PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

GEORGE INGRAM

Yesterday, four members of our staff attended a course in Sydney. The course will assist staff to manage students on the autism spectrum. Dr Tony Attwood covered topics such as: Cognitive abilities, Managing Challenging Behaviour, Managing feelings, The Emotional Tool Box, Strategies to Improve Social Understanding and Friendship Skills, Special Interests, Girls with Asperger’s syndrome and Sensory Sensitivity.

Our present Comprehension focus is the monitoring strategy. It was fabulous to hear the professional talk around how this strategy had been introduced to classes across the school. Staff have planned two more lessons on this strategy, so it will become a natural part of their teaching during reading sessions.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all of those students who attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Wingham last Wednesday. While I was timing, it was amazing to see the number of students who managed to better their qualifying times. A big thank you to those parents who attended on the day to help organise students and assist with time keeping.

Stand out performances included:
April Cougle - 11 years 50 m butterfly, 50 m breaststroke, 50 m freestyle
Junior Girls Relay - (Maddison Aiken, Giselle Black, Olivia Knights, Olivia Dew)
Olivia Dew – 8 years 50m freestyle
Callum Boag –11 years 50 m backstroke
Junior Boys Relay (Nelson Jackson, Jak Wunder, Jesse Smith, Hunter Burns)
Senior Boys Relay (Callum Boag, Harry Edstein, Jacob Axisa, Fletcher Pearce)

George Ingram, Relieving Principal

Music

Music is an enjoyable activity for many children at Hallidays Point Public School. There has been great interest in guitar lessons with 28 students from years 2 to 6 attending group sessions with Peter Groundwater each Wednesday. Recorder players have started the year well, with all students from last year’s beginners group progressing to the advanced group. All students who tried out for the beginner recorder group were successful in their auditions, and now the playground is filled with the beautiful sound of recorders, throughout recess and lunch. This activity is quite popular, with 22 students from years 2 to 6 being involved.

Choir is another popular activity, with this year’s group consisting of 47 students from years 4 to 6. Many students from year 4 auditioned and unfortunately some were unsuccessful due to the restriction on numbers. I am hoping these children will try out again next year.

Regardless of their involvement in specialised groups, all students in the school participate in the performing arts, through weekly percussion and dance sessions.

Linda Davis

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<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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The following students received Assembly Awards at the Infants Assembly on Monday 25 February and the Combined Assembly on Wednesday 6 March 2013.

**Infants Assembly:**

**KJ**
- Brodie Forbes – Excellent work in Mathematics
- Maya Ljumanovic – Clever work with addition
- Katie Rebbeck – Completing all work quickly
- Boston Black – Being an enthusiastic learner

**KB**
- Arion Wouterlood – Creative and dramatic play in the classroom
- Jack Eschbach – Being an enthusiastic learner and having a wonderful knowledge of sight words
- Charlie Keyte – Being an attentive listener and producing quality work
- Ava Simnett – Being an enthusiastic and engaged learner

**1M**
- Charlie Cain-Ashford – Beautiful bookwork
- Lily Moylan – Beautiful bookwork
- Daniel Bush – Working quietly and producing quality work
- Thomas Worth – Trying hard at all times

**1/2H**
- Cohen Watt – Listening well and applying himself to tasks
- Georgie Parkinson – Always speaking in a clear voice
- Kalan Cavanough – Always putting a great effort into his class work
- Blake Richardson – Being a steady quiet worker

**2 of 2/3M**
- Max Hillyer – Working hard in maths activities
- Bailey McMahon – Great effort with telling time
- Charley Parkinson – Completing all work enthusiastically

**Combined Assembly: Citizenship Awards**

**KJ** – Stevie Burston
- KB – Brett Davies
- 1M – Lily Moylan
- 1/2H – Bianca Dixon
- 2/3M – Charley Parkinson
- 3/4I – Jema Skillcorn
- 4J – Edie Gillis
- 5/6C – Tiarn Williams
- 5/6V – Jasmine Sheehan

**Friendly School & Friendly Families:**

**KJ** – Charli Kizilos – Being a fantastic helper to Ms Johnson
- KB – Lucy Pearce – Being a kind and thoughtful friend
- 1M – Felix Harper – A kind and helpful classmate

The following students received Merit Certificates at the Infants Assembly on Monday 25 February.

**Infants Assembly:**

Riley Coleman - Year 1
- Lachlan Castle - Year 1
- Madison Forsyth – Year 1
- Grace King – Year 2
- Boston Ford – Year 2
- Baden Bell – Year 2
- Schafer Aiken – Year 2

The following students were presented with trophies at the Combined Assembly held on Wednesday 7 March 2013.

**Junior Boys Champion**
- Nelson Jackson

**Junior Girls Champion**
- Olivia Knights

**11 Year Boys Champion**
- Callum Boag

**11 Year Girls Champion**
- April Cougle

**Senior Boys Champion**
- Jacob Axisa

**Senior Girls Champion**
- Jillian Black

**WINNING HOUSE - SAPPHIRE**

Congratulations to our 2013 Swimming Champions. Well done!
Congratulations to Xander Marshall-Richardson, Haylee Brabant and Ryan Brown on gaining their Bronze medallion (Collecting 5 merit certificates)

Congratulations to Bianca Young, Jacob Cain, Jacob Axisa, Levi Steber and Kristy Green on gaining their Silver medallion (Collecting 10 merit certificates)

Congratulations to Emmerson Fleming on gaining her Gold medallion (Collecting 15 merit certificates)

You will by now have received your statement of account for this year’s visiting performances and the resources your child will use in class.

The first visiting performance, World of Maths, will be presented in two weeks’ time. These performances are part of the school curriculum and it is therefore important that all students attend.

If you could finalise this account as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
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H.P.P.S. FAMILY PORTRAIT P&C FUNDRAISER

For just $20 you can create a quick, easy and affordable gift for Mother’s Day, a birthday or an update for your own home. Book your 15 min, professional photography sitting for a framed 10” x 13”, colour or b&w portrait for priceless family value. 100% of your investment goes to our school, the more families who participate means more benefits for our kids. Portraits can be just kids or the whole family. Community members, relatives and non-school families are welcome to participate.

For your convenience photos are taken on site at the school on Saturday April 13th

Full details have already been sent home. For bookings or enquiries please contact Lisa Small squiggle@wildit.net.au 0413187257 or Mel Orchard 0413309862

MUSIC CLASSES

Music classes available for all ages, up to 12 yrs. Early Childhood, Keyboard Classes and Kid’s Choir. Classes held in Tuncurry. Many classes are already fully booked, so phone or email today if you’d like more information. Ph : 6554 6071 M : 0419 650 540 E:info@kindermusikwithjanelle.com.au W:www.kindermusikwithjanelle.com.au

PROJECT AWARE ON THE COAST is a FREE interactive learning experience designed to raise awareness about local marine life and to inspire action on marine debris. Information session TUESDAY 26 MARCH at Great Lakes Council chambers from 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Bookings and enquiries phone Amber-Louise Burberry on 0466 583 791.

BAG IT – A FREE CINEMA EXPERIENCE IN FORSTER!

Come along to a FREE screening on the film BAG-IT – a witty and thought provoking look at our increasing dependence on plastic. Suitable for those aged 8 – 100!

Thursday 21 March at 7.00 pm
Great Lakes Library, Forster
Refreshments will be provided
Bookings essential by contacting Isabelle Strachan 6591 7301