Term 3, Week 8

Student of the week: April S1/2K

April is a very respectful and honest student. She has an incredibly mature attitude towards her learning and always completes quality work. April is a fantastic classroom helper who is always willing to give up her time to help out someone in need. She always demonstrates our PBL values and sets a great example for other students. April is a genuine animal lover who enjoys caring and nurturing her many pets. She has a passion for creative writing and really enjoys spending time with her many friends. April is an absolute pleasure to teach and we think she will make a fantastic student of the week!

Student Achievement

Sensational accomplishment Harry Boyton and Gemma Kershaw who represented our school at the Regional Athletics Carnival last Friday – see a full report further over in the newsletter.

Congratulations to our debating team Tayla Howarth, Anneeka Knight, Matthew Benhard and Gabby Fren who argued that Country Life is better than City Life. After a very close debate they were defeated. The debating team is going really well and showing great improvement each debate, and we are very proud of their commitment and achievements.
Welcome to Week 8 and with the weather warming up I would like to thank parents for working hard to ensure everyone is in full school uniform each day. Just a reminder to make sure jackets and jumpers are our bottle green and that hats come to school each day. If your child is in Year 6 and has outgrown any aspects of their uniform please contact me directly before purchasing new items or sending them in alternatives.

This Thursday afternoon is the final training session for our teaching staff in Quality Teaching Instructional Rounds. As I mentioned last week every second Thursday afternoon this term the teaching staff exit school very promptly…as we are all attending Professional Development in an educational practice known as Instructional Rounds. This training was coordinated by our Director, Public Schools Andrew Eastcott and is presented by Newcastle University staff who are specialists in Education and Quality Teaching. This training leads us through the 18 elements of Quality Teaching and is being undertaken by all of the small schools in the Maitland area. Once again the aim of this training is to improve Student Outcomes through improving classroom teaching practice.

Mrs Kelson has now signed us up for the ‘Skool Bag App’. This is the initiative I referred to in last week’s newsletter that the P&C are working in partnership with the school to implement. It will take approximately 3 weeks for the company to set up our information and then a letter will be sent home via the post to inform parents and carers of how to download the App and instructions for making it user friendly. The App is free to all parents and carers and will be a great way to share school information, reports and notices in a safe environment.

Last week the Canteen held its first official ‘Special Day’ with a Mexican Menu. The day was a huge success and the students loved the Tacos and Quesadillas…and the chocolate treats were also delicious! A huge thank-you to Mrs Bagnall (Tammy) for planning, organising and implementing the day - we appreciate all her wonderful efforts to have everything ready to go on the day for the Canteen Volunteers. The volunteers on the day Mrs Hoffman and Ms Richardson did a brilliant job preparing the special meal deals and making the day a wonderful success. We look forward to more special days in the coming terms.

Ticket sales for the musical are going well. Our 2015 concert will be held on Wednesday 9th September – Matinee at 1:30 pm.
and Evening Performance at 6:00pm. The concert will go for approximately an hour and a half. A note with full details of times students need to be at school and all other details will go home later this week. The P&C will also be running a sausage sizzle in the evening to remove the hassle of trying to organise dinner as well as coordinate children! The preparation for our 2015 Musical is coming ahead well and we held our first whole school rehearsal last week where we brought together all the hard work of the past two terms. This is a very exciting time and we are all looking forward to another great concert evening.

This week we have:
- P&C Fathers’ Day Stall on Thursday 3 September see information further over in the newsletter
- Stage 3 Science and Engineering Day at Dungog High School

The Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN results are going home today with students. If you would like to discuss your child’s results with their classroom teacher or me please contact the office for an appointment. The school results are promising and while we haven’t completed a full analysis at this point in time, the following are areas to point out:
- In Year 3 we had more students in the top bands and less in the bottom bands than previous years in the areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling and Punctuation and Grammar.
- In Year 3 Numeracy we had more students in the top band than in the previous year
- Our school trend data for Year 3 shows steady results in Numeracy, Grammar and Punctuation and Writing
- Our school trend data for Year 3 shows improvement in Spelling and Reading
- The growth of our individual students from Year 3 to Year 5 is excellent with all students showing improvement in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.
- As the Year 5 cohort only has 9 students the trend data is not available for 2015

Mr Lannigan is taking long service leave for the rest of this term and Mrs Kavanagh will be teaching S2/3L. We also welcome a new student, Violet, to Year 1 and S1E. I have had several enquiries regarding new enrolments in the past few weeks and we will have two more students join our school in the near future. I will also be talking at Clarence Town Preschool on the evening of Monday 14 September and our Kindergarten Interviews will be held in the last week of this term and the first two weeks of term 4. If you haven’t already put your child’s
name down at the office for Kindergarten 2016 please ring the office and pass on your details.

This week we will focus on our Respect indicators in PBL:

- Care for Property and Equipment
- Follow Instructions the First time
- Use Positive Language

I would encourage parents and carers to talk about these indicators at home, what it look like and how we can improve in these areas. Our particular focus during this time is developing resilience, being organised, being persistent and developing confidence.

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

Have a great week
Louise Blakemore
Principal

Regional Athletics

Last Friday, Jemma Kershaw and Harry Boyton represented Clarence Town Public School at the local regional athletics carnival. Jemma was competing in the 200 metres and Harry competed in the 100 metres. Jemma and Harry both ran fantastic races in the heats of their events. Jemma and Harry both finished 4th in the heat of their event. Harry was successful in getting through to the final of his event where he finished a very respectable 7th. Unfortunately Jemma was not successful in getting through to the final, but she did a fantastic job being so competitive. This was yet another wonderful sporting achievement for our school. Jemma and Harry have done themselves and their school very proud!!

Mr Kemp
Dungog & District Community of Schools - News Updates

This week we have our Stage 3 students travelling to Dungog High School on Friday to participate in the Dungog and District Community of Schools Science and Engineering Day. The students will join together with Stage 3 students from our partner schools for a day of fun, learning and competition.

Road Safety - reminder

As the Road Works around school move further up Queen Street and leave us with our Queen Street areas open again I would like to point out a few situations causing concern and that parents picking children up and dropping off need to be aware of – this is particularly important as the Parking signs have not been reinstated yet!

- With the changes to Queen Street at the bottom corner of school we have a reduced parking on the school side due to the turning lane into Rifle Street over the bridge. Parking below the school side double gate actually blocks the designated traffic lane – please leave this area clear.
- The Stop signs at the corner of Queen and Marshall Streets are difficult to see and some are missing altogether so please remember to look carefully before proceeding through this crossing
- On the school side of Marshall Street at the Queen Street Stop sign vision to the left is impeded by the cars parked outside the school so once again take extra care in this area
- The Marshall Street crossing area is also a problem with cars parking on the school side of Marshall Street adjacent to the school Administration Block. The cars in this area block the view of this crossing area so please take extra care when choosing where to park.

My recommendation for the Safest parking area if the Marshall Street parks are full is to continue to use the bottom area of the school in Rifle Street. The children can safely walk along the new footpath to the bridge and meet parents here. Please remind children to always cross at the school crossing on Queen Street when dropping them off or picking them up across the road.

The school and P&C are both contacting the council to have the crossing lines painted and the parking signs reinstated as soon as possible.
School Musical Costumes
Our school will once again be holding a school musical this term and all students will be participating. The title for this year's musical is “Around The World”. Students have received a copy of their classes costume requirements. If you have any questions or are having trouble with any costumes, please see Katie Bagnall.

PVC Semester Return 2015
Transport for NSW has advised us that the subsidy returns can now be entered.

Woolworths Earn & Learn
Once again Clarence Town Public School is participating in this program. We encourage parents, grandparents, teachers and students to support this program by collecting Earn & Learn Stickers. When the sheet is completed they can be placed into the Collection Box in the school office. The program will close Tuesday 8 September.

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.

Public Speaking
Our winner for round 2 Public Speaking was Tayla Howarth. Congratulations!!! Round 3 will be Wednesday 2nd September 2015. This will take place during our weekly school assembly. Parents are welcome to attend the Public Speaking. Our speakers will be Makayla, Jaxson Stericker, Tahlia Thew and Destiny Leith. Good luck!!

Year 6 Fundraiser
Year 6 will begin selling water ice-blocks on a Tuesday and Thursday at lunch time as part of their fundraising efforts for their gift to the school. Ice-blocks are 50c each and a range of flavours are available.

Kinder Enrolment 2016
We are now taking enrolments for Kinder 2016.

If your child will be attending our school next year, please contact the office on 4996 4156 to enrol your child.
SCHOOL MUSICAL

We are looking forward to presenting to you our school musical – “Around the World”. There will be two performances on Wednesday 9 September 2015.

The first will be a Matinee Performance starting at 1.30pm; the tickets are $2.50 each.

The second an Evening Performance starting at 6.00pm, these tickets will be $5.00 per ticket.

Tickets can be purchased from the School Office and will be on sale from Wednesday 26 August.

You will be able to select your seating preference at the Office when you purchase your tickets.

P & C Father’s Day Stall

The Father’s Day Stall is this Thursday 3 September 2015. Don’t forget to give the kids money for them to purchase a Father’s Day gift for their Dad. Items range in price and there are 2-3 items available per child. There are some great gifts on offer.

We would like to wish all our dads and grandads

“Happy Father’s Day”