Welcome to Week 3 Term 4

October 26, 2015

School photos were well attended and students were very keen to have their photographs taken. These photos will be returned with a timely turnaround for Christmas presents.

On Wednesday morning 43 excited Year 6 students will board the bus for their Sydney trip. The singers and the Marimba Group perform on Thursday evening at the Bennelong Concert at the Opera House. I have been asked to be the Guest Principal speaker at the Bennelong Concert on Thursday and will introduce all the participating schools.

Students have been organised in class groups to visit the Gym this term. Permission notes will be sent out prior to each visit with dress requirements and footwear.

There will be a Lunch Special on Thursday - this is a great on-going fundraiser. A wonderful band of helpers have Sausage Sizzle lunches so streamlined it is almost to be patented!

Congratulations to Karl Ferber (4/5/6M) who has been selected in the North West Debating Team to compete at the State Finals in Sydney in November.

Each year staffing is allocated to schools according to the number of students in attendance. If you anticipate that your student will not be attending Ben Venue I would appreciate notification in writing so the information can be taken into account when numbers are submitted and classes formed. Thank you to the families who have already indicated charges for 2016.

Armidale High School and Duval High School will hold their Orientation Days on Thursday, November 5.

The Year 6 Performance will be held on Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12.

Year 3 students are going to Point Lookout on Friday, November 6 and Year 6 will travel to the Dorrigo National Park in Week 7.

Judy Graham
Principal
WHOOPING COUGH ALERT

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.
- A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

4F Welcome back to a busy term 4! We have had a great year so far, working hard in all Key Learning Areas.

We would like to commend 4F on their marvellous HSIE projects and speeches last term on People and Their Beliefs. During Term 4, we will be working on a unit called Australia: You’re Standing In It. We will be learning about different places in Australia, Aboriginal Dreaming stories, significant sites and heritage sites.

So far this term, students have been focusing on the artist Pablo Picasso in Visual Arts. Last week 4F created an artwork based on Cubism. This gave students the opportunity to appreciate a different form of art from the twentieth century. Students will also be starting an artwork based around the Year 6 play.

On Thursday afternoons during Sport students are learning new styles of dance, including partner and group dances. The mature efforts from all Year 4 students have been outstanding. We hope this enthusiasm continues for the remainder of dance. Great work Year 4!

Excited was an understatement when the first pen licences were handed out last week. We have begun awarding pen licences due to the impressive standard of handwriting that 4F have been presenting. Students are required to use a blue ballpoint pen.

Have a wonderful Term 4.

Nicole Frost and Rebecca Bourke

5B have had a busy start to Term 4 and are settling into routines and learning challenges. Students are thoroughly enjoying the English unit ‘Ned Kelly’. They are eagerly learning ‘Poor Ned’, a song by Australian Band Red Gum, and are hoping to perform it as part of their assembly item in Week 5.

Some excellent artworks have been produced based on Sidney Nolan’s famous interpretation of Ned Kelly, using a soft blending technique and mixed media.

All Year 5 classes are busy completing numerous assessment tasks so end of year reports can be written.

Sports rotations commenced last week with enthusiasm. Six best and fairest awards will be presented each week. Congratulations to Toby Nelson, Hayden Schumacher, Ben Heagney, Allie Carson, Maurice Kelly and Olivia Craig on their excellent behaviour and participation.

Lyn Burgess (per Helen Tombs)

1/25 is back in the swing of things this term. Term 4 is always busy with exciting learning units and assessments for reports. In English we will look at various traditional stories. Students created some wonderful ways to trap the Gingerbread Man last week! Our next story is Jack and the Beanstalk, which gives the students the opportunity to watch bean plants grow in the classroom.

Students have started a new History unit called ‘Past and Present Family Life’, where they will look at how family life has changed or remained the same over time. Our Science unit is ‘Up Down and All Around’ and provides opportunities for students to explore natural, made and managed features that undergo change. Through observations and photos, students will investigate the daily, weekly and seasonal changes in their environment.

How exciting!

As the weather is warming up please ensure you child has a broad brimmed school hat and check that all clothing is labelled as many jumpers are being taken off during the day.

I would like to say a huge thanks to the helpers who have volunteered their time this year. The students and I appreciate your help and willingness to join us in various activities.

Sue Dowling

3/4G have made a great start to Term 4. Year 4 students are working on an HSIE unit ‘This is Australia’. This unit involves students researching natural and built heritage sites and the creation of a model to share with other students for a news presentation. Year 4 are looking forward to spending time with a visiting author.

Year 3 have commenced work on a new unit ‘State and National Parks’ and will be looking closely at how the parks provide protection for flora and fauna. As a culminating activity Year 3 will visit the New England National Park and the Trout Hatchery.

A busy term ahead with assessments to complete, excursions, sausage sizzles and the end of term Celebration of Learning.

Jeanene Gale (per Kerry Hancock)

Congratulations to Karl Ferber on his selection in the New England Regional Debating Team which will compete at the Primary Schools State Debating Championships in Sydney in November. We are very proud of you and best of luck, Karl!

Ayana Hula Muda presented this beautiful woven scarf to Mrs Graham as she is leaving Ben Venue this week to return to her home in East Timor. Thank you so much Ayana and very best wishes for your future schooling.