Principal’s Message

Student of the Week

Congratulations to Skye Singleton, from Year 4, who is our Week 5 “Student of the Week”.

Skye has had a stunning first 5 weeks back at school. She is achieving huge improvements in her class learning, especially in English, and is demonstrating excellent responsibility and common sense in her behaviour towards her class-mates. Her efforts to improve her understandings of place value in large numbers, and silent letters in her spelling have been exciting.

We are all very proud of you, Skye – well done!

Voluntary School Contributions

Each year, we purchase quality textbooks, workbooks, art materials and other resources for use in the classroom, by each child.

Each family is asked to make a voluntary contribution of $40.00 per child (capped at $80.00 per family) to assist with these purchases, please.

These contributions can be paid in instalments, or in one lump sum, if you would prefer.

While this contribution is NOT compulsory, it is a much appreciated way of assisting us to provide the best opportunities we can.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions, or if you would like to arrange a payment plan.

Homework and Library

We have had a 100% return of completed homework packages and borrowed library books for the last two weeks – PERFECT!!!

Please note that all homework packages should be returned on Friday, or they not be marked before being sent home the following Monday.

### Weekly Calendar

#### Week 6

| Monday, March 3 | Blandford Horse Sports  
| Homework sent home |
| Wednesday, March 5 | Library  
| Staff meeting 3.15-4.00pm |
| Thursday, March 6 | Mrs Capararo is back! |
| Friday, March 7 | Student banking, sport and music, homework returned |
| Saturday, March 8 | SCONE HORSE TRIALS (P&C fundraiser) |
| Sunday, March 9 | SCONE HORSE TRIALS (P&C fundraiser) |

#### Week 7

| Monday, March 10 | Homework sent home |
| Wednesday, March 12 | Invermein Principals’ meeting, library |
| Thursday, March 13 | Wollemi Principals’ Combined Meeting |
| Friday, March 14 | Student banking, sport and music, homework returned |
P&C Membership Fees Due

P&C membership fees are now due and payable - at the recently held AGM, the fees were greatly reduced to only $5.00 per person.

Please contact the P&C treasurer, Mrs Sheena Carter, on 6546 1220 if you have any queries about P&C membership.

Upper Hunter Show

This year’s Upper Hunter Show will be held at the Muswellbrook Showgrounds on the weekend of 4/5/6 April, 2014.

The children will once again be working on entries for a number of the pavilion competitions during school hours.

There are also numerous classes and sections that families may be interested in working on or preparing together at home! If you would like to receive a copy of the pavilion exhibit booklet and entry form, please contact the school office staff.

Miss Upper Hunter Showgirl

The UH Show committee is also very keen to hear from any young ladies between the ages of 18-24, who may be interested in participating the Upper Hunter Showgirl competition.

Two former Miss Upper Hunter Showgirls completed their practice teaching experience at Belltrees Public School – Miss Rebecca McKay (now Mrs Truter) and Miss Sarah Stafford.

“There are 8 areas that are judged in the Showgirl competition – personality, confidence, ambitions & goals, general knowledge, rural knowledge, personal presentation, diction and speech, and on-stage interview.

The committee would love to hear from girls of at least 18yrs of age up to the age of 24yrs who may be interested in taking part in this years event.

Girls who take part are invited to attend other functions throughout the year in the Hunter, and all girls who have been through this before, have added it to their resume and found it has helped them with interviews and life in general.

So if you know someone that would like to take part, please get them to contact Sue on 0429 157 600.”

Visible Learning Conference

Last Thursday, approximately 100 primary and secondary teachers and school leaders from across the Upper Hunter attended an intensive professional learning initiative – “Visible Learning”. This is an in-depth and internationally renowned school change model of professional learning and development, based on John Hattie’s research and his two books – Visible Learning (2009) and Visible Learning for Teachers (2012). It takes the theory of this research and puts it into a practical inquiry model for schools to ask questions of themselves about the impact they are having on student achievement, and to make change as required.

On Friday, school principals and leadership teams worked intensively with two outstanding presenters - Jayne-Ann and Helen – who have been working with schools throughout the USA, Australia and New Zealand for the last 5 years. This work will now be trialled and implemented in each of our schools until June, when leaders will attend a final day of professional learning and review.

Music Lessons

Our school is very fortunate to have a multi-talented staff member – Mr John Henley – who not only looks after our school grounds and buildings, but is also a gifted musician and music teacher.

Our school is also fortunate to have received a small amount of Equity funding, which we have been able to utilise to employ John each Friday, to provide individual instrument tuition to each child.

John introduces the children to music in a fun and non-threatening way, and allows them to play and enjoy a range of instruments, including guitar, drums, harmonica, ukulele and keyboard.

During the year, your child may bring home one or more of these instruments – please enjoy the efforts they make!
NSW Art Express featuring Belltrees PS

Each year, the NSW Department of Education and Communities selects the best and most exemplary HSC visual artworks to be displayed in galleries around the state over the following 12 month period.

In recent days, we have been advised that, in this year’s exhibition, two former Belltrees Public School students will have their works travel with the exhibition.

As there are only approximately 200 students selected from all schools, public and independent, to have their works displayed, it is a huge honour for one small school to have 2 students represented at the same time.

Lucinda Bell completed her entire infants and primary education at our school, before completing her secondary studies at the Abbotsleigh School in Sydney.

Her works are titled “Dreaming Deeply” and use the medium of printmaking – “Through my work I have explored ideas about insomnia, dreaming and the subconscious mind. My own insomnia is due to the excessive amount of adrenaline my body produces in comparison with the average teenager, and I was curious about its development. In my etchings I have used my records of some of the realistic and vivid dreams I have when I am able to sleep, with the extensions of drawing and text in the images suggesting the impossible and whimsical nature of my dreams and subconscious mind”.

Andrew White attended our school until the end of Year 3, when his family moved to the Coolah area. He completed his education at Coolah Central School. Andrew is also the nephew of Scone High School principal, Ms Lindy Hunt.

Andrew used drawing as his medium to complete his works titled “Verisimilitude” - Imagination and fiction make up three-quarters of our real life.’ Simone Weil. Imagination allows us to see the world from a different angle and paints our perception of the world around us: this is what I wanted to explore in my artwork. As the title Verisimilitude suggests, my artwork is also discussing the similarity between reality and fiction. My drawings are not abstract, the viewer can clearly understand what is shown, but nor are they realistic representations. This poses a question: “At what point do reality and fiction meet and to what extent does imagination make up our reality?”

What a brilliant achievement for these two fine young adults!

GET READY TO READ!
REGISTRATIONS FOR MS READATHON NOW OPEN

Reading is one of life’s greatest pleasures and by simply taking part in the 2013 MS Readathon you will also be helping to provide much needed support, services and assistance to the 23,000 Australians living with MS.

The MS Readathon is the nation’s longest-running and most respected reading-based fundraiser, fostering a love of reading in a generation of Aussie kids and fuelling their desire to make a difference in their community.

To register or for more information about how your school can be involved please visit: www.msreadathon.org.au.

About Multiple Sclerosis:

MS is a chronic and often debilitating disease which affects more than 23,000 Australians.

MS randomly attacks the central nervous system, stopping the brain communicating with the rest of the body. The consequences can include extreme fatigue and chronic pain, vision, cognitive, continence and mobility issues, right through to total and permanent disability.

MS is a lifelong disease for which there is no known cause or cure.

Diagnosis of MS is typically between 20 and 40 years of age. Three quarters of people living with MS are women.

In 2013, Emily Taylor (now in Year 2) participated in the MS Readathon, and was one of the most successful fundraisers nationally in her age group – fantastic work, Emily!

An application form and further information is included with this newsletter. Please note that all registrations and enquiries must be made direct to the MS Readathon, NOT to our school.
Horsemanship Clinic

Our school recently hosted the first ever Parelli Children’s Horsemanship Clinic at the Belltrees arena. Highly trained instructors, Margaret Lane and Kathryn Coombes, provided a terrific opportunity for the participants to get to know their ponies on a deeper level, and to develop respect for each other.

Thank you again to Kay Payne, of Elite Poll Herefords for offering us this opportunity, to the White family of “Belltrees” for donating the use of their facilities, and to highly trained instructors, Margaret Lane and Kathryn Coombes, who donated their time to run this clinic free of charge.

A full list of 6 riders and their ponies participated – including Grace from Ellerston PS, Ruby from Scone PS, Chester and Charlton from Scone Grammar School, and Eddie and Jock from Belltrees Public School

For further information about future clinics, or to make enquiries about the “Parelli” horsemanship programs, please contact our school office.

SCONE HORSE TRIALS REMINDER

If you haven’t returned your helpers’ sheet for this weekend,

IT’S NOT TOO LATE!

Any contribution you are able to give, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated.

Please call

Camilla Maxwell on 6546 1214

or

Sheena Carter on 6546 1220

Come and Try Guides!

At your local Girl Guide unit

For girls aged 7-18 years

Guides enjoy challenging and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities, including games, leadership and life skills, craft, badges, cooking, camping and community events.

For information on the location and available meetings in your area

please email Region Membership Advisor, Helen, on helenEG2@live.com.au

or visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au to find out more about Guides

HAVING FUN TODAY

LEADING THE WORLD TOMORROW

Scone Tennis Club

Nominations are now been taken for the following competitions to start in Term 2.

Junior Competition Monday afternoons 4pm. Starts on 28th April to 23rd June. $30.00 registration for the term, no club membership required, open to anyone under 18yo.

Open Mixed Social Competition Wednesday nights 7pm. Starts on 30th April to 25th June. $40.00 registration fee for the term, $10 for members of Scone Tennis Club. Open to Men, Ladies and Juniors.

Tuesday Ladies Inter-town Competition

Tuesdays 10am at Scone, Aberdeen or Muswellbrook. Starts Term 2, runs to Mid September. Form a team or join an existing team, child friendly, new players welcome

Please phone Chrissy on 0403 695820 to place nominations by the 28th March 2014