Spring has sprung! The daffodils, cherry blossoms and deciduous trees are bursting into new life and it's great to see some spring rain and showers. Our school playground is greening up and soon Mr Deeks may commence his mowing. Hopefully that the chilly weather will leave soon because I don't really appreciate Arctic winds and winter snow in September but as they say Guyra can have four seasons in one day.

The last couple of weeks have been hectic with the 3-6 students attending Lake Keepit Sport and Recreational Centre, play rehearsals, Active Afternoon Sport, Homework Centre, birthdays, students completing Father's Day activities in literacy, numeracy and the creative arts, School Director, Mrs Sue Brown Northern Tablelands visit, professional development courses for staff, the majority of K-2 students have had running records completed and our school community has been hit hard with the dreaded flu.

NAPLAN
Results have arrived for years 3 & 5 and will be posted to the parents today.

Lake Keepit Excursion
What an outstanding week! On Monday morning seventeen enthusiastic students and two members of staff said goodbye to their loved ones and set off on an adventure of a life time to Lake Keepit. Firstly we travelled by bus to Armidale and then boarded the Country Link train to Tamworth and for lunch we enjoyed sandwiches or wraps and the children could choose the variety of jams, honey and vegemite. Morning tea was fruit and vegetables, pasta, chicken legs and vegetables and a delicious dessert chocolate mousse being a real hit! If a child was ever hungry there was always a wide selection of fruit that they could have at any time.

At camp our students mixed with students from ten other small schools which included: Chandler, Kingstown, Yarrowitch, Mullahey, Burren Junction, Woolbrook, Corinda, Marium, Mallawa and Quombyne Public Schools.

Many students made lots of new friends. Sophie even had the opportunity to be with a girl who will be starting Calrossy with her next year.

The activities at camp allowed all of our students to be challenged and extended and they all realised that they were much braver than they had ever imagined. The students participated in kayaking, canoeing, initiatives (we have some great problem solvers in our school), low ropes, hero’s and villains’ (orienteering), archery, giant swing, rock climbing, County Fair, night shows and the Winter Warriors race.

For most students the Winter Warrior race was the most challenging but the best. On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning it rained (fantastic) and this made for a really wet and boggy race course. All students dressed in their oldest clothes and set off to conquer this unique course. First we had to get into teams of eight and then all walk about two kilometres to the Point at Lake Keepit. Working together in a team all the students had to fight their fears and conquer the course of obstacles that took them over ladders, barrels, up steep boards, through tyres, along wooden planks, through concrete pipes, across water holes, under ropes crawling in the mud and lastly under shade cloth and the final run or walk up a steep incline. It was amazing to see all students push themselves and complete this activity. All students were extremely dirty and a little cold however a warm shower awaited them. Lucky for them their clothes were so clean because they thought that they would have been ruined. Marvellous what hot water, washing powder and a little elbow grease can achieve.
On the Wednesday Kye celebrated his ninth birthday at camp and the 175 students and staff sang happy birthday to him and then in true Lake Keepit style he was given a hug by nine lovely girls. For supper that night Kye was given a surprise birthday cake. Kye’s birthday was certainly a special day for him to remember.

It was a sheer delight and privilege to accompany our magnificent students to Lake Keepit for the week. Their behaviour and sportspersonship was exemplary. During the week all students developed relationships and resilience. As mentioned they undertook activities that challenged their abilities and built self esteem. It was wonderful to see the students coaxed and cajoled into extending themselves while working together. They examined how teams work, solved group problems and learnt to accept, trust and rely on others. Our students built independence, a sense of personal achievement and an appreciation of the people around them.

I was so proud of all students however some did students did volunteer for some jobs more than others. Our scullery superheroes were Wylie, Claudia and Archie. These stars helped out in the scullery every day and they did the task with a beautiful smile and they took great pride in the job that they were performing.

Many thanks to Miss Waters who helped out so co-operatively during the camp and I certainly look forward to our school’s next major excursion.

Influenza
For the past three weeks our school community including students, staff and parents have been struck down by the dreaded flu. The only way to get over this flu is to get plenty of rest and drink lots of water. Hopefully all students and staff will be back on deck soon.

Thank you to all of our parents who consistently notify their child’s teacher with a phone call, email or write a letter informing them as to why their child/children are away. The law clearly states that all parents/carers must notify their child/children’s school if absent.

Student Safety
Our school staff are always vigilant in trying to ensure the safe arrival and departure of all students to and from our wonderful school. Parents are again reminded that all students are to be dropped off and picked up in the parking area. There should be no cars parking in the bus zone unless it is after 9.30 and before 3pm. Everyone’s cooperation would be gratefully appreciated.

Professional Development
On Thursday Mrs Gittoes will be going to Glen Innes Public School to work with their principal Mrs sure Bedford on effectively implementing i-pads into our school and then on Friday she will be attending the Principal’s Conference in Tenterfield.

Happy Birthday to Brock, Dillon, Kye & Peta who have all celebrated Birthday’s recently...

To all our dads have a very Happy Father’s Day this Sunday!

A very big thank you to Miss Shipway for the time & dedication she has put into preparing the students for their upcoming talent show.

Talent Show & Assembly
Wednesday 17th September starting at 11.45am. Parents bring a picnic lunch & wear your sports gear for an afternoon of ball games with the students.
E-GATS with Henry
This year I have been lucky enough to be selected for e-GATS, after also being selected last year. I was selected for technology this year. During this term I have been doing a number of tasks including: Designing and creating a new computer game for kids 10-12, Programming a computer to enable an object to move around in a set course, writing my name is Java script and creating my own solar system with Java script.

E-GATS with Patrick
I was also lucky enough to be selected into the E-GATS program for five and six. I was selected in the science area. Our group has been focusing on science investigations, SPF or sun protection factor, the science of rollercoasters, building a tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti and wonders of science. I am thoroughly enjoying the experience and I look forward to the celebration day at Thalgarrah.

Jeans for Genes Day
$58.00 was raised for this cause.

Out & About at Lake Keepit with Archie ...