Newsletter: Issue 3
Thursday 1st March 2012

Last week I was delighted to attend a workshop in Port Pirie with our Early Years teachers - Gabrielle and Kate. It was the first of a series of workshops to be held with Dr Deslea Konza as she conducts a research project in the Yorke and Mid North region this year. As Deslea reinforced at the AGM, which she kindly attended as a guest speaker, it is essential for success at school, and in life, that children learn to read. Parents can help their children on the path to reading by having conversations with them about the things they see and do in their daily life, by reading to them from an early age and by listening to them read the books that they bring home. Oral Language is the foundation element of the Big Six elements needed for reading success. Talk is cheap - but valuable!!

Cheers, Dzintra

**Governing Council**

Congratulations to the parents who were elected to Governing Council at the AGM last week.

Chairperson: Gavin McElroy
Vice Chairperson: to be decided at next meeting
Secretary: Sarina King
Treasurer: Andrew Clarke
Cherie Stirling, Fiona Walkley, Brett Bertelsmeier, Brad Kennett & Scott Welke

Continuing for a second year: Charmain Angel, Greg Toholke and Phillip Bigg.

We have one remaining vacancy on the Governing Council. Please contact the school or someone on the council if you would like to join. Many hands make light work!

**Schools Clean Up Day**

We will be holding our Clean-Up of Blyth next Monday morning between 9.00am and 10.00am. If you are able to supply your child with a pair of old tongs (for picking up yucky rubbish) or gloves these would be appreciated. It would also be good if children wear solid shoes (not sandals) on Monday. Parents are most welcome to join us if they wish.

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**Diary Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5th Mar</td>
<td>Schools’ Clean Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 6th Mar</td>
<td>Whole School excursion, Adelaide</td>
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<td>Mon 12th Mar</td>
<td>ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 13th Mar</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day, (Year 7)</td>
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<td>Sat 17th Mar</td>
<td>Working Bee, 9.00am</td>
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**Site Improvement Priorities**

A Focus on Learning continues as an improvement priority in 2012. The Australian English and History curriculum will now come to the fore as we strive to improve whole school effectiveness in teaching and learning. The school will also Target Resources to ensure that intervention programs make a significant difference for learner achievement. Staff professional learning, our staffing configuration and the acquisition and deployment of resources will all contribute to reaching the targets we have set for the coming year.

**Working Bee**

A working bee will be held on Saturday 17th March, starting at 9.00am. We hope to see as many parents as possible help us build retaining walls for the garden bed in front of the library and to hold the soft fill back in the small playground. A barbecue lunch will be provided. Craig Lloyd has offered to assist the Grounds Committee with this project and we thank him for his expertise and advice.

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**Attachments with this newsletter**

- Annual Report Summary (for families who didn’t attend AGM)
- Bullying information
Thank you to Charmain Angel, Kim Eime, Kerry-Lee Welke, Marie Walsh and Liz Nutt for coordinating and helping on Tuck Day last week. The pizza pinwheels and frozen fruit kebabs were delicious.

We are all looking forward to visiting the 3D Visualisation Lab at Adelaide University next Tuesday to see "The Journey Home" - a 3D show that takes viewers on a tour of the solar system. Please ensure that your children have returned their consent forms by Monday at the latest.

Ruby Jacka ☺ for a conscientious approach to her work and class responsibilities
Wade Angel ☺ for showing initiative and noticing when things need to be done
Edward Evangelista & Drew Bertelsmeier ☺ asking thoughtful questions and listening and using books for research

Carmel Pyrke ☺ for a great "all-round" effort, having a positive attitude and having a go
Bonnie Williams ☺ for some good thinking
Aidyn Truscott ☺ for consistent work and a great attitude

Blyth Primary School are holding an Advanced Life Family Portrait Fundraising Day on Sunday 1st April. Advancedlife's Professional Photographers will provide you with a Framed Family Portrait for only $15 (valued at $130)!

For your $15, you receive a professional, framed 10”x13”Family Portrait (in colour or black & white) plus a bonus key-ring with your family photo inside. 100% of the money raised from the day goes to our school.

Additional photos will be taken and available for purchase, at no obligation. These additional photos include: Portraits, gift cards, bookmarks, calendars - featuring you family portrait & other photos taken on the day, with a complete package for only $179!

Please contact Sally @ Blyth Primary on 88445195 to book your appointment before they're all gone!
Payment is required before the day of photography to secure your booking.
Don't miss out on your opportunity to receive professional, studio-quality photographs at an incredible price!

Hard to believe it is Week 5 already. OSHC numbers are growing with three new families using OSHC this term. Dzintra and I have been meeting on Mondays to do a draft copy of the new Quality Standards. The completion process is getting closer.

Some activities have included dressing and decorating paper dolls from around the world, feathered emus, wooden rockets, making magnets, foam art and plaited friendship bracelets.

The end of the year cinema night was well attended with the children watching Mr Poppers Penguins. Thank you to Mrs Richards and Mr Roberts for making this possible.
Could families using OSHC please supply a hat for their child/ren to leave at OSHC.

Looking forward to another great term.
Cheers Deb

We have begun the year with some revision of numbers and colours. Cheryl Pyrke did a wonderful job of getting the programme up and rolling while I was enjoying some extra leave. Thanks Cheryl!

Last week all classes learned about Karneval/Fasching. A tradition that evolved as a way to drive away the winter, it is now a time of fun and dress up. In our lessons we learned a very catchy new song/dance tune and lots of fun belting it out! The younger students made masks (meant to look like dinosaurs - just as well there are no photos of the originals!!) and the middle primary class made crowns, helmets and headbands. The Upper Primary class are developing oral skills preparing short snippets about themselves to present to the class.

Congratulations to the students who are new to German who are working with such enthusiasm and confidence.

Until next time, Tschuss,
Judy
Rec-Year 1 News

Hi
You are probably relieved to see spelling lists going home with your child. These are related to “sounds in words” and include 2 sight words or tricky words. Please check your child doesn’t write silently but sounds and writes “simultaneously”. They can point then write with a stick in dirt, sandpit, use plasticine or play dough, magnetic letter, on the computer.... Whatever you can think of, to make variety in repetitive practice. The children do not sound the 2 sight/tricky words! Look at the whole word, cover it, write it.....no peeping until the word is finished. If wrong look again and re write the whole word, not just fixing up the wrong spelling.

We have talked about the moving of the Science earth plates with earthquakes and volcanoes that caused big changes at the end of the Triassic period and next week we start on the Jurassic period. We know the first life on earth was simple invertebrates and later some of these creatures developed vertebrae and could support their weight on land.

In Maths we have finished concentrating on the single digits and are finding how many “sums” we can do by adding to each other.

Cheers, Gabrielle

Year 2-4 News

Hi parents,

As usual, the MP class has been flying through some excellent quality work, and the children constantly delight me with their eagerness to learn and their positive, happy spirits. This week has seen us explore the idea of inherited characteristics, and the children enjoyed discovering who among us has widow’s peaks, dimples, unattached earlobes and hitch-hiker’s thumbs. We looked at some baby photos, and had fun trying to pick who it was in each photo! It was far easier to recognise some toddlers than others (Kasey’s big blue eyes gave her away every time), and we have had some good conversations about the reasons why this might be. The students are also finishing off narratives, designing a fitness circuit, revising basic addition and subtraction facts, learning to classify living things, learning about world navigators, and turning our classroom into a menagerie of animals and insects (both living and artistically rendered). What a great little learning community!

Cheers, Kate

Year 5-7 News

Dear Parents

Our Science topic on Orangutans is well on the way and they have an assignment due this Friday. Next week we will start our new Science programme on Micro-organisms.

Healthy meals are a major focus this term and the children will be planning, budgeting, preparing and cooking their meals. I already have some parent volunteers to work with the groups but still need some more.

I have been to two Maths conferences lately and will be trialling some ideas with the students. We are never too old to learn.

We have some fantastic artists in the class. I have never had such a talented group of students in all my years of teaching.

In English we will be finishing our Information posters soon and will be progressing to Persuasive writing and comprehension.

Regards, Jillian

Clare Valley Film Festival
29-31 March 2012
Family Shorts

Our Festival Co-ordinator Mandy Keulen will transform the foyer into a fun-filled, face painting, family friendly fun-palace. Cartoons and Short films too! Children under 16yo free.

Book online for discount tickets
www.clarevalleyfilmfestival.com

LEARN TO SING & PLAY GUITAR WITH KIERA

Kiera is a singer / songwriter living in Blyth. She is currently taking bookings for singing and guitar lessons. If you are interested in learning please contact Kiera on 0400076061 for more details.