Mrs Smoother’s Update

Welcome. The students and staff returned from their break refreshed and looking forward to another year where great things happen at Ben Lomond Public School.

Teaching and Learning. In English the students have been engaged in a unit of work on Natural Disasters. We have used the following texts as a basis to show that words and images can signify more than what they denote.

The students are learning that connotation, imagery and symbol can enrich a text by making words and images mean more than one thing. The students have written enriched sentences that help the reader create a clearer image in their head. The students have also created artworks in the style of the images Bruce Whatley created for Flood.

In Visual Arts the students have worked with Mrs Vimpany to produce a range of paintings and drawings that were entered into the Glen Innes and Guyra Shows. The students also had Snow Globes that they made at the end of last year and many of the students gained placing’s in the Glen Innes show for their globe. This Year sees the introduction of the new History and Geography syllabus; students in NSW are still required to study the change and continuity strand of the Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE). The students will study a History unit this term and a Geography unit next term. In History the senior students are studying Australia as a Nation; they are looking at Governments, laws and Federation. The junior students are studying History through the lives of significant people, they have been asked to interview an older person and find out about their life growing up.

Mrs Siddell is again teaching Music to the students this term, the students will continue with recorder and also use the drums and keyboards to explore a variety of musical concepts.

In Science the units of work are Light Shows for Years 3 – 6 and Look Listen for Years 1 and 2. The units investigate physical sciences.

In Maths, we are using a range of games and hands on activities to target early numeracy.

School Calendar

T1 Week 5

Thursday, 25th February 2016 - School Banking
Friday, 26th February 2016 – Library

T1 Week 6

Monday, 29th February 2016 – School Photos
Thursday, 3rd March 2016 - School Banking
Friday, 4th March 2016 – Library

T1 Week 7

Thursday, 10th March 2016 - School Banking
Friday, 11th March 2016 – Library

T1 Week 8

Thursday, 17th March 2016 - School Banking
Friday, 18th March 2016 – Library

T1 Week 9

Monday 21st March 2016 – Outback Scripture
Thursday, 24th March 2016 – Harmony Day (Black Mountain)
Thursday, 24th March 2016 - School Banking
Friday, 25th March 2016 – Good Friday

T1 Week 10

Monday, 28th March 2016 – Easter Monday
Thursday, 31st March 2016 - Library
Friday, 1st April 2016 – Good Friday

T1 Week 11

Thursday, 7th April 2016 – School Banking
Friday, 8th April 2016 – Library
Friday, 8th April 2016 – Last Day Term 1

T2 Week 1

Monday, 25th April 2016 – Anzac Day
Tuesday, 26th April 2016 – Staff Development Day
Wednesday, 27th April 2016 – Term 2 Commences for Students
Thursday, 28th April 2016 - School Banking
Friday, 29th April 2016 – Library
Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to all students who participated in events. Adam, Savannah, Eli and Cody all received a ribbon for placing in their race. Thank you to Cody, Eli and Piper for swimming in the relays with Chandler. A special thank you to Mrs Rooke, whose organisation helped the day run so smoothly and the staff and parents of Black Mountain, Bald Blair, Chandler and Ebor who helped on the day.

Outdoor Oven. So the students can be engaged in real world problem solving they have been working Mr Jon Oxenbridge to make mud bricks. The bricks will be used to construct an outdoor oven. The students helped Jon design the oven, work out where to place the oven, mark out the footings and lay the bricks. When the oven is completed the students will be able to use the oven to make pizzas to share.

Wanted – 70 Common bricks with no holes. If you are able to help out please telephone the school – 6733 2001.

School funding. The school will continue to use funding provided by the government to employ Mrs Sally Purvis as the Learning and Support Teacher for an extra half day per week. This enables Mrs Purvis to work with each student to further develop an identified area within Literacy or Numeracy. Mrs Sidell is also employed using these funds to provide Music and individual support in Spelling and Grammar one day per week.

Wellbeing. Bullying is a serious issue in Australia, experiencing bullying can impact a child’s self-esteem, behaviour, and their ability to concentrate and perform at school. Better Buddies, an initiative of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, pairs students in the early years of schooling with an older buddy to help them feel safe, valued and connected to their school community. When students have the skills and understanding of how to engage in positive, respectful and inclusive relationships, then negative and violent behaviour – such as bullying – can be reduced. The Better Buddies Framework introduces or enhances buddy systems in primary schools and encourages other cross-age relationships throughout the whole-school community, encouraging everyone to incorporate the Better Buddies values; caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility. As part of Better Buddies, schools are encouraged to conduct regular buddy activities and run four key events throughout the year, including:

- Better Buddies Welcome
- Better Buddies Games
- Better Buddies Book Week
- Better Buddies Celebration.

Buddy Bear is the mascot of Better Buddies – a fun-loving and caring purple bear, who promotes care, security, warmth, comfort and the values of the Framework. Buddy Bears connects well with becoming an eSmart school, it will also help us link with our extended community.

By Eli