**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**MARCH**
- Monday 3rd: Mrs Gittoes & Mrs Purvis at Conference
- Wednesday 5th: 3-6 Parent/Teacher Afternoon 3pm – 4pm
- Friday 7th: Working Bee 3pm & Welcome BBQ
- Wednesday 19th: P&C AGM 7pm
- Friday 21st: Finlayson Sports & P&C Field Day Catering
- Wednesday 26th: P&C Catering at “Willow Park”
- Friday 28th: PPA Meeting
- Friday 11th: McKemey Fundraiser for Spinal Atrophy

**APRIL**
- Friday 11th: McKemey Fundraiser for Spinal Atrophy

The last two weeks has seen many wonderful events occur at our fabulous small school. We welcomed Akihiko, a Japanese student teacher and George Bradford and Bridget Foster to Transition. Our talented students have swam in the annual Highland Small School Swimming Carnival, four students attended the Armidale PSSA Swimming Carnival, a large number of excellent art/craft pieces were entered into the annual Guyra Show, our homework Centre is continuing to grow and Active After School Communities is also very popular.

Welcome Akihiko
Since 2004 our school community has hosted thirty five Japanese students. Our school is so fortunate again to have the opportunity to host another Japanese student, Akihiko or Arki as we affectionately call him. Arki is a third year student from the University of Hiroshima and he is studying to be a teacher. He is here to improve his English and experience life in Australia. Arki would love to visit a farm so if any family would like to show him around their property he would be very grateful - at the present time he is keeping his eyes open in the hope of seeing a wild kangaroo.

Ribbons Galore! Highland Small School Swimming Carnival
Wow! Wow! Wow! On Friday 14th February, Valentine’s Day, all students and staff plus a large contingent of parents and grandparents attended the annual small school swimming carnival at the Guyra Pool. Our students participated against students from Ben Lomond, Chandler, Black Mountain and Ebor and it was an outstanding day with all students winning at least one ribbon. Overall our wonderful school won the Highland Small School’s Swimming trophy with Sophie McKemey winning the Senior Girl Swimming Champion, Yousef Elyassa Senior Boy Swimming Champion, Henry Mitchell 11 years Boy Swimming Champion and Jessie Baker runner up, Abbott White Junior Boy Swimming Champion, Ingrid Chilcott-Geere sub Junior Girl Swimming Champion and Mac Finlayson runner up in the sub Junior Boy Swimming Champion. Fantastic results for our small school. A huge thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who came along and supported our swimming team. It was a splendid day with great results and outstanding sportspersonship. I was so proud of the senior students who helped the younger students swim in their events.

Armidale PSSA Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to Henry Mitchell, Sophie McKemey, Claudia McKemey and Abbott White for participating in the annual Armidale PSSA Swimming Carnival at the Monkton Pool. The team swam splendidly and are to be congratulated on their fine result. Our team came third in their relay heat. Many thanks to the parents for supporting this event.
Homework Centre
This week sixteen students attended the Tuesday homework centre and each week it just seems to get bigger. All students are most welcome to come along and complete their homework tasks.

Finlayson Cup
This week I was notified by Ms Woods, Principal of Chandler Public school that the next Finlayson Sport’s Day will be Friday 21st March. I know that this will clash with the P&C’s fundraiser however I’m confident that we can all work around this and support each other.

Guyra Show
What a privilege it was to view our school’s exceptional entries in the School Art Section of the Guyra Show. So many people came up to me at the show and said how wonderful our entries were. Wylie Wright won Champion Infants Sculpture and Peta Kerr won Champion Infants painting. Our students also won many ribbons and highly commended certificates.

Many thanks to my wonderful staff who worked so tirelessly to organise, mount, transport and collect art/craft entries. It was great to arrive at school on Monday morning to discover that Mrs Purvis had been out at school over the weekend and she had all of the winning show entries displayed along the corridor. It looked fantastic and the students certainly did appreciate her efforts when they arrived at school.

Congratulations to Brooke and Darcy Grills for taking out first place in the novice fleece section, Jessie Baker, Ingrid & Ursula Chilcott-Geere for their fabulous results in the cooking section, along with Henry Mitchell and Abbott White in the lego section and Farren and Chelsea Lyon in the flower section.

It was rewarding to see that a number of our students supported their local show by entering items in a number of different sections. Terrific!!!

In Class With Years 3-6
Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Purvis

Student Equipment
Thanks to all the parents who have assisted me by having student’s equipment ready and organised to start the school year. If I could please ask for your help again by encouraging your child/ren to pack their pencil case in their school bag each day.

Being organised and prepared helps for a good start to the day. Students don’t really need liquid paper (especially Year 3 and 4 because they aren’t using pen) but is an optional piece of equipment and is only used in their books.

Each child having their own coloured pencils is helpful as they are used for a large variety of purposes throughout each day.

Home Project
After two weeks, the home projects should be going strong. Just a reminder the projects are due Wednesday Week 9 and it now the end of Week 5. Students are learning about how to layout and research their projects in class with Mrs McIntyre. Don’t forget students can work on their projects before school and at lunchtime.

If you have any questions, please ask the teachers early so we can help. Don’t leave the research until the last minute.

Homework
Just a reminder that homework is handed out on a Monday and is due on a Friday each week.

Each week, all students, will have:
- One unit of the Maths Plus Textbook (which has content the students have been learning in class that week).
- Spelling activities to do each night
- One Mini Project (per term)
- 10 mins reading (aloud each night)

Things parents can be doing at home to help:
Listen to your child/ren reading aloud
- Ask the students questions about what they are reading
- Test your child/ren on their spelling words each night
- Use Sunshine Online – reading, activities and maths
- Assisting with their project

All students are required to hand their homework in on a Friday (unless they are away and it will be marked on the Monday). Students will be required to stay in at lunchtime on Friday if they don’t hand in their homework or if it is unfinished.

Students are encouraged to complete a bit of homework each night. Mrs Purvis and I understand that families are busy but students do have time in the mornings before school to do some. If your child/ren are having trouble with any part please get them to ask us before Friday.

If you have any question or enquiries, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks Deb McIntyre
Wacky Science Wednesday’s
With Yousef & Henry

My science was a really simple one it needed a straw, two cups one filled halfway with water and one empty.

Firstly you put the straw in the cup with water and suck then put your finger on the top of the straw and put it over the empty cup and the water inside the cup goes into the empty cup. By Yousef

For wacky science Wednesday day I did a Film canister rocket
The film canister rocket is a film canister power by a Berocca tablet fizzing in room temperature water. The fizzing builds up and the compression which makes the canister force the lid down and the canister up.
If you want do this at home you will need:
1. Film canister
2. Berocca tablet (other fizzing tablets work Just as well
3. Water

By Henry

Years 3-6 Parent/Teacher Information
Afternoon
What a great response from parents. This will be held next Wednesday 5th March between 3-4pm with Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Purvis in the 3-6 classroom. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Attention Parents Re: Catering
Could families please return the P&C catering notes early next week so Katherine & Soph can organise catering. Please also note the P&C has requested that cooking for the “Willow Park” Field day should not contain nuts.