Welcome to Week 5 Term 2  
Monday May 18 2015

The smiles on the faces of Year 6 were all I needed to see to know that they all had a wonderful time at the Great Aussie Bush Camp. Three tired teachers reported excellent behaviour and maximum participation. Thank you to all concerned!

Congratulations to Rebecca O’Hara who is in Melbourne this week as coach of the NSW Mens Gymnastics Team. Rebecca was chosen to take the team to the Australian Gymnastics Titles. A fantastic recognition of your coaching skills Rebecca – well done!

Welcome back to Sally Spillane. Sally has been recuperating from major surgery on her foot. She has been volunteering (with support from Tina Townsend) to take choir and the Marimba Group and will now hit the ground running as the choir are performing at the Eisteddfod on Wednesday this week!!!! Notes ASAP please.

Please make sure that students are dressed adequately for the cold weather. Some students are coming to school very underdressed and even though we could well and truly dress them warmly with items of clothing left lying around (unnamed), it is a parental responsibility. An overview of uniform for winter will be included in next week’s newsletter.

Short notices
- BVPS Multicultural Speaking Finals on today!
- There will be a Special Lunch on again on Thursday June 4 – orders out next week!
- Ukulele group lessons will commence in Term 3 – please look out for the Taster Tryouts in the next few weeks. This is for Years 3-6 only and will be either before school or at lunch times.

Afternoon Pick up Guidelines (Repeat)
- If there is any variation to the usual pick up arrangements please let the school know particularly unforeseen circumstances which could impact on student collection (letter to teacher/phoned call prior to 2:30pm if possible)
- Students are to be collected by 3:35pm at the latest (classes are dismissed at 3:20pm).
- Any student who is not collected by 3:40pm from an agreed collection point should return to the Front Office. Please discuss this with students.
- If students miss their bus parents will be contacted – buses are on a timetable and are unable to come back for late students.

Have a great week!

Judy Graham
From the Deputy’s Desk….

NAPLAN
Last week students in Year 3 and Year 5 sat the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy. Whilst the results of these assessments provide valuable data for our school on how we are tracking in Literacy and Numeracy, it is not an accurate measure of individual student achievement or how well Ben Venue provides for students in other areas. I would like to draw your attention to a letter that was sent home with students from a school in Queensland that went viral when it was posted on the internet.

To our dear Year 3 and Year 5 students
Tomorrow you will sit your NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know. This test does not assess all of what makes each of you special and unique. The people who score these tests don’t know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that you make your friends happy when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad. They do not know that you are caring and that every day you do your best, because these qualities cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can’t tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can’t tell you that you make your teacher smile. They can’t tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to “test” all of the wonderful things that make you, YOU! This is a fabulous message and something to be mindful of for the future.

Excursions
Last week Year 6 students and teachers Rebecca O’Hara, James Waters and Ben Mclean attended the annual camp at Tea Gardens. During the week students participated in a range of outdoor activities and team challenges. They arrived back exhausted but with huge smiles on Friday night. By all accounts everyone had a great time! It is always pleasing to hear about the exceptional behaviour and manners of our students when they represent our school and it was fabulous to hear from the teachers that our students were complimented on their behaviour and attitude by the “Aussie Bush Camp” staff. A huge thank you to the Year 6 teachers for their organisation of the excursion.

This week students in Year 5 will be heading off to Thalgarrah Environmental Education Centre for a day filled with wonderful outdoor learning activities.

ICAS Competitions
Registrations for Science, Spelling and Writing have closed, English and Mathematics are still available.

The Digital Technologies Competition will be on Tuesday May 19.

ICAS Competitions
Registrations for Science, Spelling and Writing have closed, English and Mathematics are still available.

Have a great week!

Lou Moffatt