Welcome to Week 5 Term 4

Congratulations to our 43 wonderful students who performed at the Opera House last Thursday. It was a spectacular effort and Ben Venue had a great profile, not only with the Marimbas and singers, but Lara Moloney was interviewed about her school and Armidale.

I would like to especially thank Sally Spillane, Bettina Townsend and James Waters who travelled to Sydney and back on the bus with the students and supervised them for two nights at the YHA. Fabulous work people!

The second Kindergarten Orientation visit will be on this Wednesday (November 4) beginning at 12 noon. Parents of visiting children are invited to stay for a light lunch near the Kindergarten Play Area. Students are looking forward to performing at Assembly to show the new Kindergarten children what happens at an Assembly at school.

Snippets
- Classes begin Gym visits this week on Wednesday.
- Year 3 excursion to Point Lookout is on Friday.
- Orientation Visits to Duval HS and Armidale HS will happen on Thursday.
- Selected students will attend the Science in the Bush Activity on Friday.

Don’t forget to organise tickets for the Year 6 performance “Never Grow Up” – sounds like a fun plan to me!

Judy Graham
Principal

Week 5 Special
Chicken Burger and Drink
$6.00

Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School - Tamworth
Selective Schools applications now open online
Farrer is the only all-boys government Agricultural high school in Australia and would like to inform parents of current Year 5 students that registration for Year 7, 2017 is now open online.
To register your son to sit the Selective Schools test visit the Farrer website and follow the Selective Schools link. Applications close 16 November. For further enquiries contact Farrer on 6764 8600.

Week 4 2015 CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KP/KS Fire Training</td>
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<td>12.00 - 1.45pm Kindergarten Orientation</td>
<td>Year 6 → 7 Orientation Days at Duval and Armidale High Schools</td>
<td>Science in the Bush Milo T20 Blast Cricket Year 3 to Point Lookout</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KR/KD/1K Fire Training</td>
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<td>12.30 - 2.30pm 1/2S/1D Gymnastics 1M/1C Gymnastics</td>
<td>7.00pm Year 6 Performance “Never Grow Up”</td>
<td>K-2 Dog Safety Talk/Visit 2.00 - 3.00pm 6W/6R Gymnastics</td>
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From the Deputy’s desk

There are always great things happening at Ben Venue but over the next two weeks we have students in Kindergarten participating in Fire Safety training, visits to the Armidale Gymnastics Centre, High School Orientation visits, Science in the Bush, Year 3 Excursion to Dorrigo National Park, Year 6 Play rehearsals and performances as well as an illustrator visit for students in Year 4. Amongst these activities teachers are assessing students’ knowledge and understanding of key concepts covered this semester. It is really important that students arrive on time and attend every day to allow teachers to be able to do this.

Front gate pick-up

Last week I saw students crossing the road with parents/caregivers at places other than the pedestrian crossing. This is not safe. The pedestrian crossing is strategically situated to avoid the cars coming over the hill and coming straight onto students leaving the school grounds. This is a safety issue. Please ensure that anyone crossing the road during the busy morning drop off or afternoon pick-up uses the pedestrian crossing. Let’s keep our students safe!

I would also like to mention that the area directly in front of the school grounds is for drop off and pick-up only. It is not OK to park in front of the school and leave your car between 8.00-9.30 in the morning or 2.30-4.00pm in the afternoons.

Year 5 - Applying to a government selective high school in 2017

You must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/displacement

Key dates:

- Tuesday, 13 October 2015 Application website opens
- Monday, 16 November 2015 Application website closes
- Thursday, 25 February 2016 Test authority letter sent
- Thursday, 10 March 2016 Test
- July 2016 Selective High School Placement Test
- Placement outcome information

Year 6 Performance

Don’t forget this year’s performance of “Never Grow Up” on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November.

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- Thursday, 25 February 2016 Test
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- Placement outcome information

Year 6 Performance

Don’t forget this year’s performance of “Never Grow Up” on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November.

Tickets go on sale today and are available from the office. The cost is $3 per ticket or $10 per family. Get in early to avoid disappointment.

Lou Moffatt

5W Can you believe it is already Week 5? The end of term will be here before we know it! 5W students have made an excellent start to the term and are enjoying learning about the discovery of gold in Australia. Students were very surprised to find that gold is seven times heavier than a rock the same size and it never rusts. In our History lessons we have been weighing rocks and then using the current gold prices to find out how much they would be worth if they were solid gold. Everyone agrees that finding a small lump of gold would be a wonderful end of year present!

Our English unit, ‘Ned Kelly: Hero or Villain’, is proving to be very popular and we are enjoying reading recounts about the daring exploits of this infamous character. Students are busy preparing an assembly item about this bushranger to present later in the term. We have also been learning about persuasive letter writing and have written some excellent letters to Mrs Graham requesting a wide range of school improvements! Ask your child what they requested.

In Art lessons we have been creating fabulous works to decorate the hall for the Year 6 play. We hope you get a few minutes to have a look at our paintings when you next visit the school.

Karen Watson

KP Kindergarten Penguins had a very enjoyable but exhausting day at Thalgarrah last Monday. The students learnt about the PAWS board P=plants, A=air, W=waste, S=shelter. These are all the tings that animals need to survive. Matt showed us Puff the lizard. It was interesting to watch Puff gobble up dandelions, cockroaches and carrots.

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Jullian Porter

2/3E Wow, Term 4 is flying by! We are very busy investigating what happens when we mix different ingredients as part of our science unit, “All mixed up”. We discovered that pink ‘goop’ is quite easy to make and fun to play with! We have also been revising road safety which includes pedestrian, bike and passenger safety. We have been impressed by 2/3E’s knowledge about how to stay safe. We will also be revising fire and water safety this term.

Year 3 students are looking forward to our excursion to the New England National Park and the Trout Hatchery this Friday. It should be a wonderful and interesting day.

Please make sure your child has a glue stick as we use them every day. Thank you to all parents who continue to support their child’s homework, especially in regard to projects - it is greatly appreciated.

Kerry Edwards

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

The highlight of my trip to the Opera House this year was performing centre stage on the marimbas. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I will never forget it! I feel very lucky to have performed at the Opera House and I'd like to say thank you to the incredible Mrs Spillane and to the fabulous Mrs Townsend, as without them I would never have had this great privilege.

Jordan King

My highlight of the Sydney Opera House trip was going to the Darling Harbour Aquarium and Madame Tussauds with my friends. My favourite creature to see in the aquarium was the dugong which was so cool. In Madame Tussauds my favourite thing was getting a picture with the royals - the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (Kate and William) and Queen Elizabeth. I will never forget this experience.

Grace Patres

My favourite part of the trip was going to the aquarium and seeing big, fat dugongs and black tip sharks. I also enjoyed spending quality time with my friends, and people I have talent. Thank you Mrs Spillane.

Elana Betteridge

My favourite part of the Opera House excursion was performing centre stage on the marimbas because I may never get this chance again. I will never forget this experience. It has been the best and most awesome thing that has ever happened to me! And I am not forgetting that I wouldn’t have made it without the amazing help and encouragement of Mrs Spillane and Mrs Townsend - you guys are the best!

Dylan Knox

The students played Teddy Bear tip and musical trees. They made a colourful rainbow, went to a bush concert and had a whiff party. There was great excitement at the end of the day when Matt stowed the students a python snake. Many of the students were very brave and patted the snake.

We also had a wonderful excursion to the Fire Training Centre today. Chris Ridley and his team of firefighters taught the students many fire safety tips and helped them to squirt the water hoses.

Jullian Porter