Longford and Darron went for a field trip to the river. We used nets to scoop the water into buckets to see what we could find. When we got back to school, we sorted our findings. We found baby fish (minnows) diving beetles, freshwater shrimp and one tadpole. We had an exciting time and we learnt about macroinvertebrates. We also spent time looking at collections on insects, spiders and the life cycle of frogs, butterflies, and bees.



Balranald Central School P and C News—Term 1

Canteen Corner

- ◆ Thank you To our Canteen Manager Anne who has been learning the ropes
- ◆ Thank you Parents/Teachers and Student Reprehensive Council who have helped out when it is busy , and when the Manager has not been able to be there
- ◆ The Canteen Manager would like to job share with an assistant. Check out the advertisement on our Facebook page detailing position for 27.5hours /fortnight

Please support our upcoming

Fundraising events

- * **Athletics Carnival food stall**
- * **Lake Benanee Beach Regatta**
- * **Donut Drive**
- * **Easter Hat Parade—Easter egg gift**
- * **Mothers Day gift packs**
- * **Homebush Rodeo**

Thank you to any one who supported the P&C food stall at the Australia Day event, and also the Swimming Carnival

At the AGM the following Executive positions were filled:
President—Lisa Dalton
Vice Presidents: Kristy Helgeland/ Deborah Gaston
Treasurer: Vicki Barnes
Secretary: Janelle Dalton

Please feel free to contact any of us any time if you have any questions .

How we communicate:

- ◆ **Facebook—like us at Balranald Central School P & C for news & updates**
- ◆ **Facebook messenger**
- ◆ **Newsletters**
- ◆ **Skoolbag**
- ◆ **Email us on balranaldcentralschool-pandc@gmail.com**

You may not be on the committee—but you can help out in lots of ways

- ◆ **Support fundraisers**
- ◆ **Assist at stalls**
- ◆ **Pass on suggestions great or small**
- ◆ **Give feedback even if it may be something that can be done better**
- ◆ **Bring yourself and chocolate to any meetings :)**

School jumpers are available at Balranald Sports shop as well as contacting Lisa Dalton to access P&C uniform shop

Did you know that P& C makes the following Contributions every year:

Annual Excursion Donation:

K, Yr1, Yr2 \$10 each student
 Yr 3& 4 \$15 each student
 Yr5&6, Yr 7&8, Yr 9&10) \$20 each student
 Yr 11 \$25 each student towards Year School Jumper
 Yr 12 \$25 towards Year Formal

State representation

Individuals competing at State Level - \$150 upon request
 Groups competing at State Level - \$300 upon request

Contribution to department Assets & Facilities

\$1000 be given annually to both Primary and Secondary Department – last year the money was combined and an electronic stopwatch system purchased for use at sports carnivals.

Student of the week

Vouchers given to be spent at the Canteen

Students of the Week

Week 6



Kinder – Archie & Sierra



Year 1-2 Beau & Ava



Year 3-4 Zaidyn



Year 5-6 Shania & Ryan

Week 7



Year 1-2 Connor & Olivia

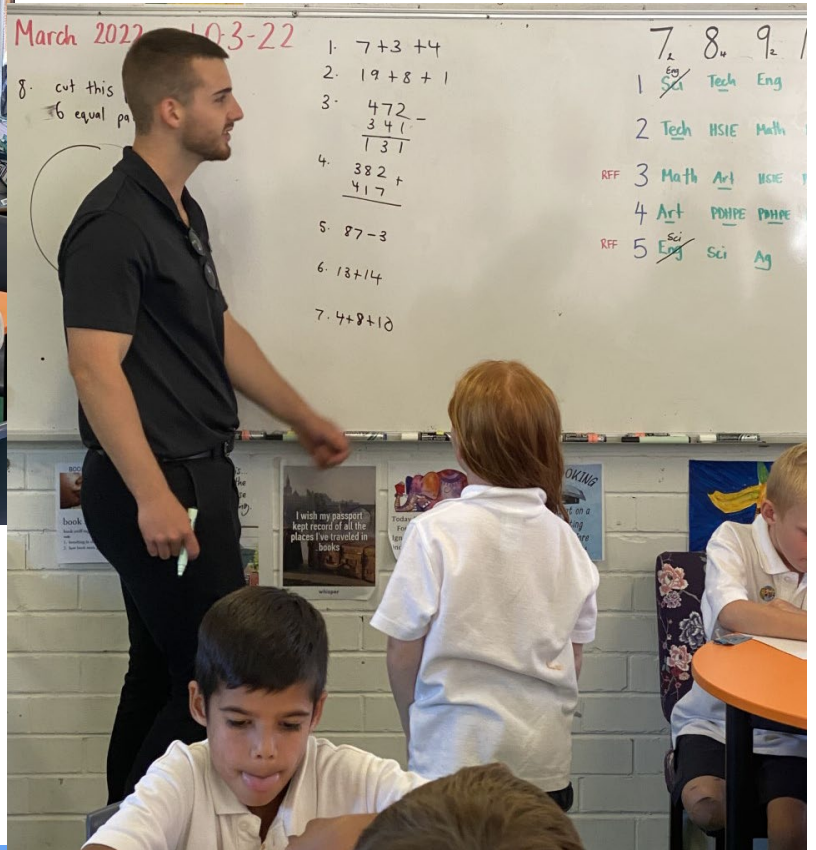


Year 3-4 Jeanna & Sarah



Year 5-6 Layla & Olivia

Year 1-2 doing Maths with young Mr Comi



Kinder enjoying a quick game of duck duck goose with young Mr Comi

Year 1/2 enjoyed doing practical work on the river ecosystem

For science this term 1/2 have been studying ecosystems. It was great to have Darron Watt from the Riverina Environmental Education Centre visiting here at BCS and deliver his knowledge to the students.

We ventured down to the Murrumbidgee River doing some practical work on the river ecosystem. Students identified the living things they found in their nets.

Students had a fantastic time and enjoyed getting out in the field and getting their hands dirty.





| NSW Department of Education

2022 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Artwork by Stephen Michael King

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



**Key dates
for students
in K-10:**

Challenge opens
Monday 28 February

**Challenge closes for
student entries**
Friday 19 August



HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SUPPORT SERVICES LOCAL AND VISITING SERVICES NETWORKING EXPO

**Are you a Health, Wellbeing and/or Support organisation or agency that provides services to people of the Balranald Shire Area?
Are you a community member who uses these services?**

**Do you sometimes wonder who else is 'out there' and what they do?
Then this event is for you!**

The Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Wellbeing Advisory Committee in partnership with Balranald Shire Council, the Western NSW PHN and Healthdirect Australia are delivering a networking event where you can:

- Showcase your organisation or agency, or
- Learn more about the services available to you as a community member

WHEN 11am – 3pm, Thursday 7th April 2022 (including a formal launch at 12pm)

WHERE Theatre Royal, 90 Market St, Balranald

RSVP if you are a Health, Wellbeing and/or Support organisation or agency wishing to attend this event please RSVP to Balranald Shire Council - council@balranald.nsw.gov.au or (03) 5020 1300 to secure your site.

Community members do not need to RSVP, just come along at the time that suits you between 11am & 3pm. A light lunch is provided 12pm-2pm.

NOTE we will provide 2 chairs and a table for each site 'booking'; you bring all your advertising and promotional materials.
(There is no charge for this event).

Supported by

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WESTERN NSW

An Australian Government Initiative

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TERM ONE - 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 8	21 MARCH <i>Exec meeting</i>	22 BMX Performance @ 9.30am	23	24	25 K-12 Sports Day
Week 9	28 MARCH <i>Exec meeting</i>	29 Beach Carnival	30	31	1 APRIL K-12 Sports Day
Week 10	4 APRIL <i>Exec meeting</i>	5	6 Whole School Assembly @ 11.30am	7 BEAR scores out	8 Last Day of Term 1

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

Times Like These

Pandemic... War... Climate change. These big world problems are here. they fill up our news feeds every day. Our children know. If they are not tuned into news snippets, then they watch the way their adults are coping with the suffering and uncertainty that goes along with these big problems. Our children try to make sense of these big things because that is what we all do. In times like these they need their adults' support.

Spend extra one to one time with your child/ren. You could go for walks, play basketball, or watch the sun set together. You might find your children open-up more doing these side-by-side activities.

Children need their feelings to be acknowledged and validated. Give them more hugs and hold them close. They need to know that it is ok to feel whatever they are feeling in relation to the big problems, and that they have an adult that can be with their hard feelings.

Children need to know that it is ok to ask questions and talk about big world problems. They need to feel listened to. Don't worry about not knowing the right things to say. speaking with an open heart and honesty shows your children you are doing your best.

Some ways adults can support their children who feel affected by big world problems.

Children need re-assurance that we will get through this. Wherever there are big problems there are always smart, kind helpers. Focus on the work of the helpers with your children.

Look for active ways to join with others to help out. Support your children to write letters to leaders, or make and share art about the problem, or donate time to provide assistance.

Do more kind things in your family and neighbourhood. Show your children kindness exists in the world.

Some children may need specialist support to help them cope with the uncertainty and anxiety that accompanies these big world problems. Some children won't. It is strong to seek support if you need it.

Look for active ways to join with others to help out. Support your children to write letters to leaders, or make and share art about the problem, or donate time to provide assistance.

Giving children space to express themselves through play or art when it comes to big problems can be helpful. Play and art can help children show us how they are going and what they need in ways that don't always translate into talk.

Australian Childhood Foundation

childhood.org.au