**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**PUPIL FREE DAY – MONDAY**

Don’t forget that there will be no classes for children next Monday, August 15th. All teachers will be working on aligning our curriculum with the new Victorian Curriculum that we are required to be following from next year. Every few years the government changes the curriculum to ensure that it is matching the changing needs of our society. It is important that our teachers take the time to ensure that our curriculum is current and up to date. This is a very time consuming process and teachers have already spent many hours on this at team meetings. If you would like to know more about the new Victorian Curriculum you can check it out at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority website. [http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

**CHINA SISTER-SCHOOL VISIT**

Elsewhere in today’s newsletter you will see some photos from the sister-school visit. It was a very successful visit that has really helped our children to learn more about China and for our sister-school children to learn more about Australia. A big thank you to the host families who opened up their homes and gave up so much of their time to show the Chinese children our lifestyle and culture. Thank you also to Miss Ruscitti, Miss Liu, Mr Legione and the many other teachers who helped to make it a smooth and successful visit.

An example of the lasting impact of our sister-school partnership was demonstrated this week when one of the Chinese girls who was in the first group of children to visit our school in 2013 came back to visit. Camille wanted to visit her host family, the Lambs, as well as come to school to meet up with the teachers and to show her family our school.

**HEAD LICE**

Head lice is a topic that comes up regularly in primary schools due to the nature of children and how they play with their heads often together. It is a very frustrating issue as it can feel difficult to eradicate as it takes...
persistence and constant vigilance to break the cycle and keep them at bay. Elsewhere in today’s Blaze you will find information with detailed instructions that if followed, will ensure that your children do not continue to get or spread head lice. Thank you for your attention to this.

TRIVIA NIGHT

The second combined Bimbadeen Pre-School and Bimbadeen Heights Primary School Trivia Night will be held next Friday night August 19th. You can expect lots of fun, lots of prizes, lots of obscure and interesting trivia and to have the satisfaction of being part of raising money for our local pre-school and our school. Bree King, Paul Meilak and a team of helpers have done a magnificent job organising this and collecting heaps of donations. Last year we raised over $3,000 and are hoping for just as much fun and success this year. If you haven’t yet organised your baby-sitter and bought your tickets please do so early next week.

LILYDALE DISTRICT ELITE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Next Thursday August 18th Bimbadeen will be competing in the ‘Lilydale District Elite Athletics Carnival’ at the Croydon Athletics track. Each school will be putting in teams of approximately 60 children from Year 3-6. These children will be the best in their school at their nominated events with each child able to compete in a maximum of 4 events. The schools involved will be Mooroolbark East, Birmingham, Billanook, SPJ and Bimbadeen Heights. This carnival also serves as selection trials for the division athletics carnival that is held early in term 4. Children will score points for their school culminating in an overall winning school being announced at the end of the day.

We wish our children the best of luck for this athletics carnival. Who knows, it may be the starting point for future Olympians in 2024 or 2028.

CHOCOLATE DRIVE

At the time of writing we have had money returned from the sale of 89 boxes of our fund-raising chocolates. This is a bit less than half of the number of boxes that have been sent home so there are still many to be sold. Thank you to everyone who has been selling these chocolates. Please ensure that you have returned the money and/or any unsold chocolates by next Thursday, August 18th. If you would like additional boxes to sell please contact the office.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE

I will be away for the final four weeks of this term from Monday August 22nd. In my absence Mrs Jo-Anne Lang and Mr Garry Fowler will be leading the school. We are fortunate indeed to have leaders of this capability who can step-up and keep Bimbadeen Heights functioning at a very high level.

Final-Leigh:

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

(Yogi Berra)

ICAS SCIENCE TEST

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the International Competitions & Assessments in Schools (ICAS) – Science test in Term 2. The following results were achieved by our students.

Participation:

Adam J, Cassie M, Ty T (Year 2), Charlie H, Baylee W (Year 3), Wil H, Will S (Year 4), Cooper G (Year 5), Dylan L, Sarah S (Year 6).

Credit:

Cooper K, Mitch J (Year 2), Michael P (Year 3), Byron B, Dylan N (Year 4), Nathan B (Year 5), Rhys T (Year 6).

Distinction:

This student performed in the top 10% of all participants in his year group, which is a fantastic result.

Marcus G (Year 5)

Well done and congratulations to all of our participants.

I will share the results of the Writing, Spelling and English ICAS tests as they come in over the next few months.

Jacqui Duncan

“Reaching for the Heights”
Congratulations to the following children for winning ‘You Can Do It’ Awards:

- Crystal L (3/4R) - Persistence  
  For doing lots and lots of extra Maths work on time

- Natalie C (2TJ) - Organisation  
  For organising her Maths so well

- Chelsea H (1LN) - Getting Along  
  For being a friendly and caring student in 1LN

- Cobie O (2SB) - Organisation  
  For helping keep the classroom tidy

We will be running activities where the students are able to engage in pulling CD and DVD players apart. This includes problem solving, teamwork, seeing how motors work, using magnets to pick up screws and so much more.

We are seeking donations of the following: DVD Players, Speakers, CD Players, Computers etc.

Thanks
John Vann

Bayswater Bucks
Total 2016 = $30
2016 Sister School Visit

“Reaching for the Heights”
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP IN THE CLASSROOM?

Classroom Helpers Program Term 3, 2016

The Classroom Helpers Program provides an opportunity for parents or grandparents to share in the educational development of students with the support and direction of teachers. We are offering the Classroom Helpers Program again in Term 3.

The program will be held on Wednesday 7th September from 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

The efforts of classroom helpers are a highly valued resource for students, as opportunities for learning are nurtured by the participation of understanding adults. It consists of one interactive session and is linked to the classroom literacy/numeracy program.

The course will-

- develop an increased understanding of the development of literacy/numeracy skills
- demonstrate various learning situations to helpers so they can act as role models for students in the classroom
- train helpers in how to give support for small groups of students
- emphasize the importance of confidentiality as a classroom helper

We would like to thank all participants who have previously completed the sessions and would appreciate their input to new parents/grandparents who are thinking of doing the program.

We remind parents who want to help in the classroom, that all helpers must have completed the Classroom Helpers Program and also have a Working with Children Check.

If you are interested in participating in the program please fill in and return the form below by Friday 2nd September. (Please note: The program will only run if we have sufficient numbers.)

Liz Nicholson and Michelle Franks
Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators

______________________________
Classroom Helpers Sessions

NAME: ______________________ Contact Phone No________________________

☐ I would like to attend the Classroom Helpers Program on Wednesday 7th September, from 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

CHILD’S NAME & GRADE: ____________________________________________
HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) PROGRAM
A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?

Head lice are tiny insects that can infest people's hair. Infestation can occur in any person, irrespective of occupation, personal cleanliness or hygienic conditions. Large outbreaks have occurred over recent years in many parts of Australia, Europe and U.S.A. The condition is not a danger to health, but it is a nuisance and is often unjustly associated in people's minds with uncleanliness or poor grooming.

HOW TO DETECT HEAD LICE:

Head lice can be seen in the hair with the naked eye, but more often the diagnosis is made by detecting the eggs attached to the hair shafts. The adult louse is approximately 1mm long, with an oval shaped body and three pairs of legs. The female louse has a life span of about 30 days during which time she lays approximately 140 eggs. These eggs (sometimes also call nits) hatch within 7-8 days. Unhatched eggs are oval, off-white in colour and are laid close to the scalp surface. They are firmly attached to the hair shaft, unlike dandruff or hair casts which are freely movable. Eggs found further than 10mm from the scalp are unlikely to be alive.

Lice feed by biting and sucking the human scalp for blood. This bite causes the itch which people with head lice may experience.

HOW ARE THEY SPREAD?

Head lice are most commonly spread by direct contact when heads touch at play, work or in the home environment. Less frequently, they are spread through contact with personal belongings such as shared hats, coats and combs. Head lice are particularly common in schools because children are in close contact with one another throughout the day in both classrooms and play grounds, enabling easy transmission from person to person.

Head lice can only survive on a warm human scalp. They are not transmitted from or to animals.

TREATMENT:

If you discover any eggs or live head lice, please notify the school and commence treatment as follows:

1. Use an appropriate head lice lotion and follow the instructions carefully.
2. All eggs must be removed by the use of a metal comb or fingernails. (A weak solution of vinegar used as a rinse following treatment will loosen the eggs and make them easier to remove). This is the time consuming part but is essential as it has been found that some eggs survive treatment with a lotion.
3. It is recommended that you wash the sheets, doona covers and pillowcases in hot water and place soft toys in the clothes drier to ensure no eggs are attached. If the soft toy cannot be washed in hot water or put in the drier, seal in a plastic bag for two weeks. Any remaining eggs will not survive. It is a good idea to give the doona a spin in the drier, too.

Children are able to return to school once treatment as listed above has been completed.
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

1. Long hair should be tied back, preferably in a ponytail tied at the end as well and at the top, or in plaits.
2. To guard against reinfection, repeat treatment with lotion in 7-10 days.
3. There is no need to use head lice products on a regular basis if no lice or eggs are present and there is no need to treat the whole family if they do not have lice or eggs.
4. Regular inspections using the following 3 step process will assist in control management of head lice:
   - Step 1: Comb inexpensive hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around.
   - Step 2: Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.
   - Step 3: Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

If you are unsure of anything or require additional information, please contact the school office. Alternatively, contact the Shire for information. The number is 1300 368 333.

Thank you for your assistance.

Leigh Johansen
Principal