This week I had the privilege of welcoming four new students into our magnificent public school. Tatyliana Holding is in year four, Keeley year three, Hezekiah year one and Sawyer kindergarten. Since our last newsletter student and staff participated in the Guyra Centenary ANZAC Day march, the School Plan and Annual School Report (ASR) have been uploaded to our website, P&C meeting, Mrs Davidson has taken our school photographs, school reports have been revised, students are training for the upcoming cross country events and all classrooms have been busy with students enthusiastically completing tasks in all key learning areas.

ANZAC Day
On Anzac Day our school community not only remembered the original Anzacs who died on 25th April 1915, but every one of our service men and women who have served and died in all wars, conflicts, peacekeeping, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance missions. On the Saturday the weather was bright and sunny and 75% of students and 100% of staff assembled at Fourways to participate in the Centenary of Anzac march. The returned soldiers lead the march followed by the Red Cross and then the schools. Our school had the privilege to lead the schools and all the students and staff marched proudly to the Guyra RSL Hall. It was amazing to see at least a thousand people line Bradley Street for the march.

At the hall all students stood silently and listened to the service. The key address by Mr Frank Bell told how Anzac Day is a time to reflect on the contribution made by all of the past and present service men and women who have displayed great courage, discipline, self-sacrifice and mateship in choosing a life of service. The stories about his relatives was quite uplifting to listen too. Farren, Patrick and Jessie laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of our school community and many thanks to Mrs Belinda Lyon for organising and making our beautiful wreath. Congratulations to Mr Sam White, our P&C president who competently gave the prayer to our nation. The Anzac spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of all Australians and we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who have contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation.

LEST WE FORGET
School Plan and Annual School Report

Many thanks to Mrs Davidson who uploaded these reports onto our website. Please take the time to look at our updated website and read both these documents.

Just Google: Bald Blair Public School.

P&C Meeting

The last P&C meeting was very successful with members deciding to hold their first working bee on Friday 15th March. All families are asked to give a helping hand if they can. Remember many hands make light work and all the tasks that the P&C complete help all students and staff in our wonderful school. The working bee will commence at 2pm with dads pruning trees and preparing the new front entrance footpath. All parents are reminded to put their insurance fee of $5.00 per family to Sally Finlayson as soon as possible. Money must be put in a sealed envelope addressed to Sally and left at school for her to collect. The insurance fee ensures that when parents help at any P&C functions they are covered for any injuries or accidents at the event and also driving to and from the event.

This year the P&C's major fundraisers will be the Bald Blair Bull Sale on Tuesday 4th August and Wattletop Bull Sale on Wednesday 5th August. Please keep these two days free as the P&C will need the help of all families. Each bull sale will need at least 8 workers and mums will be required to cook or opt to pay $20 instead of cooking. Remember that the money raised will be used to provide educational resources and for major excursions. All students benefit so we need all parents to HELP.

School Photographs

Wow! Wow! How lucky are we to have Mrs Davidson as our SAM (School Administration Manager) and photographer? With the brilliant splendour of autumn as her backdrop Mrs Davidson weaved her magic with the camera to take our school's majestic 2015 school photographs. All parents should be extremely pleased with her beautiful school photographs which should be sent home by the end of next week. Many thanks to Mrs Davidson for taking our school photographs, for including relevant photographs in our ASR, for keeping her office displays interesting and always keeping our website fresh and alive with new photographs. The collages that she creates for each family during the year are a sheer delight to view and a credit to her total dedication, support and commitment to our great school.

Lunches

Parents please ensure that you send hot food in an appropriate container with your child's name clearly printed on the front. It is important that all parents put left over meals like lasagne, pasta and rice, quiche, sausage rolls, pizzas and pies in foil so that they can be put straight into the pie oven. If we can we would like to avoid using the microwave to cut down on preparation time as most students are bringing a hot lunch to be heated or toasted.

Food should not be sent to school in glass containers because they heat too quickly and are dangerous for students to use in the playground. Could you please send cutlery if needed.

IMPORTANT!!! Bull Sale Catering Dates:
Tuesday 4th August & Wednesday 5th August........... Major P&C Fundraiser

Transition

How lucky am I to have the honour of teaching our school's eight transition students who will be our school's 2016 kindergarten and it's wonderful to see that all students are extending their skills in all key learning areas. Yesterday they completed a number of English tasks around the letter and sound "h", completed a rotation of numeracy tasks, enthusiastically completed a number of Mother's Day activities, enjoyed cooking and eating their hot chocolate cookies and finished the day with some free play.
Armidale PSSA Cross Country
Good luck to all students competing in the Armidale PSSA Cross Country at the UNE in Armidale tomorrow, Friday 8th May. Many thanks to those parents who are transporting our fine athletes and to Miss Waters who will be an official on the day. All students are to meet Miss Waters at 10.15 ready to walk the course at 10.30. Parents may take their children after they run. Students not attending the cross county event must attend school.

Small School Cross Country
Next Friday 15th May all students and staff will be attending the annual small school cross country event at Ben Lomond Public School. Please complete the attached note.

Guyra Athletics Carnival 15th May
Due to our school’s commitment to the small schools cross country event at Ben Lomond 3-6 students will not be going to the Guyra Athletics Carnival. We will pick a team of athletes for the Armidale PSSA Athletics carnival in Armidale.

This week’s awards: Idris Eylassa Zoe Kelly, Patrick Hickey

A NEW INITIATIVE
"Student of the Week"

Every week teachers will choose three students who have been doing excellent work for award.

At the end of term there will also be some new awards.

100% Attendance Award
100% Homework Award

Idris – Learning his sounds & his first 30 PM sight words
Zoe – Fantastic preparation & great effort in her work
Patrick – Excellence in Public Speaking

Meet our new students L-R: Hezekiah, Tatyliana, Keeley & Sawyer

News With Mrs Purvis
In Japanese Year 3 -6 have been learning about Children’s Day which is celebrated on the 5th May each year in Japan. To celebrate Children’s Day houses in Japan hang Koi streamers on a flagpole outside their house. The number of streamers represents how many males live in the house. In class each of the students thoroughly enjoyed making and decorating their own koi streamers.

This term in music the students will be using an app on the Ipad called Garage Band to compose their own piece of music. It is an amazing app that allows students to play a variety of virtual instruments such as the drums, piano and guitar and record their creations. Last Wednesday the students were introduced to the app and were given time to explore the different instruments. I am very excited and eager to see what the students produce over the next few weeks.
For my Wacky Wednesday experiment I made my own underwater volcano. I had a large jar of cold water. I attached string to a small glass jar and filled it with hot water and red food colouring. I lowered the small jar into the large jar. The hot water rose to the top like smoke from an erupting volcano. This happens because hot water always rises to the surface and floats on the cold water.

For Wacky Wednesday science this week I made a soap powered model boat. To make my boat I needed a foam tray, dishwashing liquid, a toothpick and a plastic container filled with cold water. First I cut a triangle shape out of the foam tray with a notch in the end. Next I dipped my toothpick in the dishwashing liquid and wiped it in the notch of the boat. Carefully I placed it in the water and it zoomed across the other side. This experiment works because soap is a surfactant. That means that the soap breaks down the surface tension of the water. When the surface tension is broken up, it creates enough of a force to push the boat across the water. I got my experiment from www.sciencebob.com. It has lots of cool experiments and I really like it.