Welcome to week 8!

Firstly my apologies for a lack of newsletter last Friday. Our computer and printer system was down here at school and didn’t kick off until 2:30pm. There is a lot to update on that has happened over the last two weeks.

Ellerston Cross Country:

Last Friday we were invited to Ellerston to participate in their annual Cross Country Event. The children arrived at Ellerston and proceeded to walk the 3km course. After a quick breather they started the running event. Under 8 years ran 800m, whilst 8-10 ran 2km and 11-12 year olds completed a 3km course. All students were active participants and tried their best. Some finished 4th, whilst others finished 5th and 6th in their age groups, but our best result was a 2nd place in the 2km event. Eddie Maxwell completed the 2km course in fantastic time and hardly broke a sweat. He will now run at the Zone Cross Country event in Muswellbrook next Friday 27th March.

Good Luck Eddie, we will all look forward to hearing your news!

In class we have just completed our Finders Keepers book. This Emily Rodda classic is a fantastic book that is full of adventure and intrigue. The children enjoyed Patrick’s trips across the time barrier and the characters were all different. Finders Keepers is based around riddles and rhymes. Patrick who is the finder has to locate missing objects that shoot across the time barrier and return them to their rightful owners. This week the children have followed this up with the construction of their own riddles. I have added two riddles for your family and the first family to respond with the correct answers wins a prize.

Family Riddle #1:

In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower—everything was pink!

What color were the stairs?

Family Riddle #2:

My 1st is in sun but not in run

My 2nd is a like a crescent moon

My 3rd is in hot but not in pot

My 4th is round as round as can be.

My 5th is a circle plain to see

My lucky last is tall and straight

The bell will ring when you enter the gate!
Healthy Harold:
Next Thursday 26th March, Ellerston students will be joining us for a day of fun and interactive learning. Healthy Harold is joining us and the permission note is attached. We will have art lessons and music/drama lessons together as well as a yummy lunch with the help of Belltrees P & C. We would like to acknowledge the contributions that Mt Arthur Coal give to this program and decrease the costs for all children. Thank you to CWA Scone & District Branch for supporting our upcoming visit with Healthy Harold and the Hunter Life Education team. Life Education supports us in teaching children what they need to know to make smart choices and develop healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Please return the permission slip and lunch order no later than Tuesday 24th March, 2015.

If you are purchasing merchandise you can bring the money in a sealed envelope on the day.

Easter Hat Parade & Assembly:
On Thursday 2nd April, 2015, Belltrees will host a wonderful Easter Hat Parade. Students will be asked to wear an Easter hat and be asked to parade around the COLA to the beat of some Easter tunes. Your hats can be big or small, elaborate or simple. Mrs Scott, Dorry, Mrs Batterham and I will have something on as well and if parents or siblings would like to get involved, the more the merrier!
Following on from our Easter Hat Parade the children will come inside for the end of term assembly. We have some special awards to hand out and some wonderful performances to be seen. Our new assembly item; Belltrees has talent will begin with Jessica and Emily demonstrating their wonderful talents.
PSST: After school if you are willing to hang around we will have an Easter egg hunt for all children.

Notes:
It is really important that all notes are returned to school in a timely fashion. Absent notes, permission notes or general notes, they are all super important and assist with the smooth running of our school. I find it easier to sign it as soon as I receive it and send it to school the next day.

Multilit – This term we have had some of our Primary students participating in a new Literacy based program called Multilit. This implementation of this new program is in line with our 2015-2017 School Plan. The Federal Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Christopher Pyne MP, recently announced in the House of Representatives that the Education Council of Ministers had unanimously endorsed the proposed actions of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to implement the Australian Government’s response to the Wiltshire-Donnelly curriculum review. Pyne said this decision will result in the “decluttering” of the primary school curriculum, so that less content can be covered with more depth. He also commented: “Importantly, for parents around Australia who have been crying out for this for a long time, it will ensure an appropriate emphasis is placed on phonics and phonemic awareness in the Australian curriculum in English, which will specifically mean the involvement of Macquarie University and their MultiLit program in the training of school students in how to read and write.” Great to see we are implementing high quality programs that are strongly endorsed by the DEC.
Hearty chicken and vegetable soup –

Mrs Batterham

Warm up your Friday night with this hearty soup - the winner of this week's soup recipe food fight.

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<th>Preparation Time</th>
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<td>20 - 30 minutes</td>
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**Ingredients (serves 6)**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 leek, halved, washed, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 large carrot, peeled, diced
- 2 sticks celery, diced
- 2 small zucchini, diced
- 1 swede or turnip, peeled, diced
- 1 1/4 cups dry soup mix, rinsed (see note)
- 8 cups chicken stock
- 1kg skinless chicken lovely legs

**Method**

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add leek and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until soft but not coloured. Add carrot, celery, zucchini and swede. Cook for 2 minutes. Stir in soup mix, stock, chicken and 1 cup cold water. Increase heat to high. Bring to the boil.
2. Reduce heat to low. Simmer, partially covered, stirring occasionally, for 1 hour or until soup mix and vegetables are tender.

**Notes**

- Packet dry soup mix is a combination of split peas and lentils. You can find it near the chickpeas in the supermarket.