DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

AUGUST

Wednesday 12th  Gymnastics
Wednesday 19th  Gymnastics
Wednesday 26th  Gymnastics
Friday 21st  Julie at Principals Meeting
& Friday 28th  Julie at Principals Conference

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1st  Netball Clinic Afternoon K-6
Tuesday 1st to Wednesday 9th  Mrs McIntyre on Leave
Wednesday 26th  Gymnastics

The last two weeks have been extremely busy with parent teacher interviews, Education Week celebrations, the P&C major fundraisers for 2015, homework centre, commencing sporting schools activities, the Highland Fling, transition, a visit from the Director NSW Public Schools and welcoming two practicum students.

It was wonderful to arrive at school last Monday morning to see the first gorgeous daffodils blooming and swaying in the wintery breezes. Luckily this week the playground has been drier and this has enabled our morning fitness program to recommence. On completion of the fitness activities all students certainly appreciate their cup of warm milo. This school initiative ensures that all students commence their day with something in their tummies.

On Monday morning our school community welcomed two practicum students from the University of New England. Miss Shani Marshall is working with Mrs McIntyre on K-2 and Miss Ashley Shortt is working with Miss Waters on years 3-6. Both ladies will be here for the next four weeks and I wish them all the best and I hope that they enjoy their teaching and learning experience at our fabulous small public school.

On Monday 29th July I had the opportunity to host a visit from our Director NSW Public Schools, Northern Tablelands Mrs Sue Brown. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss a number of issues including staff data, school initiatives, professional learning plans, the school plan, update our school plans milestones, the annual school finances and maintenance issues. The afternoon concluded with Mrs Brown staying to attend the Snow Gum Learning Alliance Education Week awards.

Education Week

Education Week is a major event on the NSW Public School calendar and it's a time to celebrate the achievements and successes of our students, staff, parents and community members.

Last Monday afternoon it was a sheer pleasure and privilege for the Bald Blair Public School Community to host the Snow Gum Alliance Education Week awards for 2015.

The theme this year was 'Celebrating Local Heroes'. Our school heroes make our school strong, special and unique and we could not exist without their dedication, commitment and support. Through cooperation, clear communication, high expectations, a common purpose and a shared vision our school continues to grow and provide the best possible education for our students.

Mrs Sue Brown, Director Public Schools NSW for Northern Tablelands presented the Education Week certificates to each of the school's recipients.

For Outstanding Student Achievement - Patrick Hickey
For Outstanding contribution by a staff member - Mr Lando Warner
For Outstanding contribution by a parent in the school community - Mrs Belinda Lyon
For Outstanding contribution by a community member- Mr Brian Irving.
A sincere thank you to all the students, parents and staff for helping to organise this wonderful afternoon. The country style afternoon was delicious and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Transition
It was fantastic to see our little transition treasures on Wednesday. All students had a great day extending their learning outcomes in English, mathematics, science, art, craft, health and fitness.
Please remember that for the next three Wednesdays in the afternoon our transition students will be going to the Armidale Gymnastics Centre. Permission note and money ($10 per student for the 3 days) needs to be sent into Mrs Davidson.

Highland Fling
To conclude Education Week activities last Friday students, staff and parents attended the Highland Fling at Black Mountain with other Snow Gum Alliance Schools. The day commenced with two gentlemen playing the bagpipes and then Mrs Brown officially opened the day. The students were divided into groups and each group participated in a variety of activities including art, music, a session with Zac, the development Officer for the NRL, bike education, learning about the musical instruments used by the aboriginal people, making and decorating a pair of clap sticks, learning how to call OOO and what is the role of the SES and Rural Bushfire. The Black Mountain P&C provided a delicious sausage sandwich for lunch and then it was home time. Many thanks to all of the parents who helped transport students to and from Black Mountain.

Bull Sales
Congratulations on another successful fundraiser. Sal Geere is to be praised and congratulated on the outstanding role that she played in taking on the coordinator of the Bald Blair Public School catering committee. Under her expertise, care and dedication she successfully rounded up two teams to man the Bald Blair Bull Sale on Tuesday and then another team on Wednesday for the Wattletop Bull Sale. Many thanks to all of those parents who provided delicious cakes and slices or opted to send in a momentary donation in lieu of cooking or working. This year some of the money was given to Mrs Deidre Scott who kindly cooked up a scrumptious array of home cooking. A gentle reminder to those parents who promised money if you haven’t sent it in could you please send it to school or give it to Sal Finlayson.

Wacky Science

Wednesday With:
Lettie Kerr and the Exploding Lunch Bag

Yesterday my science experiment was called the exploding lunch bag.
Ingredients;
Warm water, vinegar, tissues, a spoon, bi-carb soda, a sandwich size zip-lock bag and a measuring cup.
Method:
  a) I put warm water and vinegar into an open zip bag.
  b) I put three large tablespoons of bi-carb soda on to the tissue.
  c) Wrap it up like a present and place inside the zip bag.
  d) Close the bag and put it on the ground and it went pop.

Why?
The vinegar and bi-carb soda mix together and it makes a gas called carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide expands inside the bag until the bag explodes.

Reference: Science Bob
Parent Interviews

Parent/teacher interviews are important for clear communication between home and schools. It is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to share students’ achievements, learning goals, strengths and areas that need support. Last week all teachers thoroughly enjoyed meeting and discussing their student's reports with their parents. If you were unable to attend last week's interview, please ring the school to arrange a time as we need to see all parents.

Armidale PSSA Athletics Carnival

Alice Finlayson, Lettie Kerr, Claudia McKemey and Patrick Hickey are to be commended on their participation in the Armidale PSSA event held at the Armidale High School last Thursday. All of the students enjoyed the large carnival atmosphere and events. Alice Finlayson came 6th in the junior discus and the relay team came 6th in the Nigel Bagley relay for P5 schools. A special thank you to Sal and Graeme Finlayson and Katrina McKemey for being the teams support team.

In 3-6 Class With Miss Waters

Welcome to Miss Shortt from the University of New England who will be working with our great class for the next four weeks. Years 3 and 4 have been working hard over the last couple of weeks in class. Students are starting to become familiar with using our new strategies WALT and WILF. These have been used during our maths lessons and all students should be able to tell you what they are learning. So far we have finished units on whole number and patterns and algebra. We are currently learning to recognise fractions and decimals.

In Literacy, students are learning how to write information reports. We are also writing creative stories to improve our descriptive language to make our writing more interesting for the reader.

A reminder for home: Please try to encourage home reading every night. Students are welcome to borrow from the library on Friday.

We are also practising our times tables every day before we begin our Maths lesson. Students are getting better but we still need more practice. Try saying these at home as well, the more we say them the quicker they will stick!

Here are a few photos of what we have been doing in class.

On the weekend I competed in a Physical interclub competition at Speer’s Point.

I had to do 5 different dances. There were 3 heats of 9 year old girls with about 10 in each heat. I didn’t come a place but I had lots of fun and received a certificate and a medal. I compete at Camden Haven soon and so will Ingrid and Ursula. I can’t wait!

From Nakita

Jeans for Genes Day!

Our school raised $50.70 yesterday for this wonderful cause.