



# NEWSLETTER

WEEK 5      TERM 3      2010

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***It has been a long time since the creek at school has flowed.  
Don't tell anyone but the fish are on!***

### Coming Events

Small Schools' Soccer Carnival Tumut <b>Cancelled</b>	Friday 27	August
Breakfast Club 9am	Thursday 26	August
School Closed(Alternate Work Organisation)	Monday 6	September
Bongongo Dance Camp	Thur/Fri 16/17	September

## **Rostrum**

Last week saw our senior students perform at the Rostrum/ Country Women's Association public speaking competition held at Berinba School in Yass. The students performed admirably and had made a great effort to produce the speech and rehearse the presentations. Their efforts paid off on the night as they all stood up in front of big crowd and delivered easily heard and entertaining performances. Isaac our year two student excelled and took home a first place medal! Congratulations to all our students for a wonderful effort.

The experience and skills developed will certainly prove most valuable in future years. Most pleasing of all were the comments by the students afterwards that they were ready to have another go at public speaking and looked forward to the next opportunity!

Throughout the lead up week the class has discussed what it takes to become confident at a particular activity. During this time speeches were being written and practised with the aim that they would be presented with confidence. The following list was a result of a brain storming session by the class.

### **How can we become more confident in ourselves?**

- 'Have a go'
- Practice (the more you practise something the better you get at it)
- Be positive
- Don't be too hard on yourself
- Have a good attitude
- Be friendly to others so that they will be your friends and support you when you need it.
- Take care of your body. Make sure you exercise, eat well, drink water and get enough sleep
- Take time to play with others.

Many thanks to all parents who supported the night through providing transport.

### **Welcome to our new teacher Amanda Bell**

Our students are in for a treat. Amanda Bell has filled the position of Student Learning Support Teacher and comes highly recommended. We have secured Amanda's services for 31 days over the next 9 teaching weeks. Amanda will be team teaching with Sally and I, working with small groups and implementing programs with individual students. What a great student/teacher ratio we have at the school.

## **Enrolments Hit Double Figures**

Fantastic news! A very warm welcome to Ella (year 4) who joined the crew last week. I hope you have had the opportunity to meet parent's Brett and Sasha and welcome them to the valley.

Has any other school increased its enrolments by 800% this year?



*Cooking up storm. Pumpkin Soup using pumpkins from our vegetable patch.*

## **Gymnastics**

Last week ended our month of gymnastics lessons at Bongongo School. By all student reports the lessons were terrific and from my own observations were certainly of the highest standard. My thanks to all parents who provided transport and made this opportunity possible. The lessons cost the school \$700 which has been covered by the school with the help of the excursion contribution fund.



*A terrific program and experience for our students*

## **The Learning Environment in the Classroom**

Sally and I have been concerned that the learning environment at school has been suffering through interruptions to lessons. Over the last week, working with the students in small and large group discussions the students identified:

1. What is the best environment within the classroom for learning to take place; and
2. What are the distractions?

The students were most insightful and detailed and informative lists developed.

Today a list summarising distractions and consequences for those actions was implemented.

A brief outline follows:

### **Distraction List**

- Personal Space (tapping, pushing, leaning on people when in meeting area)
- Student Policemen (students interrupting lessons through chastising fellow students for minor indiscretions)

- Not on task (calling out/talking etc.)
- Loud Noise (voice/ moving around room noisily)
- Crying Whinging whining
- Telling Tales
- Borrowing erasers etc.

For each indiscretion a tick is listed against a child's name.

One tick        5 minutes time out  
 Two ticks      10 minutes timeout  
 Three ticks    20 minutes timeout.

'Time Out' time is made up at lunchtime to make up missed study time in the class.

Note 1.        Three ticks acquired in a day results in a note sent home to parents detailing infringements. (I hope this does not have to happen!)

Note 2.        Borrowing Stationery

Borrowing rulers etc. causes all too frequent interruptions to other students. The school has provided a great deal of gear this year. To help a few of the students develop respect for their 'tools of trade' and develop routines for looking after them, a note will be sent home to parents detailing what needs to be replaced, which parents will need to supply. This will provide an opportunity for discussion at home regarding costs of replacement and the need to look after equipment.

Note 3. Car park Lines

The students have been reminded that they are and expected to line up at the gate at the end of the day. It is not a playtime. Could parents either escort children to their cars or signal to them to come to the car? This is purely a safety issue. With a sound routine in place a tragedy maybe avoided.

### **Science Festival Visit**

*A most informative and enjoyable day was had in Canberra at the CSIRO Science education centre. Thanks again to all parents who assisted with transport. Thanks to Sally and trips such as this one when our kids hear the word science they certainly wait for a lesson with anticipation.*

### **Breakfast Club –Thursday**

Everyone in the community is welcome to come to breakfast this week, Menu - Croissants, Raisin Toast – Tea/Coffee



*Explosion imminent!*





*Action at the Science Festival*





*Back to the books at Bongongo and our high tech setup at WJ.*

