DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MARCH
- Monday 17th: St Patricks Day
- Wednesday 19th: P&C AGM 7pm & Debating Years 5 & 6
- Friday 21st: Finlayson Sports & P&C Field Day Catering
- Friday 26th: P&C Catering at “Willow Park”

APRIL
- Wednesday 2nd: Last Day of Active Afternoon for Term One
- Thursday 3rd: Guyra Cross Country 8 Years & Over
- Friday 11th: McKemey Fundraiser for Spinal Atrophy

The last two weeks have seen a number of extraordinary events occur at our fantastic small school. Congratulations to Abbott White, our super fish, who represented our school at the North West PSSA Swimming Carnival in Armidale. He came 7th in the North West for 8 year old boys 50m freestyle and he took an impressive 8 seconds off his personal best time. Truly remarkable Abbott!

The P&C held an extremely productive working bee last Friday afternoon at school and they managed to put in what we thought were all of our school’s new pieces of fitness equipment. (Oh No! The two new balance beams are still sitting on a shelf in the sports shed. Like one of our parents stated we will just have to have a small working bee next time to finish the job.) The new equipment looks fantastic and I’m just waiting for Mr Deeks to remove the dirt from around the equipment and then we can start using it.

The working bee concluded with a family welcome barbeque and it was an excellent way to finish the afternoon. Many thanks to our very dedicated P&C for installing the equipment and providing a delicious country style barbeque for dinner. Friday was a great day!

Japanese with Arki
Arki has been teaching all students from K-6 how to write their name in Japanese, he is teaching them Mary had a Little Lamb, Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and the Japanese National Anthem. He has been consolidating students counting skills and he has also taught the students some Japanese games. All students are thoroughly enjoying their lessons with Arki.

This week Arki had the pleasure of seeing a mob of kangaroos just up the road from our school and he was so excited. Now he would like to see a koala. Don’t know if I can pull that off!

Arki only has two weeks left at our school and if any family would like to show him their property he would be most appreciative.

3-6 Information Afternoon
Many thanks to Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Purvis for conducting an information session for parents of students in years 3-6 last Wednesday afternoon. By all accounts it was an outstanding success and the ladies are planning to have more sessions in the future.

Don’t Forget
St Patricks Day at Bald Blair Public School Next Monday 17th March

All students & teachers are asked to come dressed in something green to celebrate St Patrick’s day next Monday 17th March.
Part of years 3-6 HSIE unit is researching different communities, remembrance and celebration days. As part of this unit 3-6 will be learning about the meaning and importance of St Patricks Day.
**School Times**

Parents please be mindful of when students need to be dropped off and picked up each afternoon.

Parents who are driving their child/children to school are asked to drop them off at **8.30am** because teachers need to complete a number of tasks each morning before school. There are teacher meetings, lesson preparation and classroom set up and organisation.

School finishes at **3.30pm**, Active Afternoon School Community finishes at **4.45pm** and the Homework Centre finishes at **5.30pm**. It would be sincerely appreciated if all parents could ensure that their child/children are collected at the correct times. If you are running late or there is a problem please notify the school.

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**Welcome to Clem McKemey who joins George Bradford and Bridget Foster in Transition on Tuesdays ....**

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**Homework**

Congratulations to all students in K-2 for achieving 100% of them handing in their homework for the past two weeks. The younger students in our school are certainly developing some excellent work habits and skills.

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**Mathletics**

The majority of our students in Years 1-6 are achieving the school target which requires students to strive to achieve 1000 points each week. Last week Kye Baker reached 10,000 points for the week. What a fantastic effort!

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**Finlayson Sports Day**

All students are practising their athletic skills for the upcoming Finlayson Sports Day to be held at Chandler Public School on Friday 21st March and the march past will commence at 9.15am. Please sign the attached permission note and return to school.

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**Senior Debating Day Years 5 & 6**

Next Wednesday Mrs McIntyre and our year 5 and 6 students have been given the opportunity to attend the Arts Unit Senior Debating Day to be held at Armidale City Public School commencing at 9.30am. This is an outstanding day and would encourage all years 5 and 6 students to attend.

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The cost is $20.00 per student and each student will need to take their own recess and lunch plus pens, pencils and a notebook. Full school uniform including tie to be worn on this day.

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**Happy Birthday to Korin & Ursula who both celebrated their Birthday last Tuesday.**

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**K-2 News with Miss Waters**

Over half way through the term and all students are working extremely hard. Years 1 and 2 have been learning a different grammar concept each week and have remembered and applied these brilliantly.

Our class has been learning about recounts and over the past 5 weeks everyone has produced their own recount. These have been excellent! We will now start to look at narratives.

Reminder to parents - please encourage students to bring back their old readers that they have read and swap them for new ones to read throughout the week, or logon to the sunshine online website to complete their reading and activities.

Spelling words need to be read and practiced each night; some students need to make sure they put more effort into learning them at home as well as at school.

Thanks, Miss Waters

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**Happy Birthday Mac Finlayson who turns 6 this Saturday...**
Our class has been working extremely hard over the past two weeks. The students have worked well in all KLA’s. They have settled into the daily routine of the literacy and numeracy sessions well and are working diligently to complete all set tasks.

A huge thank you to the parents that attended the 3-6 Information session last Wednesday afternoon. Mrs McIntyre and I were very excited to see so many parents attend and we hope that you found it informative and beneficial.

In art the students have been creating a drawing of an abstract flower inspired by a famous artist Georgia O’Keefe. Georgia O’Keefe was an American abstract painter and she received the Medal of Arts from President Reagan in 1985. All students have worked so enthusiastically and diligently and it will be a sheer pleasure to display the completed artwork.

The students have also been busy learning their dance routine for this term. Each week the students learn a new section of the routine and it is a joy to see the effort the students are putting in. Congratulations to the 3-6 class on achieving 100% of students at school on Friday handing in their homework. Homework helps to consolidate, reinforce and practise activities completed in class. We encourage students to complete 10-15 minutes of homework each night. I am pleased to report that last Thursday and Friday we had six students completing their homework before school and were extremely excited to realise they didn’t have to go home that night and do it.

We would also like to remind parents of the importance of students attending school each day. Monday is the most important day of the school week. This is when the students receive their new spelling words and when they are introduced to the topics in mathematics and English for the week. If students are absent it is their responsibility to catch up work when they return.

Mrs Purvis

"Osmosis" – For my science experiment I got 5 sticks of celery and put into 5 different colours of food dye and they absorbed the colours!

By Jessie

For Wacky Wednesday Science I did an electromagnet. All I needed was some copper wire, a large nail and a D sized battery. Next I wrapped the copper wire around the nail and connected both ends onto the battery. This made the nail an electromagnet. This magnet will pick up certain metals like paperclips. This happens because the electric current flows into the nail turning it on as a magnet.

By Patrick