Principal's Report

Mrs Vanessa Coates

This week our Western Region Director Mr Paul Loxley came to visit our school as part of his normal practice to check on schools in the region. Director Loxley was very impressed with the Kindergarten Transition program the school is currently running which will jump-start our students to get them ready for Kindergarten next year.

In the ongoing pursuit to upgrade the school facilities I invited a long term colleague of mine from Tamworth, John the ‘Furniture Man’ to visit the school and provide some advice on upgrading school furniture. John orders and maintains equipment and furniture across the New England area and after a few hours working through our current set-up with Mr Randall and myself, John left with a very long list! Keep a lookout for our new furniture as it arrives. Our ultimate goal is that our students will have a quality learning environment coupled with the latest technology to improve overall learning and their time at school.

Until Next Week

Vanessa Coates

Since the start of term 4 Dale has not missed a minute of school. He has been to every class and he is fully attempting every activity that is requested from him. Besides his improvement towards his academic work, Dale has also become a proficient player of the Didgeridoo. Our resident instructor, “Johnboy” McGregor has been impressed by Dale’s natural talent in playing this ancient Australian instrument. Keep up the great work Dale and well done to a great start to term 4.

Week 5: Special Assembly will have the Theme 'Grandparents'.
IMPORTANT DATES
TERM 4
November 11th: Whole School Assembly
November 4th: Primary Capers at Tamworth
November 5th: Primary Capers at Tamworth
November 6th: Primary Capers at Tamworth
November 9th: Primary Performance
November 9th: Intensive Swimming
November 16th: Intensive Swimming
December 4th: Year 6 Graduation
December 8th: Presentation Night

SECONDARY NEWSLETTER
Mr Jason Walker
[REL] Head Teacher

G’Day everyone. Another great week had at Colly School. There are some great things happening at Colly school but things can always be improved. It would be fantastic if the community was right behind us in a couple of matters.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones have become a necessity for 21st century lives. However, they are not a necessity for a student at Colly School. It’s asked that parents and caregivers encourage their children to leave their phones at home. If this is not possible it would be appreciated that they encourage their children to leave their phones in their bags or in their pockets switched off during class time. A new policy will be coming into place shortly. The high school teachers and I will begin to exercise our legal right and confiscate phones if they are preventing students from learning.

Lunch Passes

Colly school has a unique policy at lunchtime. For as long as it can be remembered, students have been allowed to leave the school grounds at lunchtime to enable them to purchase food. Unfortunately some students are returning to school late. Lunch is between 11.00 and 11.40 each day. Students who continually return late to school will lose their privilege to go down town for lunch. Also students who misbehave and disrupt others will also lose their privilege of going down town for lunch. Going down town for lunch is a privilege and not a right. We have a great canteen on site now so there is really no real necessity to go down town. We will be consulting community and parents further regarding this matter.

Senior Study Room

Our senior study room is now fully operational. We managed to negotiate a new computer from the NBSA (Northern Border Senior Access) program. This new computer is accompanied by an older one which I recovered from a storeroom. The two computers are now fully functioning, connected to the world wide web and in place in the senior study room. In this room we have also installed a whiteboard, video conferencing equipment, desks and some comfortable chairs. This room is also fully air conditioned with a split system. The senior study room is a vital ingredient in giving our students the best chance at succeeding at school. Our senior students are lucky to have such a well-resourced learning space at their disposal.

Breakfast Club

For the first two weeks of this term our SLSO’s, Lynese and Linda, have been away on leave and therefore unable to run our great breakfast club. In their absence I took on the role of organising our daily dose of breakfast to kick start the day. Bacon and eggs, cereals, toast, eggy bread, toasties, pancakes, orange juice and milo was served on differing days. It was pretty full on and I thank all our great staff at Colly School who helped out in Lynese and Linda’s absence. Fingers cross Linda and Lynese are back this week to take control of this excellent initiative. I think all students and staff agree that our teachers should not give up their day jobs and open a café!
Have a great week everyone!

Jason Walker  Head Teacher Secondary Studies (relieving).

PRIMARY REPORT
Ms. Allyson Hynch
Assistant Principal

This week students in years 4 & 5 will be travelling with our secondary students to participate in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshops in Dubbo. Many thanks to the AECG for providing this exciting experience for our students. The bus will be leaving at 6am on Monday morning for the students to start working as soon as they arrive. The students will be supervised by Mr Odgers, Miss Sam, Mr Hynch and Mrs Walford. The bus will return back on Wednesday afternoon.

Year 6 Transition to Secondary:

In week 4 students in year 6 will be experiencing working in the secondary. They will be engaged in lessons about Agriculture and Food Tech, Science and Woodwork, English and Music and secondary sport. Teaching staff are working creatively to give them an overall look at how classes are run in the Secondary faculty. I know our Primary students are ready and eager to go and have fun and learn heaps.

CAPERS:

Students taking part in the CAPERS event in Tamworth are reminded to get in your notes and finalise all payments to the front office. Mrs Raffie has spent many hours preparing dance moves and teaching set choreography for students to display outstanding dance skills at this year’s festival. Tickets are now on line and can be purchased by families who would like to travel to Tamworth and watch your daughter or son perform.

Reminder: It is now hotter and students are reminded to bring a hat to wear. It is a wonderful habit to get your child in to. To just pick up a hat on the way out the door in the morning. Bags are another essential habit to have at school as notes, homework and home readers can be carried in student school bags. This will allow your child to achieve stamps and stickers on the Merit activity board. The Primary Merit Activity for this Term is the Lightning Ridge Theme Park at the Pool.

REMINDER DENTAL SCREENING

Dental screenings will be happening this Tuesday from 11am

This term has already been a busy and exciting one for the students in 4/5/6. In CAPA the students are learning how to play the recorder during music lessons and I must say they are really enjoying it.

PDHPE

During PDHPE students are participating in a unit of work called STOMP, which entails students composing and performing dances, using rhythm, sound, percussion and everyday objects.

Science

Miss Faint and the students in 4/5/6 have been working on the SCIENCE unit “its electricity” I’m sure the students would be able to tell you some interesting facts about this topic.

Gamilaraay Language

During LOTE the students in 4/5/6 are learning the animal names in the local Gamilaraay Language. We have already made our door display around this topic to reinforce what they are learning in class from Miss Ashby, Cilla and Aunty Liz. In HSIE we are looking at “What a typical Australian Looks Like” this unit talks about refugees, multiculturalism and stereotyping. The students are very eager to express their opinions and learn more about this topic.

Youth Development Camp

The students in years 5 and 6 have been given a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Youth Development Camp focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which is being held in Dubbo this week from Monday 19th October – Wednesday 21st October 2015. I’m sure the students will enjoy their time away, learning new and exciting concepts.

On a personal note; I am so glad to be at work and seeing the students enjoy coming to school. Great start to Term four 4/5/6, keep it up.
Books in Homes

We have received our preview pack from Books in Homes. The Primary children will have the opportunity to order two books from the selection of books next week.

What is Books in Homes Australia?
Books in Homes Australia provides books-of-choice to families and children living in remote and low socioeconomic circumstances, ensuring crucial early literacy engagement and the development of reading skills needed for lifelong success.

Books are chosen from Preview Packs of which 25% of titles are written by Indigenous Authors. These Packs are ultimately donated to the host organisation for the children to access.

The Books in Homes Programme was originally inspired by Maori author Alan Duff who wrote the widely acclaimed book “Once Were Warriors”. It was founded 21 years ago in New Zealand and now every low decile school in New Zealand has access to this resource.

Books in Homes Australia was established in 2001 and has a similar blueprint to its New Zealand founder. Since 2001, Books in Homes Australia has successfully delivered more than 1,200,000 quality books of choice to over 300 low socio-economic communities in NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC, WA and TAS.

Children receiving their Books in Homes Term 1

George and Laquinta working with the abacus.

Joss working with the abacus to solve maths problems.

Mrs Karen Dumas/Flick