Principal's Message
Welcome back Breadalbane and special welcome to our brand new Kindergarten students, Will and Isaac, and also to our new family Jayden, Michael and Hayley Jeffree. Our school is going to look a bit different this year with so many new students and I'm really looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and fun. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Staff for 2013:
Teachers:
Monday – Friday:
Ms Marianne Powles
Thursday:
Mrs Nancy Ball

Learning Support:
Alternate Fridays
Mrs Christine Katen

School Administrative Manager:
Tuesday – Wednesday
Mrs Carolyn Hannan
Wednesday
Mrs Kathy Staples

School Learning and Support Officer:
Monday, Friday
Mrs Christine Apps

General Assistant:
Wednesday:
Mr John Broadbent

Sport
Term 1 will be a very busy term for sport. We have our three community of small schools carnivals – swimming at the Goulburn Aquatic Centre on Thursday 21 February, athletics at Hudson Park on Friday 5 April and cross country at Windellama Public School on Friday 12 April.

A permission note for the swimming carnival is attached. Please sign and return to school as soon as possible.

In order to be well prepared for the athletics carnival we will be doing athletics skills as our weekly sport on Wednesdays. Kelsey Betts will be our visiting coach. Please remember to wear sports uniform on Wednesdays each week this term.

GCOPS Concert
Early in third term we will participate in the 10th
Home Schooling and Home Reading

At the end of last year I spoke to most families about homework at Breadalbane. If I have not yet had a chance to speak to you I would be very interested in your input into the development of a school homework policy.

From next week, some homework is set for all students but this is to be negotiated with each family as each student’s needs are different. Students will be rewarded for completing homework.

Kindergarten:
Students are encouraged to complete home reading each night. As much as possible, this should be an enjoyable experience for students and parents, with lots of informal chat about the book. Each night’s reading can be written up in the home reading diary. Later in the year there will also be some sight words to practise.

Year 1&2
Home reading as for Kindergarten is still the most important homework and should be done in preference to anything else. Again, talking about the book can be as important as reading it. Spelling words will also be sent home on Monday forlook-cover-write-check practice.

Year 3&4
Students should be reading every night, either independently or with an adult. This can be written up in the home reading diary regardless of whether the student is reading from a home reader or reading independent texts. There will also be spelling practice and, later in the year, some times tables practice.

Year 6
In preparation for high school, it would be useful for year 6 students to practise completing some slightly more structured homework. I will send home spelling and times tables practice each week. Home reading is still very important.

Assemblies and P&C Meetings

There will be two assemblies this term. The first will be on Friday 1 March at 2.15pm and the second on Thursday 11 April at 2.15pm. Families and friends are warmly invited to attend. Each assembly will be followed by a short P&C meeting from 3pm.

Classroom Supplies
Lead and coloured pencils, textas, glue sticks and rulers are available in class for students to share. For K-2 students, having their own pencil case can be more trouble than it is worth. For older students, it can be useful for them to have a pencil case with pens, pencils, ruler, glue sticks etc so that they can manage their own equipment.

All students from Y1-6 will need to bring an A4 sized exercise book for homework.

Research Project

During the holidays I completed a residential school at the University of Wollongong as part of my study towards a Master of Education degree. Over the next few weeks I will be completing a research project for this course about classroom talk. I will need to record and transcribe some classroom discussions. This will not be published and the students’ names will be changed, but I wanted to let parents know. Please talk to me if you have any concerns or questions about this project.

Happy Birthday William!

Marianne Powles
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Bookclub
Flyers will be sent with the newsletter today. Please return orders and payment to the office by Wednesday 20th February.