From the Principal...

We have come to the end of week 3 already! The classes are running really well and all the students appear to be happy, learning and back into school routines. As we know every parent wants their children to be successful and there are a few key things you can do to enhance a positive outcome:

- Ensure your child is at school. Wherever possible organise extra-curricular activities and appointments outside of school hours. If your child has to be away, speak to the teacher beforehand regarding catch up work.

- Sit with your child every afternoon/evening and support the completion of homework. Some writing tips: brainstorm (think of ideas using a mind/concept map); group ideas together in themes or topics; make a list of interesting topic related words that they could use in their writing; think of an interesting starting sentence; NOW PICK UP A PENCIL and start writing the draft copy remembering each paragraph should be topic specific. EDIT…. Capitals, punctuation, spelling and sentence format. Re-write good copy. If your child has finished their homework early practise times tables…. These are best learned rote style.

- Encourage your child to read at least 10 minutes each night. Ask your child open-ended inquiry questions such as “what part of the story did you like best?” “Why do you think they did this or that?” “If they didn’t do that or go there what else might they do/go?” Ask your child to justify their answer by asking why? why? These conversations will lead to deeper understanding and support inquisitively.

- Volunteer as a class helper. Even 30 minutes at the beginning of the day or at the end of the day coming in to listen to children read or practise their spelling words would make a big difference.

CAMP SUCCESS!

Last week’s swim camp in Toowoomba was a great success. We packed in lots of interesting activities around their swimming lessons. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the students for demonstrating positive attitudes, awesome manners and displaying exemplary behaviour everywhere we went. A huge thank you to Mr Bennett, Mrs Mobbs and the parent helpers - your dedication and around the clock support for the students contributed to the success of the camp. Thank you Mr Wilson for safely transporting us to, from and around Toowoomba. Also a big thank you to the parents who volunteered to assist with picking up, dropping off and cleaning the bus.

Swimming

Well done to the students who participated in the Balonne swimming trails last Tuesday.
Senior Class News

English focus for the term

In the unit for this term, students will listen to, read, view and interpret a range of news articles and reports from journals and newspapers to respond to viewpoints portrayed in media texts.

Students apply comprehension strategies, focusing on particular viewpoints portrayed in a range of media texts. They create a digital multimodal feature article, including written and visual elements, from a particular viewpoint.

The class will also read simple chapter books to explore the use of descriptive language in the construction of character. They also examine and analyse the language features and techniques used by the author. Through a written response or creation of a new chapter, trick or plan, students develop alternative behaviours and actions for a character.

Miss Sumner, Mr Bryant and Ms Sandra

Junior Class News

This week in the junior class we have explored different feelings we can experience and identified how characters might feel in stories. We also looked at what a verb is by acting them out and using them writing a sentence.

In maths we have focused on hours, days, months and seasons in a year. Year 2 started to look at groupings of 10, Year 1 worked on growing patterns and counting in 2’s and Prep started to look at patterns.

Thank you for your feedback from the homework this week I have taken it on board and will make some adjustments moving forward.

Mr Bennett

Week 4 Focus Expectations:

Be An Active Learner

* always do my best work

Week 5 Focus Expectations:

Be Safe

* follow staff directions
Congratulations to the following students:

TERM 1 WEEK 3 AWARDS

Senior Students:
Isaac (Year 3-4)
Great effort in class
Jackson (Year 5-6)
Great effort in class

Junior Students:
Akayla
Always positively participating in classroom discussions
Neville
Improved behaviour in class and a great attitude towards his work

Sport Captain's Award:
Mackenzie
Playing well in Handball

School Captain’s Award:
Damien
For setting a good example

STRIVE words for the fortnight

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Education Queensland News

New school closures website launched
The Department of Education and Training has launched a new website which provides detailed information on closed educational facilities (including state, non-state schools and early childhood education centres) during a disaster or emergency event. Visit http://closures.det.qld.gov.au/.

BOOK FAIR
Will be held at the school from Monday 29th February to Friday 4th March.
All welcome!

P&C News

TERM 1 TUCKSHOP

Week 3—On Duty + sweet homebake- Karen
Savoury Homebake- Renee
Extra Homebake Family (1 sweet & 1 savoury) - Kylie

Week 4—On Duty + sweet homebake- Bec H
Savoury Homebake- Emily
Parenting Tips

Do you let your kids amaze you? By Michael Grose

“I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.”

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?”

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms); provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks); rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.
At Bollon State School, we are RESPONSIBLE by being SAFE, RESPECTFUL and ACTIVE LEARNERS
BCLONE BEATS FREE EVENT
Open to all musicians and vocalists of all ages, skill levels and members of the Balonne Shire.

Workshops will be held 9am-3pm 15th-18th February 2016 @ Dirranbandi P-10 campus

Music specialists: Ed Ruben one of Brisbane's finest Piano Session Musicians CQCM Graduate Saxophonist Nia Hadenfelt

Special Skype Session with American Jazz Artist & Professor Tim Price.

Free concert to be held to showcase the Balonne's finest Piano Session Musicians CQCM Graduate Saxophonist Nia Hadenfelt

To register please contact: Nia Hadenfelt 07 46 258144 or niahadenfelt@gmail.com

BOLLON BLUE LIGHT
NRL TIPPING COMP
$5 ENTRY

1. Go to www.footytips.com.au
2. Click on “Join” and enter your details to register
3. Search for “Bollon 2016 NRL Tipping Comp” and click on the comp
4. Click on “Join Comp"
5. Simply log on each week and enter your tips
6. Prizes for winning adults and kids entry

You can look at the rules on the website but the basic rules are:
• 1 point for correct tip
• 2 bonus points for perfect round (not including finals)
• If you don’t enter any tips for the week, you get the same points as the lowest scorer for the week.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB
12 Fri  Bollon P&C Meeting 1.30pm
15-18 Mon-Thurs Balonne Beats Workshop at Dirranbandi
18 Thurs Balonne Beats Free Concert at Dirranbandi 6pm
16 Wed Child Health Nurse at BNC
24 Wed Physiotherapist at BNC
29-4 Mar Book Fair

MAR
02 Wed Dietician
09 Wed Pastoral Profit Building multi-generational Businesses Seminar at Charleville
10 Thurs Bollon QCWA Meeting 9.30am
16 Wed Healthy Ageing resumés

JD BERGOFER
Wanted: MLA research trial in goat growth rates seeking producer in rangeland QLD to be involved in paddock trial.

In terms of what we need at a site, we need a single site (or a couple close by) where there are 4 fenced paddocks. We need to maintain around 80 goats in each paddock for a year (i.e. +300-320 goats total). Two paddocks will have goats living on natural forage. The other two paddocks will have similar feed and will also provide supplementary feeding (e.g. Lupins). If the paddocks are too large for 80 goats, we can have extra goats that aren't part of the trial, as long as the stocking rates are similar and reasonable.

The trial site would need a producer (or staff) who was willing to supply/purchase rangeland goats, weigh goats monthly, record information and feed them out and maintain them.

We have MLA funding for expenses (e.g. weigh scales if required, feed etc) and some labour (e.g. mustering time etc). The site could obviously then commercially market goats at the end of the year.

We would come for a visit early on to show you exactly what we need, and to hone procedures based on your practical requirements.

Trial due to start soon so please contact me if you are interested. Emma-- 0429622809