Term 1, Week 6

Student Achievement
Well done to our Year 6 students, Aboriginal Students and their friends who travelled to Dungog High School last week for the Dungog and District Community of Schools Sorry Day Event. The students all displayed our PBL values (Learning, Safety & Respect) during the visit.

Congratulations to Tayla Howarth, Anneeka Knight, Gracie Kershaw and Gaby Fren who will be our 2015 Premier’s Debating team. Chloe Taylor will be the reserve.

Great work Mrs Kelson’s Stage 3 GATS group – from top Jack B, Seth W, Darby T, Abijade B, Talya H, Anneeka K and Matthew B who have been working on CODE blocking programs, including Jarvis Script to design and program their own animations.
Student of the Week
There was no SOW as no assembly was held.

Principal’s News

Welcome to Week 6 and February is over and we are halfway through Term 1! Last week was very busy with a large number of students representing Clarence Town Public School at the Dungog and District Community of Schools Sorry Day Event. The day was a great success thanks to the hard work of Mrs Price, Mrs Kelson and Miss Ellis. Mr Oke (Vacy PS Principal) and Mrs Mitchell (Gresford PS Principal) were also part of the planning team and their support was greatly appreciated. The students had the opportunity to hear stories from Aboriginal People who were directly affected by the Stolen Generation and these stories really gave the students a clear understanding of the role of Sorry Day. The remainder of the day was then participating in Aboriginal Culture Activities including Art, Dance and Dreamtime Stories.

On Friday our school participated in Schools Clean Up Australia Day and even though it is difficult to see with all the road work our school area looks spick and span. Well done to Mr Lannigan and Stage 2 who also collected rubbish as they walked to the pool for Sport last Friday.

Further to the P&C information last week:
• Our next meeting in March will be the AGM and the P&C Newsletter will contain the roles and responsibilities of the positions to be determined at that meeting. In the past we have had trouble filling all the executive roles and this makes the job very difficult for the volunteers. It was discussed at the meeting that changing the time and day of the meeting may assist with more parents being able to attend.
• This will require a change to the By Laws and Constitution that have been determined for Clarence Town Public School and to do this we will be required to make a motion with the exact new day and time to be voted. To ascertain a possible change to the day/time I have included a short survey attached to this week’s newsletter. If you could please complete the slip and return it as soon as possible we can see the most popular choice; unfortunately as is the case in this situation we will not be able to meet everyone’s needs but we will do our best.
• At the P&C Meeting we also discussed a BBQ and cake stall fundraiser for the NSW Elections Day – March 28th 2015. We will require cakes/slices to sell, volunteers to serve at the counter and cooks to man the BBQ. I have attached a slip to this week’s newsletter if you can help.
On the back of the survey sheet I have also added a quick survey for information about technology at home and sport at school. This information is kept confidential and assists with School Planning and your support is greatly appreciated. I have also included an attachment that explains how your child can access their NSW DEC Student Portal from home.

This week we have a Professional Learning Day for Stage 3 staff on Wednesday and our Stage 2 and Stage 3 Aus Tag teams will be participating in an Aus Tag Gala day at Dungog on Friday. Don’t forget our weekly assembly on Wednesday. As part of our WHS yearly Action Plan we will be holding an Evacuation Drill at school tomorrow between 11:30 and 11:45am. If you are at school during this time you will need to participate in the drill. Evacuation information is in each classroom and office. Our assembly area is along the fence near the cricket nets. The signal for the Evacuation Practice is a continuous bell.

Our **PBL (Positive Behaviours for Learning) Program** begins this week with the review and teaching of playground area expectations and rules during daily PE lessons. Over the next 2 weeks the classes will rotate through each playground area: sandpit, fixed equipment, Tawny Corner/Obstacle Course, Asphalt Court, Cricket Nets, Bottom COLA, Top Area and Grass Area. Teachers will explain the signage, discuss the importance of Safety and teach the skills for that area and the students will have time to practice their skills. Teachers on playground duty will also be focusing on the positive reinforcement of these skills by giving our playground awards and Happy Notes for doing the right thing.

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.

Louise Blakemore  
Principal

**Roadworks – Marshall Street**
We have been notified that an area of Marshall Street directly opposite the school will be closed from Wednesday 25 February. Parents will have to come along Brentwood Drive or Rifle Street to access the Marshall Street entrance to the school. Please note that the disabled parking area will still be available in Marshall Street.
Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

This year our Stage 3 school excursion will be held in Canberra from Wednesday 22 July to Friday 24 July 2015.

The cost for this excursion is approximately $350 per student. This includes coach hire, accommodation, most meals and entry fees. An exact amount for this excursion will be finalised later this term.

All students in Year 5 and Year 6 have received with today’s newsletter 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

All students received last week an envelope with their child’s emergency contact details (yellow note). 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 in their envelope with their child’s emergency contact details 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! If parents can please keep this date in mind when planning holidays we would appreciate it. More information regarding school photographs will be sent home later this term.

Solid State Circus Performance

On Monday 30 March 2015 we are having a visiting performance to the school. A purple note went home today 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.
Dungog & District Community of Schools – News Updates

Our combined **Sorry Day Event** was a great success with over 200 students participating from all 8 schools. These days meet the need for Cultural Activities for Aboriginal Students but also give students an opportunity to visit and become familiar with our local High School.

A few weeks ago I included information about our combined **Gifted and Talented Student (GATS) Program** and a grant that our Community of Schools was successful in receiving…the news just gets better! Our Community of Schools has been identified as a pilot program for a new technology initiative the NSW DEC is rolling out as our GATS program meets the requirements. The program is gaining interest from many DEC directorates and we are very excited to include virtual learning across our schools to support classroom teachers and students.

**Students Accessing the NSW DEC Student Portal at Home**

Accessing the DEC Student Portal from Home For DEC protected Internet searches we encourage the students to log into the DEC Student Portal then use the Google browser in the portal. To access the portal type: dec student portal into the search box of your browser (prompts usually appear after dec is typed.) The link students need is Students - NSW Department of Education and Communities The following page will appear and students access the portal using the Login drop down menu just as they do at school. (The page looks slightly different at school but the login process is the same.)

As you can see, there are other links for students in Primary school, including cybersmart which is the cybersafety program we use at school. Our key cybersafety message, when something on the Internet makes the student feel uncomfortable is: STOP - calm down and think what to do BLOCK -(minimise) what has upset you (senior students also block contacts/ access) TELL - the adult looking after you For students in Years 3 - 6 students we add: SUPPORT - someone if they feel uncomfortable or bullied online RECORD - Keep a record of any incidents or emails The Student Portal also provides links to ABC 3 games which are very popular with students. I would encourage you to go through this process with your child.
PORT STEPHENS POWER
JUNIOR AFL CLUB

Ferodale Park, Corner Ferodale Road & Kirrang Drive, Medowie
NAB Auskick
4 Years to 7 Years - $65
All players receive an Auskick Pack and a club t-shirt

Youth Girls – Expressions of interest
13 Years to 16 Years - $50
Come and try session with AFLNSWACT staff
5pm Tuesday 3rd March 2015

Juniors
8 Years to 17 Years - $100
New players receive a sports bag, water bottle, playing shorts and socks
***** NO WEEKLY FEES *****

For further information please contact Chris on 0428237830
or via email at portstephenspower@gmail.com
www.portstephenspower.com.au
www.facebook.com/psjafc