Important Dates

17/2/11  Canteen 1 – Roast Chicken Wrap  
18/2/11  Canteen 2 Order due – Mince Meat Patties in Pita Bread Pockets with Salad  
21/2/11  Governing Council AGM – 7pm  
28/2/11  R-7 Swimming Lessons  
1/3/11   R-7 Swimming Lessons  
2/3/11   Blanchetown, Cadell and Morgan combined Splash Carnival at Waikerie Pool.  
31/3/11  Blanchetown Primary School Sports Day  
13/4/11  Mid Murray Sports Day – at Blanchetown- PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Principal's Report

Welcome to week three!

Who can believe that we are in week 3 already! The students have settled back into the routine of learning and the cooler weather has certainly made learning easier.

We recently had a bushfire drill to remind all students and staff of what they need to do in case of an emergency. Blanchetown Primary School is situated in a High Risk area and in the event of catastrophic weather conditions the school will be CLOSED. As a reminder, Blanchetown PS is zoned in the Murraylands (not the Riverland as is the case on the other side of the river). In an ideal world, you will be informed the day before that a Catastrophic Day is likely and you will be required to watch or listen to the ABC news for confirmation of this. Parents and caregivers will need to make alternative arrangements for their children on these days as no one is allowed to be on site. There will be another bushfire drill this term to practise another element of our invacuation / evacuation procedures. I have included a copy of our current bushfire action plan which you need to familiarise yourself with so you are fully aware of your obligations in the event of an emergency situation.

A reminder to all parents and caregivers that students MUST attend school everyday. Even though we are only in week three, we have noticed a considerable number of student absences already this year. Obviously if a child is sick, we expect you to keep them home until they are better to prevent the spread of any germs or disease. We also understand that from time to time things arise and students need to accompany their parents and therefore cannot attend school. If a student is absent, we require an explanation so that it can be recorded in our computer system. We are under compulsion to notify the DECS student attendance officer if a student is absent for several days, especially when no reason is provided why. I cannot stress enough that it is in your and your child’s best interests to ensure that they attend school everyday and that we are notified of all absences. A reminder that student absences can be reported to the school in several ways; in writing, in person, by telephone or by text message on the mobile number listed above.

Students will soon begin practising for Sports Day and Mid Murray Sports Day and therefore need to wear clothing and shoes which allow them to move / run unhindered ie sneakers as opposed to slip on type shoes. We appreciate parent/caregivers support in assisting us with this matter.
This week we also started our maths groups where Karen, Ros S and I each took a group of students. By all accounts so far, it seems successful. We collectively agreed to start all groups on Patterning to assist the students make the connection between numbers and their patterns (i.e. counting in 2’s, 5’s or 10’s). After a while, students won’t feel the need to count every ‘unit’ individually but will soon be able to quickly recognise number patterns which will greatly assist them in their learning.

A reminder that Canteen orders for next Thursday (24/2) need to be received by this Friday 18/2. Late orders will not be accepted. Please refer to the menu choices sent home recently.

Have a great week.

Jason

**Second Hand Uniforms For Sale**

We are currently selling a range of second hand school shirts and jumpers for a gold coin donation. If you are interested in any of these items, please come in to the front office before Friday.

**University of NSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**

Once again we are offering all parents of Year 3 and above students the option to have their children participate in the 2011 ICAS tests. There are six tests which parents can choose from. Below is a table containing the subjects available, the sitting date and the cost of each test. Entries and the associated fees need to be received at the school by not later than Monday 28th February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>24/5/11</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>8/6/11</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>21/6/11</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>21/6/11</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2/8/11</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>16/8/11</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Blanchetown, Cadell and Morgan Splash Carnival**

Advance notice that we are holding the combined small schools splash carnival at Waikerie again this year on Wednesday 2/3. The day will more than likely commence at 9.30am and will conclude around 2.30pm. More information about times etc will be sent home shortly, but students will need to make their own transport arrangements to and from Waikerie on this day.

**Mid Murray Sports Day at Blanchetown**

This year we are hosting the Mid Murray Sports Day on WEDNESDAY 13th April. Please note that the date has changed from what was originally advertised as District Athletics Day was moved to Thursday 7th April. To ensure that this event is successful, we need help and lots of it. Being a small school we rely on our parent and community helpers to assist. Once the steering committee have determined what action needs to be taken (hopefully after GC in week 4), we intend to allocate all families a task or job on or for this day to assist. This may take the form of helping set up for the event, marking lines, selling drinks, assisting with catering etc. We intend to have a roster in place so that no one will be ‘stuck’ on a stall etc. Many hands really do make light work and we appreciate your support in this matter.

**Eggs for Sale**

A reminder that we still sell eggs from the school chooks. All money raised goes back into the school, so by buying the eggs, you are supporting the school! Cartons of eggs are available for $3 a dozen.
Play Centre

The Blanchetown Playcentre meets once a week on a Wednesday morning from 9am – 12pm during school terms.
Children only need to bring a hat, a drink and a snack. Cost is $1 for one child or $2 per family per week and a one off yearly fee for insurance.
Come along and enjoy a catch up with other mums. Hope to see you there! All welcome.
Ina Reynolds

Rosie’s Corner

Dear Parents & Friends,

Today I would like to share a story with you about Honesty & Integrity, by M.L. Wills.

When George Washington was about six years old, he was given a hatchet of which, like most little boys, he was most fond. He went about chopping everything that came his way.

One day, as he wandered through the garden amusing himself by hacking his mother’s pea sticks, he found a beautiful young English cherry tree, of which his father was most proud.

He tried the edge of his hatchet on the trunk of the tree and ring barked it so that it died.

Some time after this, his father discovered what had happened to his favourite tree. He came into the house in great anger and demanded to know who the mischievous person was who had cut away the bark. Nobody could tell him anything about it.

Just then George, with his little hatchet came into the room.

“George”, said his father, “do you know who has killed my little cherry tree yonder in the garden? I paid five guineas for it”.

This was a hard question to answer and for a moment George was staggered by it, but quickly recovering himself, he said

“I cannot tell a lie, father, you know I cannot tell a lie! I did cut it with my little hatchet.”

The anger died out of his father’s face and taking the boy tenderly in his arms he said;

“My son, that you should not be afraid to tell the truth is more to me than a thousand trees!

Yes, though they were blossomed with silver and had leaves of purest gold.”

It is so true, not matter how difficult it is to tell the truth, one is always admired for it.

I hope that your family seeks to be honest with you because they are not afraid of the consequences too.

Many blessings to you all,
Rosie

Community Notices

Learn to Rock n Roll

All welcome!!

A meeting of expression of interest of Children and Adults who would like to learn to ROCK N ROLL. On Wednesday 16th Feb 2011 at 4pm.
Venue Ramco Institute.
Please phone Beryl 85413868 or Anton 85414407 for enquiries and more information.
Name: 

I would like to order the following: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mince Meat Patties in Pita Bread Pockets + lettuce, tomato, cucumber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and grated low fat cheese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 

Choices for 24/2: Mince Meat Patties in Pita Bread Pockets + lettuce, tomato, cucumber and grated low fat cheese

##### OR something from the weekly menu#####