Term 1, Week 7

Student of the week: Riley ES1L

Riley is an enthusiastic student, he always follows our school PBL values and class rules of Respect, Safety and Learning. Riley does his best at all times. He has made lots of new friends and enjoys all school activities. Riley is a pleasure to teach.

Student Achievement
Well done to all students K-6 who participated in our Evacuation Drill last week – we beat our personal best and had all students and staff safely evacuated in 2 minutes and 45 seconds! A special mention to our Kindergarten students who were very grown up and responsible during their first drill – Mr Lofts was very proud of his class.

Well done to our Aus Tag teams who represented the school at the Dungog Gala Day last Friday. The student behaviour reflected our school values of Safety and Respect. The Stage 3 team won all of their games and the Stage 2 won 3 out of 4 games – a brilliant effort.
Stage 3 Team – Abbie Steel, Keeghan Stericker, Makayla Duthie, Taij Burgess, Gracie Kershaw, Tahlia Thew, Matthew Benhard, Liam Garvey-Rae, Jayden Hawkin, Tijay Parks, Jaxson Stericker, Jack Watt, Seth Winchester

Stage 2 Team – Izzy Middleton, Eboney Preece, Jessice Radford, Claudia Watt, Brody Boland, Cale Conserdyne, Will Morris

Principal’s News

Welcome to Week 7 and we have a very busy week ahead with opportunities for students, professional learning for staff and community events.

Last week’s Spotlight magazine contained an article about Glen William Public School and it stated that students from Clarence Town and Glen Martin could catch a bus to Glen William Public School and to contact the school for enrolment details. This information is incorrect as students in the Clarence Town and Glen Martin areas (up to Black Camp Road) are zoned to attend Clarence Town Public School; if you have any inquiries or questions please give me a call on 49964156.

Last week was the start of our PBL playground lessons with each class receiving explicit instruction in how to use our playground areas safely and respectfully. The lessons are going well and will continue this week. Last Tuesday we had our first Evacuation Drill for 2015 and it went well and according to plan. We have at least two drills per year to ensure we are ready in case of a real emergency. The students moved calmly and safely to our Emergency Assembly Area before the ‘all clear’ was announced and classes moved back to classrooms. Last Friday we were represented at the annual Dungog Aus Tag Gala day with a Stage 2 and a Stage 3 team doing us proud with excellent sportsmanship, behaviour and effort.

This week we are represented today by our 2015 Debating Team at the Newcastle/Hunter debating workshop. Tayla, Anneeka, Gaby and Gracie will participate in a series of workshops which will prepare them for the 2015 competition and improve their skills. The team are accompanied by Ms Greig who will lead them this year. Ms Greig is a very experienced debating coach and the team will learn a lot throughout the year.

On Friday the hard work of Mr Kemp and our PSSA Cricket team will be on show in their first game against Seaham PS at Seaham. We wish them the best of luck and know they will do their best and represent our school with pride.

On Thursday Miss Ellis will continue her Year 1 L3 professional learning.

Mrs Nowland our area’s Learning and Support Teacher (Assistant Principal) will visit today to support classroom

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<td>Layla, Riley Flannery, Luke Watt</td>
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<td>S1E</td>
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<td>Sally Croxton, Jesse Hoffman, Lane Broadbent</td>
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<td>S1/2 K</td>
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<td>Madelyn Bagnall, Lilly McDonnell, Harry Boyton</td>
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<td>Courtney Aubin, Lilly Palmer, Paige Hensley-Turner</td>
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<td>S3G</td>
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<td>Keegan Stericker, Tenieka Neilson, Seth</td>
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9 March 2015
As you would be aware through the media the NSW DEC has introduced a new Attendance Policy which does have several changes that will affect families and schools. The main changes include:

- Family holidays in term time will no longer be exempt on your child’s attendance record. Parents will still be required to complete application for leave for a family holiday prior to leaving and supply proof of travel eg itineraries/flight tickets, bookings etc. and the absence will then be approved by the Principal as ‘leave’. The policy also states as the Principal I should encourage all parents to take their family holidays in the school holiday periods.
- Parents will need to notify the school within 7 days if their child is absent from school and the 7 days is now from the first day of absence. Parents will also need to supply doctor certificates for absence due to illness that exceeds 7 days.
- Students who also have a history of regular absences will be required to meet with the Principal to establish a plan of support for attendance at school.
- For long sick leave periods the DEC will need to sight students to ensure their safety and this will be undertaken by the HSLO
- Students who have a history of regular late arrivals or early leaves will also be required to meet with the Principal to establish a plan of support for attendance at school.

I will table a copy of the policy at this week’s P&C Meeting for all interested parents. At Clarence Town Public School our parents and carers have always been very conscientious in advising the school of any illnesses and have always been very cooperative, so I do not see that we will have any huge issues with the implementation of this new DEC policy. If you have any concerns or questions about this new DEC Policy please contact me for further explanation.

We have two important community events this week:

- **Our March P&C meeting which is our AGM** – all parents in executive positions will vacate their seats and elections will be held for each executive position. The roles and responsibilities for these positions were
advertised in last week’s newsletter. The current P&C executive have done a great job and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication, commitment to our school and resilience as they undertook several responsibilities as not all positions were filled in 2014.

- On Wednesday our school will be hosting a Health Service Community Forum organised by Wesley Mission Child and Family Worker Tonia McIntyre and Hunter Prelude’s Katrien Pickles. A flyer for the forum is attached to this week’s newsletter and I have included a poster in the P&C and Community Noticeboard near our Uniform Shop. I would encourage all parents to attend as this forum will be an informal and knowledgeable event where parents can meet and ask questions of local health services. There will be a day (10-11:30am) and an evening (6-7:30pm) time slot to cater for all parents.

I have also included last week’s survey again — thank you to all parents who have already returned their surveys. The survey is to ascertain a possible change to the day/time of our monthly P&C meetings. 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. The survey also includes a return slip for volunteers to support our 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. 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.

This week I will be out of school today from 12:30pm to attend Professional Learning at Raymond Terrace PS and again on Tuesday morning from 10:00am – 12:00 noon to attend a meeting at Hunter Prelude (Health services for children 0-8 with disabilities) at Raymond Terrace. Mrs Kelson will be acting Principal on Monday afternoon and Miss Ellis on Tuesday morning.

As I mentioned at the opening of my news our PBL (Positive Behaviours for Learning) Program is now half way through with the review and teaching of playground area expectations and rules during daily PE lessons. This week the classes will continue to 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.

We had a very successful Happy Note week last week with 95% of our students receiving at least 1 Happy Note for displaying one of our values – Learning, Safety, Respect. A wonderful outcome was that 56% of students received more than 1 with 35% receiving 3 Happy Notes! Well done Clarence Town Public School kids!

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

9 March 2015
Transition evening – extract from the Dungog High School Newsletter

Thanks to the many parents and students from our local primary schools who came to the Transition Information evening on Wednesday last week. This is the third year we have held this event, allowing 5th and 6th grade students and their families to find out about DHS and have a look around the school.

The numbers that come to this evening show that there is a strong and continuing need for this information evening. Many thanks to the staff who gave up their time to discuss their subjects with the visiting students and parents and the DHS students who helped guide and entertain our visitors. Very well done – Mrs McKinna and her team organised a very successful event.

The first speaker of the night was another of our very successful ex-students. Sasha Parkinson, who came to us from Glen William PS, graduated from year 12 at DHS in 2007 as Dux. She went on to study Architecture at University and graduated from there with the University Medal. She spoke to the students and parents about her life after leaving school and expressed her thanks for the education she received here. As she said, if you work hard and set yourself achievable goals, you will do very well in your life. Thanks Sasha, you are a credit to all your teachers.

Stage 3 Sport Inter-School Visit

In Term 2 we will be trialling inter-school sport visits across our learning community for Stage 3 students. The students will travel in alternate weeks to one of our community of schools and join in for a weekly sport activity and the other week schools will travel to us. The sports will include Cricket, Soccer, Gymnastics, Volleyball, Dance and more. This initiative is designed to foster social and friendship opportunities for students as part of our transition to High School Program.

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 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 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. Photo envelopes are expected to go home this week. They will need to 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 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.

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.

Easter Egg Raffle
Raffle tickets for this popular event are going home today.

Easter Mufti Day
We will be holding a Mufti Day on Thursday 19 March 2015. All students from 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.
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.