DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

AUGUST
Wednesday 20th  Mrs Gittoes away at K-6 Science Course
Thursday 21st  Mrs Gittoes at Highland Learning Meeting
Friday 22nd  Jeans for Genes Day – Gold Coin Donation
Monday 25th – Friday 29th  Lake Keepit Excursion Years 3-6

SEPTEMBER
Wednesday 3rd  Miss Waters at Fundamental Movement Course
Friday 5th  Mrs Gittoes at PPA Meeting

The last two weeks have been extremely busy with the Highland Fling, Environmental Matters, Science Wednesdays and the P&C successfully catering the annual Bald Blair and Wattletop Bull Sales. It’s now week 4 and only ten more sleeps until students in 3-6 go on their major excursion to Lake Keepit Sport and Recreational Centre. All of the students are getting really excited and they just can’t wait to go. Thanks to all of the parents who have returned permission notes and their final excursion payment.

Highland Fling
On the Friday of Education Week our students, parents and staff attended the annual Highland Fling held at Black Mountain Public school. Fellow small schools in the Highlands Learning Network all participated in this educational event. Ty Paterson opened the event with a traditional Welcome to Country, with Banbai Rangers Tremaine, Cody, Travis, Dion, Dominic, Lesley, Mervyn and Brian then preparing a Smoking Ceremony which all students, parents, staff and volunteers participated in. It was a ceremony to remove bad spirits. Following this impressive opening, the Jarmu’s from Guyra Central School performed some traditional aboriginal dances which were outstanding.

All students were put into mixed groups and each group moved around a variety of activities including a drawing session, led by Margarete Ogonowski, and a hockey session led by Blair Chalmers, from Hockey NSW. The students engaged in learning about Indigenous culture with the Banbai Rangers. Ty Paterson and the Rangers taught the students about the many tools and weapons used by Indigenous Australians, painted the children with ochre paints, and showed many symbols used in drawing and painting by Indigenous Australians, which the students then painted onto boomerangs, under the guidance of Mrs Carole O’Hara.

A large number of our students commented that the Rangers talk and the boomerang painting were the best activities.

Gordon Youman and Edson Galindo discussed the role of the SES in the community and Mrs Sindell worked with a giant foot keyboard, engaging the students in a music session.

It was an excellent day of engagement in learning and it covered many areas of the curriculum.

The P&C catered a delicious lunch and the day concluded with all students participating in novelty events like sack races, egg and spoon races and rob the nest.

A big thank you all of the parents who provided transport.

P&C Catering - Simply amazing!

What an awesome team lead by Katherine Hickey and Sophie Wright. Last week our fabulous P&C members enthusiastically worked as a well-oiled machine to ensure another successful catering event at the Bald Blair and Wattletop Bull Sales. Some mums gave up many hours to cook and package delicious country style cakes and slices, some purchased supplies, others organised and transported goods and equipment to and from the sales, some provided monetary contributions and a team of at least seven mums lent a hand at each bull sale. By all accounts everyone’s effort ensured that the P&C’s major fundraiser for 2014 was an outstanding success.

The students certainly enjoyed the leftover cooking from the sales. A sincere thank you to both the White and Rogers families for their ongoing support of our wonderful small school.
Active Afternoon’s
The Active Afternoon sessions are extremely popular with our students and for the next couple of weeks the students are participating in cricket activities. Miss Waters is the coach and she is being assisted by Farren Lyon who is doing an outstanding job leading a cricket activity that he has organised. Well done Farren.
On Thursday 21st August and on Tuesday 2nd September, 9th September and 16th September, Mr Blair Chalmers from Hockey NSW will be enhancing our student’s hockey skills by conducting 2 intensive sessions each afternoon from 2pm until 3.30pm. Kindergarten to Year 1 times are 2pm – 2.30pm and Years 2 – 6 2.30pm – 3.30pm.

EnviroMentors
On Monday all students from K-6 participated in an “EnviroMentors” workshop conducted by Miss Hailey Durham from Keep NSW Beautiful. All students worked enthusiastically with Miss Durnham on a unit of work called Close the Loop which involved the students working in groups on a number of different activities that involved recycling. The students certainly had their knowledge about recycling extended in a fun and informative manner.

Wacky Science
Wednesday’s
With Henry

Make your own parachute:
For this experiment you need to get a plastic bag or some kind of material that will slow the object falling and then get some string and an object to fall.
You get the string, tie it to the bag and object. Your object should fall slower with the bag.

Happy Birthday to Zoe who turned 9 last Saturday.

Things happening around the Highland Learning Network:

Guyra Central School Piggy Races
Guyra Showground 6th September
(Information emailed to families along with this newsletter)

Black Mountain P&C Fashion Parade
Ex Services Club Armidale
This Saturday 16th August at 6pm
Clothing provide by All things Wedding
$5.00 Entry

Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 22nd August

Next Friday students can come dressed out of uniform in their jeans for a gold coin donation towards Cystic Fibrosis.

Working Bee
Friday 12th September 2pm at school.
Camp Oven at “Kolora” James & Belinda Lyon’s place afterwards.
More details to follow closer to date....
Out & About at Wattletop Bull Sale

Fruit & Milo at Bald Blair