DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MAY
Thursday 21st
Mrs Gittoes away - Mrs McIntyre at Course
Miss Shipway Relieving
Tuesday 26th
Mrs Waters visiting for a Heart Talk
Wednesday 27th
K-6 Guyra Excursion

JUNE
Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd
Mrs McIntyre at Professional Development
Thursday 4th
Miss Waters attending Golf Clinic
Friday 5th
Questacon

JULY
Friday 24th
Armidale PSSA Athletics

Week 5 and half of term 2 has gone. In the last two weeks students have been extremely busy participating in the Armidale PSSA Cross Country, the Small School Cross Country at Ben Lomond, the Guyra and District Athletics carnival, years 3 and 5 students have successfully completed their NAPLAN assessments, the P&C had an excellent working bee and classrooms have been filled with enthusiastic students completing lessons in all key learning areas. Congratulations to Bridget McKemey who will be representing our school at Coolah in the North West PSSA Cross Country next month. Well done Bridget.

Working Bee
A huge thank you to those families (Lochie Cullen, Sam White, David McKemey, Peter Farrawell, Simon Wright, Mara and Chub Grills) and Brian Heffernan and Lando Warner who could give up their valuable time last Friday afternoon to participate in the P&C’s first working bee for 2015. Wow, they achieved great results by removing unwanted vegetation and building an exquisite chook pen. Can’t wait for the chooks to arrive! Mr Hickman (a poultry expert from Guyra) travelled out to help parents construct the pen and now he is taming some chooks so that he can donate them to the school in the coming months. He has also offered to teach the students about chooks and how to care for them so we may be able to exhibit chooks at the upcoming Guyra Show. How exciting!

Absences
Thank you to those families who always let the school know why their child or children are away from school. It is a requirement by law that schools are notified about absences so that they can be accurately recorded in the class roll. Classroom rolls are a legal document and truant officers visit the school regularly to see that all students are attending school on a regular basis. As per newsletter reports earlier in the year family holidays cannot be considered for an exemption from school unless the family is going overseas or there is an ongoing medical issue or elite sporting opportunities.

Ben Lomond Cross Country
Last Friday students, parents and staff travelled to Ben Lomond Public School to participate in the annual Small School's Cross Country event. This event has been held on this Our enthusiastic students joined other students from Wytalibah, Red Range, Chandler, Ebor and Ben Lomond. The weather was rather sunny with a crisp breeze and despite the weather our students ran with determination, eagerness and pride. The day commenced with the walking of the track and then the events started. Our students participated brilliantly and won numerous events and took out many minor places. Our students won five out of the eight Cross Country Champions medals. Jessie Baker - senior boy champion Patrick Hickey - 11 years boy champion Claudia McKemey- 11 years girl champion Bridget McKemey - junior girl champion Ashlee Morgan - minor junior girl champion.

The Ben Lomond P&C provided a delicious country style lunch
with either chicken and gravy rolls or hot dogs plus a popper. The day concluded with the presentation of medals, certificates, ribbons and Champion Cross Country Small School for 2015. Our squad took out the overall trophy narrowly beating Ben Lomond Public School. It was truly a marvellous day of sport and socialising with other students. Our senior boys certainly enjoyed the wonderful handball competition with the Red Range boys.

Our school community would like to thank Ben Lomond staff and parents for an excellent sporting event and we look forward to participating again in 2016 on the fourth Friday of term 2.

This week's awards: Jasmine Fekonia, Lettie Kerr & Mosie Wright

A NEW INITIATIVE
"Student of the Week"

Jasmine – Consistent, neat and accurate work
Lettie – Improvement in maths, spelling & public speaking
Mosie – Writing & amazing description of a penguin

Questacon
The Shell Questacon Science Circus will be visiting our school on Friday 5th June from 2.00 - 3.00pm. The cost is $5.00 per student and parents/siblings are welcome at no charge. Should be a great afternoon.

Please find attached an invitation to also participate in Shell Questacon Science Circus at the UNE in Armidale on Saturday 13th June.

Hot Lunches Reminder!
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.

Transition
The eight little treasures in transition are always busy when they come to transition each Wednesday and it is inspiring to see each student improving their counting, writing their name, cooperating with each other in completing hands on activities in mathematics, English, art, craft, PE and cooking, extending their letter and sound knowledge and becoming attentive listeners during story and nursery rhyme sessions.

Regretably there will be NO TRANSITION on Wednesday 27th May and Wednesday 3rd June because Mrs Gittoes will be on leave. I look forward to seeing everyone back on the 10th June.

Community Garden
Scarecrow Competition
Our school has just received a gift voucher from the Hub for $50 to be spent at the Black Mountain nursery for winning the Guyra Community Garden Scarecrow competition.

Armidale PSSA Cross Country
On Friday 8th May, students in years 3-6 participated in the cross country held at Bellview Oval in Armidale. All students ran extremely well and should be proud of their behaviour and efforts on the day. Massive congratulations to Bridget McKemey who ran 4th, Lettie Kerr ran 9th and is third reserve and Matilda Cullen who ran 10th who is 4th reserve for the Coolah team.

Bald Blair Public school was awarded the small schools participation trophy. All students who ran on the day contributed to the school trophy, the results were:

Muhammad Elyassa – 57th
Nakita Hoffman – 49th
Zoe Kelly – 50th
Archie Davidson – 46th
Wylie Wright – 53rd
Jasmine Fekonia – 35th
Alice Finlayson – 16th
Kye Baker – 54th
Aidan Purvis – 49th
Jessie Baker – 22nd
Claudia McKemey – 23rd
Maryam Elyassa – 28th
Chelsea Lyon – 57th

Well done to all Bald Blair Student
Wacky Science

Wednesday’s With Archie & Bridget

How Smart is your Right Foot?
With Archie.....

Sit on a hard chair, spin your right leg around in small circles clockwise and whilst you’re doing this draw a number six with your left hand in the air. You will notice that your right foot will start turning in the opposite direction. The left side of your brain which controls the right side of your body is responsible for rhythm and timing. The left side of the brain cannot deal with operating two opposite movements at the same time and so it combines them into a single motion.

Baking Soda & Vinegar Volcano With Bridget....

Put baking soda, food colouring and vinegar in a plastic bottle and pour into a clay volcano.....

Guyra and District Athletics Carnival

Last Friday on the 15th of May
Archie Davidson,
Wylie Wright,
Alice Finlayson and Aidan Purvis attended the Guyra and District Athletics Carnival.

All students participated in all events and competed with great sportsmanship and fantastic behaviour.

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We nominated a relay team on the day in the junior boys and junior girl’s event. The team ran fourth place in the junior boys and ran 2nd in the junior girl’s event. Well Done!

Results and points have not been finalised and will be sent through to the school by the carnival organisers. We are looking forward to sending some students to the Armidale Athletics Carnival on the 24th of July.

K-6 Excursion

Next Wednesday the 27th May

Visit to Guyra for the day.
Students will visit the
- Museum
- Train station
- Library
- Ambulance Station
- Students who travel
- Police station
- NSW Fire Brigade

Students who travel on the school bus will continue on to Guyra Central with a teacher getting on with them at Bald Blair Public School at 8.20am. All other students will need to meet at Guyra Central at 8:35am ready to start their excursion day.

Students will need to be in their full school uniform including black shoes, school hat, tie and badge. Also, they will need a water bottle, recess and lunch. Students will be walking so they need their school bag.

Students will end the day at Guyra Central. Students who catch the bus will get on at Guyra Central. All other students will need to get picked up at Guyra Central at 3pm. Please see the attached permission note and return to school ASAP.

IMPORTANT!!! Bull Sale Catering Dates:

Tuesday 4th August – Bald Blair &
Wednesday 5th August - Wattletop........
Major P&C Fundraiser
In Class with K-2 Monkeys & Mrs McIntyre

Science – In our “light” unit we have been looking at sources of light like sparklers and candles are used at birthday parties. As part of the unit the students designed and made a birthday invitation to “Happy feet” the penguin's birthday party. The K-2 monkeys had a cake with candles to celebrate. It was great to share the experience with the whole school.

For writing, we have been busy using similes and descriptive language to write a description of a penguin. Students then neatly published their work on nice paper.

For Japanese, this week we as a class looked at “Kodomo No Hi” which is Children’s Day celebrated on the 5th of May each year. We looked at the ways Japanese children celebrate the day and we made carp shaped flags as part of our cultural lesson.

In literacy we are continuing our penquins unit.

In reading groups, we have added another activity, the new one focusing on improving student’s comprehension skills and deeper understanding. Each week the students in K-2 Monkeys are borrowing home readers and are encouraging students to read aloud at home to an adult each night.

Thank you to all of the parents for listening to their children read each night and helping them to practice their sight words with them. If your child needs a new sight word list, please let me know.