**Term 1 - Week 4**

**Monday, 18th February 2013**

**Principal’s Report**

We all enjoyed a fabulous first full week back at school last week. Students were involved in many fun activities and learning opportunities. This week we attended the Griffith Small Schools Swimming Carnival in Griffith on Monday. It was a fabulous day and I believe all students had a wonderful time, giving their best to achieve personal success in all events they competed in. On Wednesday and Thursday this week I will be in Albury attending the Riverina Principal’s Conference. At the conference I will be learning many things about the upcoming changes in the administration of schools as well as the HOW2Learn initiative we are involved in this year.

**Griffith Small Schools Swimming Carnival Results**

As I mentioned earlier we had a wonderful day in Griffith on Monday at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival. All students gave their best and tried extremely hard, displaying wonderful sportsmanship. Due to the tough competition we were unfortunately unable to come away with an overall or handicap win on the day however we did have students achieve success in their individual races. Students who received ribbons on the day were:

- Hugh Argent-Smith—1st in 8 year boys 25m Freestyle.
- Tameka Polimeni—3rd in 10 year girls 25m freestyle.
- Megan Castle—1st in 10 year girls 25m freestyle.
- Lilee Holland—2nd in 11 year girls 25m backstroke.
- Brooke Anderson placed 4th in the 11 year girls 50m freestyle.
- Max O’Reilly—8th place in the Junior boys 25m backstroke.
- Katie Anderson placed 4th in the 9 year girls 25m breaststroke and 6th in the 9 year girls 50m freestyle.

**Week 3 Awards**

**Student of the Week**

Torrence Elvy—For being a follower of the School Rules and reminding other students never to forget the rules.

**Achievement Awards**

Cade Anderson - For being an enthusiastic learner of new sounds.

Megan Castle - consistent effort applied to all class tasks.

**Parent and Community Helpers Needed**

Our school has recently begun running a program called MULTILit (Making Up Lost Time In Literacy). The program assists students who are experiencing difficulty grasping reading strategies to improve their reading. To successfully run the program we need parents and/or community members who are willing to volunteer to come to school and read with students for one hour each day. If you are interested and able to assist, even if it is only for one hour each week, I will be holding a training and information afternoon at school on Wednesday 27th February from 3:30pm-4:30pm.
If you have questions about the program, please contact me at school. Without parent and/or community helpers this program cannot be fully implemented. I hope to see as many people as possible at the information and training session next Wednesday.

K-2 Class News
Last week in the classroom Kindergarten students began learning single sounds. They learnt ‘s’ and ‘a’ sounds and these are revised both in the classroom and for homework throughout the week.
Our sound focus letters for Kindergarten this week are ‘t’ and ‘i’. Students in Years 1 & 2 are learning spelling words focussed around the ‘a’ sound this week.
Our Maths program for the week is focussed around number identification for Kindergarten students and counting forwards and backwards in patterns for the Year 1 & 2 students.
Our Science unit this term is titled ‘Growing Up’. Students will be learning about how living things change as they grow. I would like to ask all students to bring in some photos of themselves, showing how they have changed as they have grown, in preparation for next week’s lesson.
In HSIE this term our unit of learning is titled ‘Families Past and Present: Stories and Histories’. Throughout the unit of learning students will be learning about how family roles have changed throughout time and also how our local area has changed throughout time, making comparisons from the past to the present.

Year 3-6 Class News
My name is Jacinda Gray and I will be teaching Years 3/4/5/6 this year. I have enjoyed my first two weeks at Rankin’s Springs Public School and am looking forward to enjoying many more!
Year 3-6 have a busy term ahead. Throughout the term in English and Mathematics we will be learning how to write explanations and procedures, building on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division strategies as well as exploring fractions, decimals, chance and data. In Human Society and Its Environment we will be learning about British Colonisation. Students will have opportunities to explore issues related to Australia’s original inhabitants, explorers before the British and the British arrival and occupation of Australia.

Our Science focus for this term is Mini Worlds. Students will have opportunities to explore life in small environments allowing students to focus on animals interactions with their environment. Students will be closely observing a selected area within the playground noting the animals within the area and the changes using a daily diary. Therefore students will be learning how to conduct investigations using a range of equipment and recording methods.
The Internet, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are highly used programs within the classroom and the wider world. Therefore students will have weekly technology lessons learning how to stay safe on the internet as well as using it as a valuable research tool. Students will also be learning how to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint to present information in a variety of ways.
We are looking forward to a busy fun filled term learning a variety of skills and strategies as well as exploring our countries past.
Miss Gray
School Magazine Orders
The 2012 RSPS School Magazine is still available for purchase. Please contact Michele in the office to place an order so that we can print the correct number of magazines. Thank you.

Update Your Details
Have you moved, got a new email address or changed phone numbers? Please inform the front office with any changes in your living situation so we can contact you if the need arises.

Friendships to boost your child’s learning
If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-your-childs-learning

Helping your Kindy kid succeed at school
A great way to kick off your child’s formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/helping-kindy-kids-succeed-at-school

Speech problems
All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/speech-problems

Canteen News
Next Monday 25th February, Karen is on duty. Gaye and Michelle have been elected as co-supervisors for 2013. Gaye is continuing in her role while Michelle returns from a year’s break. I would like to thank Gaye, Michelle and all the wonderful canteen volunteers who have helped me out in so many different ways over the past two years.

Jeanne

P & C News
Thank you to all those people whom attended the AGM and General meeting on 13th February. This years committee is -
President: Richard Argent-Smith
Vice President: Bear O'Reilly & Melinda Kelly
Secretary: Tammy Anderson
Treasurer: Deborah Castle
Canteen Supervisors: Michelle Apps & Gaye Banfield
Fundraising ideas for the year were discussed. We will hold a BINGO night this term. Details to still be confirmed. Fundraising profits will go towards the Primary excursion to Canberra later in the year. Anyone requiring school uniforms or bags please contact Deborah Castle.
Thankyou to those people who came to the MEET & GREET BBQ at the Sport & Rec grounds on Friday night. We hope that you all enjoyed it, and look forward to a wonderful year ahead.
Next meeting is Wednesday 20th March 2013 (Week 8) at 7pm.
Enquiries - Richard, Tammy or Deb.

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<th>Term 1 Week 5</th>
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<td>Friday 1st March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Friday 1st March</td>
<td>Schools Clean Up</td>
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Notice to all Rankin’s Springs Residents & surrounding Community
Cancellation of Rankin’s Springs Progress Association Meeting for 25th February, 2013 due to a Town Water Meeting with Director of Water for the Shire – Mr Steven Joyce at 7.30pm at the Rankin’s Springs Hall. It is recommended anyone who has any questions regarding their water supply, quality etc, that you attend this meeting. For any apologies or for further information please contact Julie Groat 69661215.

CWA Update for February 2013
The Rankin’s Springs Branch will hold their Annual CWA International Day on Monday 8th April, 2013, from 11.30am. The country of choice this year is “Morocco”. Bring a shared lunch, Moroccan style if you dare, however anything will be much appreciated!!

Membership are due $37.50. You don’t have to be an active member, but even in spirit, we would love to have you. This is a valuable organisation, supporters are needed, come and have a cuppa anytime, meetings will be short (if possible). Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th March, 2013 at the CWA Rooms from 10.00am. Everyone welcome, you don’t have to be a member to come and see what goes on.

McMaster Cup is again up for grabs and this year a ‘beanie to fit an adult’ is required to be knitted. If there are talented members out there we would love to submit your entry. This happens around November, more info to follow.

Handy Craft day on 2nd March, 2013 in Griffith requires any talented members who sew, dressmaking, knit (not pure wool), embroidery, crochet, anything to enter their item for the world to see (well Griffith for a start anyway!!). Entries can be lodged together from our Branch, or individually, but they have to be in to the CWA Rooms in Griffith before 8.00am on Saturday 2nd March. However the Committee is there to help you get your entry in if you need. You’ve got to be in it to win it! More info you can call Linda Newman 6955228. Last but not least, for a bit of fun. Here is a Fruit Cake Recipe with only 3 main ingredients: 1 Packet 750g of mixed fruit, add 600ml of chocolate milk and soak overnight in fridge. Then add 2 cups SR Flour, (optional 1 tsp nutmeg & cinnamon) put into greased tin & cook for around 1 hour on 150 degrees. This was yummy, give it a try, so easy. More information regarding any of these things talk to Kaylene Hudson 69661376 or Val Bell 69621083.

Progress Association
The next Progress Meeting has been rescheduled due to the town water meeting and will now be on Monday 11th March, 2013 from 7.30pm at the hall. Any queries talk to Andrea!

Birds of the Bush
Birds of the Bush is the next night on Wednesday 6th March, 2013 from 7.30pm too – hope we see you there.

Bushfire Thank you
Many, many thanks to all the local bushfire brigade volunteers who fought the fire on our hill over the weekend of 5-6 January. Owing to your expertise and swift action, our farm escaped damage to stock or property. Your work was much appreciated.
The Parslow and Maley families.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
SUN MARCH 3RD. Register at ALLAN JAMES PARK FROM 10:30AM on the day. Please wear sensible shoes, a hat, a water bottle & gloves. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN IN THIS COMMUNITY EVENT.
We will have a BYO EQ / picnic in the park after if you would like to stay. See posters around town-MEL 0488 428 940

Junior Tennis
Hi everyone, hope your hols were great and you’re all looking forward to a great 2013! We won't be starting tennis until Friday 1st March, 2013. Not sure what time, let you know closer to the day. We had a lovely 2012 breakup with parents and kids. Good luck to Laandi and Lilly Mac – who are heading off to High School. Thanks everyone for my lovely Eclipse voucher and look forward to another wonderful year with you all.
Any probs talk to me, otherwise see you in March. Andrea