



Burren Junction Public School

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Term 3 Week 8

Wednesday 7th Sept 2016

"Look, listen and think"

All systems go at Burren Junction! The past two weeks have provided children with opportunities and skills that will help us produce an amazing school play next Friday. We hope you can come along and spread the word, to make this a real community event. Despite wet weather again impacting our student numbers, there has been a hive of activity among students, staff and parents to assist in all ways to pull everything together. On the sporting field we have again scored gold, congratulations to all students who competed in Tamworth. Many personal bests were broken, which is the best that anyone can do. A team from our school competed at the Tournament of the Minds in Tamworth last weekend and were really impressive to watch.

Play Perfecting with Jenny Avvenevole

We were so lucky this week to have Jenny Avvenevole visit our school and donate her time, energy and expertise to our upcoming production. Jenny worked mainly with the children from 3/4 and 5/6 but she also did some warm-up drama activities with 12 and all the children loved them. She managed to "lift" our acting abilities from a 2 to a 6 (I thought they were about a 9 by the time she had finished) but she has left us with very clear ideas about how to lift them further to be a "10" on the night.

Our villains are now truly villainous, our Judge, Lawyer, Police Chief, Court Official and Olympic Chief truly authoritative and the 34 members of the Australian Olympic team very entertaining.

Jenny is a cousin of Rob Carolan and volunteered her help after seeing our facebook "Curtain Raiser" and wanting to revisit her childhood holidays up here. She also arrived with a huge bag of costumes which we can borrow for our production. It is marvellous to see the old hall coming back to life and the children enjoying drama so much.



Dance Moves with Aleeta

This week we have had the skills of Aleeta Northey at our school. Aleeta is a dance choreographer from Sydney and we have been lucky to be able to use part of our Monsanto grant to have her. She has put together all dances for the play and a little number that we will be able to use for speech day. Aleeta is the final part to our specialists we have accessed to provide students with opportunities to overcome isolation. This was provided through the Monsanto grant, which culminates in our school performance. We have had singing, script writing, drama and dance opportunities provided to students as well a professional development to staff. It has been a great project for our school and we are fortunate to have received the grant. We hope to continue to offer a range of activities next year, with planning and grant writing well underway.

Gold to Burren Junction

While our school play may be all about Olympic journeys our athletes were creating histories of their own. Hamish, George W, Lachie, George P, Campbell, Sam, Isabella, Sophie and Milly participated in a total of 19 events at the North West athletics carnival. If this alone was not outstanding enough for a small school, 6 of them made it on to state. This takes the total number of students making state this year to 9 in a total of 13 different events. How amazing is that? Our P5 relay was reported to have won by a country mile. Congratulations to Hamish Chappel, George Wilkins, George Powell and Lachie O'Brien on great teamwork. Hamish Chappel came first in long jump and Sam Ball came third. Both of these boys had

massive PB's to get them through to state. Isabella O'Brien ran an amazing 800m to come 3rd and Hamish came first. Hamish will compete at state in 3 events. State is on early next term.



External Validation

Next Tuesday our school will be externally validated. This is the first year that schools are being validated and we are the lucky ones up first. Every school will be done in the next 5 years. It involves the school assessing itself on the School Excellence Framework. This is made up of three domains: Learning, Teaching and Leading. Each of these domains have a total of 14 elements. Internally we had to collect evidence to decide which areas our school was delivering excellence, which we were sustaining and growing in and those in which we excel. An external panel will come in now, and validate our claims, after looking through our evidence. The process has been a massive one, to say the least. I personally will be thankful when my nights are not filled with collating and analysing evidence and writing summaries. I cannot thank Felicity Carolan enough for all her assistance and work. Felicity is a compliance auditor and she was able to see how it could be put together a clear, concise format. To support our claims, a lot of evidence came from our yearbook. Thank you to Sandy Shearer for organising and pulling this part all together. The articles, written by families and children really do take the year book to a new level. Sandy's artistic flair and eye for detail have produced a great document. We think that our school has performed really well. It has also given us direction about where we see we can make improvements for

next year. These ideas will be communicated to both School Council and P & C.

Tournament of the Minds (TOM)

On Sunday the 28th of August, Primmy, Tom, Sophie, Stella, Isi, Jenna and Declan all travelled to Tamworth to compete in the Tournament of Minds (TOM). The team competed in the Science Technology challenge. The lead up to the competition was frantic, there was lots of prop creations, coding and filming happening. We had a small audience watch us including students from other school, parents, teacher and grandparents. The students did an amazing job and tried their absolute best. The competition was tough but they were winners in Miss Paull and their parents' eyes. By Isabella



Mental Health talk

On Wednesday 31st August, Bruce and Jason from Community Health, came out and talked to years 5/6 about mental health. Jason started off with the didgeridoo (the Uhaka) then Bruce talked about emotions and how to keep ourselves happy and healthy. We did some role playing activities plus a game that involved smarties. We enjoyed their company and learning about positive mental health.

By Dani

Attached to this newsletter are some finer details about the school play. Please take time to read through it so that everyone is clear on what is happening and needed for next week.

If I don't see you before, I look forward to catching up at the school play. Have a great week,

Mrs Slack-Smith

Tracksuit samples

A selection of different sized tracksuit samples has arrived at the school. Please come in and have a look and express your interest on sizes so that we can put in our initial order.