Principals Report

Relationships are an important part of our lives and for the most part, the relationships we have with others enrich our lives. Because people are complex and emotional beings, relationships can be challenging and stressful. While families usually form the most important ties for young people, connections with friends and peers are also critical in influencing actions and behaviours of students. For students aged between 8 and 14, one of the most concerning issues is peer relationships. Schools play an important role in building peer bonds, as this is often a place where children form the majority of their friendships. However, just as adult friends do not always agree with each other, it is natural that children also will have differences of opinion. While this is a healthy state of affairs, children need to build resilience to be able to deal with differences of opinions respectfully. At Bluff State School we are teaching the children that it is okay to disagree with their friend’s choices or opinions. We are also teaching the students that it is okay to play with certain friends on one day and other friends on another day. However sometimes children feel hurt and betrayed by their friends when these behaviours or actions occur. Rather than using these times to pander to children’s hurt feelings, these times should be seen as opportunities for emotional and social growth. We can assist the students by encouraging them to use these times to discuss their feelings with their friends, if they are feeling hurt. This will result in emotional growth and resilience.

As we come into Book Week next week we have several activities to help us focus on the importance of reading and comprehending literature. Literacy capabilities are crucial to student success at school, as it is a skill used in every key learning area in the curriculum e.g. in maths students need to read and comprehend mathematical word problems, in SOSE and science they need to be able to read information and write different forms of reports. Therefore next week we will have a strong focus on literacy, in particular reading and comprehension. After our book parade on Monday (I hope all the children have their costumes ready) we will be having literacy rotations throughout the school. This will involve having activities set up in different locations, with children moving through each rotation in small groups. Each activity will have a supervisor assigned to it; however parents are most welcome to join their child’s group to move through each activity with them. We still have one activity that does not have a supervisor assigned as yet, as we don’t have enough teachers. If you would like to supervise an activity please let me know and I can talk you through what the activity entails. After our activities we will be having a morning tea and invite everyone to please bring a plate to share.

Please ensure your media permission forms have been returned as we will be having photos taken throughout the morning, with the possibility of them being published in the media. Some other ways you could assist your child to focus on literacy next week include: participating in the fence friend’s project on Wednesday and continuing to read books for the Readers Cup Challenge. Reading is our school focus for improvement this year and this week affords us a great opportunity to engage in a collaborative venture to achieve this.

The Emmi Bielenberg Memorial Fun Run is on Friday. The students will run/walk through the township of Bluff and I invite all families to be involved in running/walking alongside their children. After the run we will have a sausage sizzle and refreshments with the Bielenberg family. The focus of the run is on remembering the precious gift of life and the enjoyment we can have through participation in healthy exercise.

"The world of tomorrow belongs to the person who has the vision today".
Robert Schuller

Jo Bulger
News from the 4 - 7 Classroom

This week, the 4-7 class started their new health program “Friends for Life”. This program is based around 12 sessions which teach children positive ways of coping with new and/or difficult situations. “Friends for Life” builds emotional resilience, problem solving abilities and has been proven to reduce and prevent anxiety and depression. The P-3 class will be running a similar program and Mrs Bulger and I strongly believe that the students will benefit greatly over the next 12 weeks. Not only will students be developing these skills for their own personal emotional growth but it will also flow into the classroom and positively impact upon school life.

The students’ Indigenous shelters are looking terrific and there is some great problem solving occurring as students discover that things don’t always go to plan! Some students have finished these and have been busy typing up a “how-to” for their shelter. Please feel free to come in before or after school and see your child’s work!

Maths for the past week and a bit has focused on shapes. The 4/5’s have been looking at features and differences between 2D shapes, parallel lines and tangrams. The 6/7’s have been revising 3D shapes and their nets; compound solids and learning to draw isometric 3D shapes. Here are some photos of our hands-on learning!

News from the P-3 Classroom

Our highlight in the P-3 classroom over the past two weeks has been the improvement in spelling. The children continue to apply themselves to their spelling and the results are showing. Quite a number of children got 100% correct in their spelling tests last week, with most other children getting only one word wrong. This improvement shows that the children are working hard at home to develop their spelling knowledge. It is essential that they learn the spelling rules that go along with their spelling words. This will help them remember how to spell the words in weeks to come, not just for the one week. I encourage the children to use the BEES strategy for spelling, which was put in the front of all the homework books at the start of the year. Some tips for spelling include knowing that ‘ay’ and ‘ai’ say the same sound but ‘ay’ comes at the end of the word (as in day) but ‘ai’ is in the middle of the word (as in pain). I had to tell the children this is usually the case as they pointed out to me that Kayne and Kayden have the ‘ay’ in the middle of their names. … (makes it tricky). Another rule is ‘C’, if it is followed by ‘i’ or ‘e’ says the soft c sound (as in city and reception), as opposed to the hard ‘c’ sound (as in carry).

Several projects and units of work are coming to a completion this week, culminating in formative assessment pieces. The children have now completed their spaceships, which they designed in combined science/technology. The children really enjoyed this project and we saw some great problem solving skills at work as they constructed their designs. In English/SOSE the children wrote narratives, using indigenous iconography on boomerangs. They looked at the symbols used in traditional stories and used these symbols to make their own story. They have also had to write a creation narrative which will be completed by the end of this week for English. While the Grade 3s were required to write their own story, from abstract thought, the Grade 2s were required to reconstruct a known narrative. Both grades however were given a required word length and some children struggled with meeting this challenge. Writing to a required word length will be an area we will develop over the coming weeks, as we begin to look at procedural texts. Maths assessments for addition, algebra and measurement were completed by the respective grades and the children have now begun an integrated SOSE and technology assignment, which will see them design and report on traditional indigenous shelters. Their art assessment piece, which begins next week, will be to create an original dot art painting. As you can see there is certainly a lot going on in the classroom, so it is important that the children are at school to participate in learning. Thankyou to all the parents who have spoken to me to get work for their child, when they know their child is going to be away. It really does help your child stay up to date with the learning.
Girl Life
This week at ‘Girl Life’ we did self-defence, yoga, kickboxing and ‘My Life Rules’. It was lots of fun and very educational!! In self-defence we learnt what to do when someone comes up to you and tries to hurt you or steal you. In kickboxing well, we did kickboxing, and learnt where people’s pressure points are. In yoga we did special stretches and things to help make you relax. We also had a ‘My Life Rules’ session which we do every week and what we do in them is learn 5 truth coach-es and we have to learn them off by heart and know them the following week. If we know them all we get a special wristband that

DATES TO REMEMBER

August
20-24 Book Week
20 Dress Up Day –parents invited
23 Fence Friends Event
24 Emmi Memorial Fun Run

Information regarding events will be sent home

REMINDERS.....
DRESS UP DAY THIS
MONDAY!
Bring a plate to share!
FENCE FRIENDS

Student Council News: Fun Food Day…. All orders must be back at school by next Wednesday so food can be ordered. Please keep in mind that there is NO tuckshop on this day and Fun Food will only be for big lunch.

BLACKWATER CIVIC CENTRE PRESENTS
GREASE IS THE WORD

Dress up as your favourite character
Dance and sing along to the movie
Friday 14th September
Tickets $25 per head and includes a light supper

SUPPORTING; EAST PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ANY NEW MEMBERS MAY SIGN UP ON THE NIGHT