Term 1, Week 8

Student of the week: Seth Smith S1E

Seth is a pleasure to have in the classroom. He is always keen, enthusiastic and eager to learn. Seth shows persistent effort and determination. He has developed wonderful work habits and can be relied upon to do his best. Seth enjoys playing with his friends. He is a polite and friendly student, with a great sense of humour. Congratulations Seth!!

Student Achievement
Well done to our 2015 Debating team – Tayla Howarth, Anneeka Knight, Gabby Fren and Gracie Kershaw who represented our school at the 2015 training workshop. The team represented our school with pride and were ready to learn as much as they could and now have more skills and knowledge to apply to this year’s competition.

Great work Patrick Neilson who has been attempting to be a good role model in the playground by initiating games for the younger students.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 17 March
Cross Country Trials & Relay for Life Sporting Tabloid

Thursday 19 March
Mufti Day

Monday 23 March
Young Leaders Day Sydney

Friday 27 March
Canberra note and deposit due

Monday 30 March
Solid State Circus Performance

Thursday 2 April
Easter Egg Raffle Drawn Last day Term 1

Tuesday 21 April
Students return Term 2 School Photos

17 March 2015
Congratulations to our Year 2 and Year 5 cohorts who have been ensuring they seek out their peers for social activities in the playground.

**Principal's News**
Can you believe that Term One only has three weeks to run before we pack up and start hunting for chocolate eggs dropped by absent-minded rabbits and bilbys? There are a few things to fit in before the break, but first I would like to thank parents and carers for managing the very wet weather on Friday morning which made getting into school a very tricky and wet process!

Week 7 was a very busy week with opportunities for students, professional learning for staff and community events. Last week we completed our PBL playground lessons with each class receiving explicit instruction in how to use our playground areas safely and respectfully. The lessons will now be monitored and reviewed formally and informally in the playground with Happy Notes being given for positive behaviour. This week we will move on to classroom lessons with a review of Respect and what this looks like at our school. We will focus on our Respect indicators:

- Care for property and equipment
- Follow instructions the first time
- Use polite language

I would encourage parents and carers to also talk about these indicators at home, what they look like and how we can improve in these areas.

Unfortunately on Friday the hard work of Mr Kemp and our PSSA Cricket team was postponed due to the wet weather. Mr Kemp will send another note home with the changes and details for this week’s game versus Seaham PS.

As I mentioned last week Mr Lofts has now completed the 2015 Kindergarten Best Start Assessment and entered all data. The reports will be printed this week and sent home via the postal service. Kindergarten parents will have the opportunity to meet with Mr Lofts or myself to discuss the results and how their students are progressing.

We passed our first 2015 roll check with Mrs Gijsbers our Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) who visited the school last Friday. Thank you to the families who have taken or are taking family holidays during term time for their prompt notification. If you are planning family holidays for term time please notify our school as soon as possible. Of course, I would encourage parents to try and take holidays during designated holiday periods.
Our two community events last week went well:

- **Our P&C AGM** meeting was well attended, however we were unable to fill all Executive roles. Congratulations and thank you to Kelly Kelly (2015 P&C Secretary), Melissa Morris (2015 P&C Uniform Shop Coordinator) and Tammy Bagnall (2015 P&C Canteen Coordinator). This means the positions of President, Vice-President and Treasurer are still open. This means that we will hold two more meetings to seek volunteers for these positions and until then the 2014 President, Terrena Hicks and 2014 Treasurer, Dannii Jeffery will remain in their roles so that the P&C can function – thank you! If the positions are not filled then the P&C will be unable to function and both the Uniform Shop and Canteen will close. This would be very difficult for the school community and I would encourage parents and carers to contemplate filling one of these roles. For information regarding the roles and responsibilities contact our school.

- On Wednesday our school hosted a **Health Service Community Forum** organised by Wesley Mission Child and Family Worker Tonia McIntyre and Hunter Prelude’s Early Links Katrien Pickles. Besides the Early Childhood Health Professionals there were a Speech Therapist and Occupational Therapist in attendance to answer questions and outline services available in our area. The parents who attended were all very happy with the event and were able to discuss their concerns with health professionals in an informal environment. I have several pamphlets with information about what to look for and how to self-refer if you would like your child assessed. Please ask at the office if you would like further information. Due to the success of this first event we are hoping to host this again in Semester 2.

This week we have several events:

- Yesterday the students from K-6 participated in **Asthma lessons** presented by trained Health staff – in next week’s newsletter there will be forms to apply for Asthma Cards for your child to carry if they are asthmatic.
- Tuesday we will be taking part in the Dungog **Relay for Life** activity with a sport tabloid – the students will bring a gold coin donation to support the Cancer Council fund raiser.
- Wednesday we will be holding our **Personalised Planning Sessions** for Aboriginal students and their parents and carers. These sessions will be coordinated by Miss Ellis and Mrs Kelson
- Thursday is our **Annual Easter Egg Fine Mufti Day**. The students can come to school out of uniform and the
‘fine’ is a donation to the P&C Easter Egg Raffle. These donations will then be made into the 2015 Easter Raffle Prizes. The P&C have also accessed extra prizes this year with a $50.00 gift voucher for Charlestown Square and several vouchers for frozen chickens.

So another busy week ahead and the two weeks leading up to our Easter Holiday break are also busy so keep abreast of what’s on from these sources:

- The Clarence Town Public School “What’s On” Noticeboard in our school foyer
- The P&C and Community Noticeboard near our Uniform Shop
- Weekly Newsletters and notes

This week I will be out of school today from 10:30am – 1:00pm to attend transition to High School meetings at Dungog High School and I will be heading to Gresford PS at 2:30pm in the afternoon for training with Vacy PS, Gresford PS and Martins Creek PS in the Focus on Reading Program. Wednesday I will be accompanying the Year 4 students on their excursion to the Newcastle Writers Festival Author Workshop; then on Thursday I will be out from 9:30am-12:30pm to attend our monthly AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) meeting at Medowie PS.

The Student Welfare Program is progressing well with our Tawny 5 Rules:

- I can listen
- I can put up my hand and wait
- I can work quietly
- I can follow instructions
- I can control what I do and Say

I was able to send home lots of Happy Notes last week and look forward to doing the same this week.

Have a great week.
Louise Blakemore
Principal

**Dungog & District Community of Schools – News Updates**

**Transition evening – extract from the Dungog High School Newsletter**

This week we will be beginning our transition to High School Learning Support Team Meetings for students with disabilities. The students also received their Expression of Interest Applications for High School and if you have any questions please contact our school for support.

**Professional Learning**

This week I will be starting the Professional Learning training for Vacy PS, Gresford PS and Martins Creek PS. This training will involve me leading regular sessions with these schools throughout the year. At the conclusion of this training all of our Dungog & District Community of Schools will be trained and implementing the same Literacy Processes in Reading, Comprehension and Vocabulary. This will be very beneficial for improving the outcomes for all students K-12!

17 March 2015
Easter Mufti Day
On Thursday 19 March all students, K-6, can come dressed out of uniform and the ‘fine’ will be an Easter donation for the P&C Easter Raffle.
Donations of Easter Eggs, as well as baskets and decorations are also appreciated.

Stage 3 Canberra Excursion
All students in Year 5 and Year 6 received a commitment note for Canberra. Can parents please complete the permission note and return along with $100 deposit to the school as soon as possible. All notes and deposit will need to be finalised by Friday 27 March. Financial assistance may be available if financial difficulties would prevent your child from participating. Please contact the Principal if you require financial assistance.

School Voluntary Contribution
Our school voluntary contribution has been set this year at $20 per student of $40 per family. This voluntary contribution is used to purchase books and resources for students. It would be appreciated if parents could pay this contribution as soon as possible.

Mathletics
All students are now using Mathletics in class. Mathletics helps students enjoy Maths and achieve great results. Students are able to access Mathletics via the internet at school and at home. Each student is given a unique user name and password to be able to log onto Mathletics.

As we believe this is an excellent aid to your child’s learning, the school will subsidise the cost of this program. Parents are asked to contribute $12 per student for the cost of this program. It would be appreciated if all payments for Mathletics could be made as soon as possible.

Student Emergency Contact Details
Can parents please check all details and make any corrections necessary and return to the school as soon as possible.

Online Services / Permission to Publish
Students in Year 1 to Year 6 received a purple online services and permission to publish note (purple). It would be appreciated if parents could please return this note as soon as possible.

School Photos
Our school photos this year will be held on Tuesday 21 April 2015. This is the first day back for Term 2! All students were given their coded envelopes on Monday for the school photos. If you are not having your child’s photo taken the coded envelope must be returned. All coded envelopes and money must be returned to the school by Thursday 26 March. Family envelopes for photos will be available from the office.

Solid State Circus Performance
On Monday 30 March 2015 we are having a visiting performance to the school. A purple note went home with details and your child’s permission note to attend. The cost is $6.50 per student and the permission note is due back with payment by 20 March 2015.
Library Book Covering
Over the next coming weeks we will have 6 boxes of books to cover for our Library and for the classrooms. At the moment I have 2 wonderful ladies who take books home and return them all ready for the children to use. If you can help with covering books please contact either Laura or Jenny in the office. Books and contact will be supplied. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Expression of Interest 2016
Year 6 received these forms last week for 2016 High School Expression of Interest. These completed forms are due back Friday 20 March 2015.

Head Lice Alert
It is the time of the year for head lice. There have been a few cases reported in the School. We encourage all parents to make Sunday night “Nit Night” by checking your child’s hair.

National Ride 2 School Day 2015
This Friday 20 March 2015 Clarence Town Public School will be participating in National Ride 2 School Day. The day is designed to encourage students from across Australia to ride their bikes to school on this special day. We hope as many students as possible will get involved and ride their bikes on Friday. Remember a safe ride is a good ride.

Community News

Raymond Terrace Library is running a special reading program where children get to read to a dog to build up their confidence and practice reading aloud. Details Below:
The Bark program at Raymond Terrace library will be running over five weeks, starting on March 3rd at 4.00 – 4.45 pm. It will then be on each Tuesday afternoon from 4 – 4.45 pm until March 31st. The best contact for more information is Nada who can be reached on 4980 0111.

FOR SALE
Isa Brown Chooks
$10.00 each
Contact Margaret on 0410 020 527