Principal's News
I'm not sure where they went but the holidays are over. I hope that all of our families had a wonderful festive season and spent quality time with family and friends over the Summer break. More importantly, I hope that our children are well rested and energised for a busy, productive year ahead ready to smash personal bests in learning, behaviour and relationships with others.

New Enrolments
News of how brilliant our school is must have spread as we welcome 50 new students today, including 27 Preps. On behalf of our entire school community, I wish to extend a very warm and sincere welcome. I am sure they will share our passion for the school and will make significant academic, social and personal gains. I encourage each member of our community to welcome new faces with a smile and hello.

Day 8
With the significant increase in enrolments it is highly likely that we will need to change our classes to either accommodate a 10th class or redistribute our students to ensure equitable class sizes. Please be assured that whatever the decision we have your child's best interests at heart. I will keep you posted.

New Staff
This year we are very fortunate to welcome some new staff members to our community. Miss Alana Reardon will be teaching our 3/4 class and Mr Des Mellican will be teaching our 5/6 class. Ms Anne Reardon will not be returning in term 1 so Mrs Geraldine Stephan will be stepping up to Acting Head of Curriculum and Miss Kelly Lobeger will be teaching the 1/2 class. Mrs Janet McKenna will be replacing Mr Ash Curmi as our HPE teacher. I would like to welcome our new staff and wish them every success in their new positions. They have already expressed their joy at being in such a wonderful and warm community.

2015 STAFF
CLASSROOM TEACHERS
Prep - Miss Zoe Sauer
Yr 1 - Miss Sharolyn Johnson
Yr 1/2 - Miss Kelly Lobeger
Yr 2/3 - Mrs Juley Nilson
Yr 3/4 - Miss Alana Reardon
Yr 4 - Miss Alyssa Hogan
Yr 5 - Ms Betty Szymanski/Mrs Miriam Nyrene
Yr 5/6 - Mr Des Mellican
Yr 6 - Mr Charlie Moncada

SPECIALIST TEACHERS
- Master Teacher – Mr Damien Butler
- Head of Curriculum – Ms Anne Reardon (on leave)
- Head of Curriculum (Acting) – Mrs Geraldine Stephan
- Guidance Officer – Mrs Bronwyn Hollett
- Special Education Program – Ms Chris Campbell
- Instrumental Music – Mr Simon Francis
- L.O.T.E. – Ms Sandra Noller
- Music – Miss Suzanne Bauer
- Physical Education – Mrs Janet McKenna

- Support Teachers Literacy and Numeracy – Mrs Geraldine Stephan and Mrs Karly Bird
- Teacher Librarian – Mrs Gayle Wilson

SUPPORT STAFF
Chaplain – Mrs Renee Lumley
Family Support Worker (Beaucare Family Support Program) - Beth Outerbridge

STUDENT AIDES:
Wendy Freiberg, Ian Glegg, Toni Hawkins, Leanne Kleier
Kym Rasmussen, Christine Senz, Renea Francis, and Lisa Noeffe (we will also have some casual Student Aides when funding is available)

Administrative Staff,
Melissa Henderson, Davina Worley
Cleaners - Roslyn Ballin, Elaine Gilmore, Melanie Hawkins and Gayle Holmes

Schools Officer - Richard Worley

Geography Curriculum
This year our school will be implementing the Australian Curriculum – Geography in Prep-7. Our teachers are excited to lead Geography learning in their classrooms.

Student Leadership Team
Our staff are not the only ones taking on new positions of responsibility this year. We also have a new Student Leadership Team. I am very much looking forward to working with them, although I am concerned by the possible extra workload judging by their enthusiasm.

Each year we officially present our Student Leaders with their badges at an induction ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held on Friday 20 February. We encourage our families to be a part of this ceremony.

Our 2015 Leadership Team is:

School Captains
Aaron
Corey
Bridget
Jasmin

Cunningham House Captains
Molly
Scott

Cook House Captains
Lauren
Jake

Finiders House Captains
Jessica
Ethan

2015 Priorities
2015 is set to be another big year for Boonah State School with a primary focus on achieving quality learning outcomes for ALL children and helping them become happy and
healthy learners. More specifically, our priorities for this year are:

- Improve the written communication skills of our children through our Rainbow Writing program
- Implement a Boonah Brilliance Afternoon Program which extends children’s gifts and talents while strengthening their connection to the community
- Review our Homework Policy to ensure consistent and effective homework practices
- Develop a Welcome Strategy for new families

**Expectations**

We hope to achieve these priorities and more through the continuation of our high expectations of best in learning, best in behaviour and best in relationships with others. Students, staff and families are reminded that Boonah Brilliance is achieved by adhering to the 4 Pillars of SAFETY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and ACTIVE LEARNING and the expectations that lie beneath each of these. The start of the year is always a good time to review our expectations matrix as a family. Copies can be collected from the office or your child’s teacher upon request.

**Parent Partnership Evening, BBQ & Disco**

Providing feedback to parents and keeping them informed of classroom events, routines and expectations is important to us because we recognise that parents are a child’s primary educator. With this philosophy in mind we would like to invite ALL parents to our Parent Partnership Evening on Thursday 19th February. On this evening every classroom will be open and teachers will share with you their expectations for their classroom including the curriculum and routines. The evening will conclude with a community BBQ and disco in the hall to welcome our new families and catch up with familiar ones. More details will follow in an invitation but lock the date in now.

**KidsMatter Primary**

As part of our strategic plan we are continuing to use the KidsMatter framework to enhance the wellbeing of students, parents, carers and staff in our school. Good mental health is vital for learning and leading a happy life. Last year the KidsMatter Action Team was formed. Members included the Principal, Head of Curriculum, Guidance Officer, School Chaplain, parents, non-teaching staff as well as a local psychologist. A draft plan of action to enhance our Positive School Environment was developed (Component 1).

Unfortunately we have lost some members of the Action Team due to staff changes and parents no longer having students at our school. Current members of the Action Team still at Boonah State School are Mark Winrow (Principal), Bronwyn Hollett (Guidance Officer), Renee Lumley (Chaplain), and Ian Gregg (Student Aide). If you are interested in joining the Action Team we would be happy to have more members.

If you have any ideas regarding how we could improve our school community please let us know. Even though there are many things to celebrate about Boonah State School we can always improve. On one of the recent Student Free Days, all staff had professional development pertaining to Component 2 of Kidsmatter, Social and Emotional Learning for Students. The social and emotional learning (SEL) framework includes five components:

1. Self-awareness
2. Self-management
3. Responsible decision-making
4. Relationship skills
5. Social Awareness

Attached to this newsletter is a handout entitled “Introducing KidsMatter Primary”. This was distributed last year but I have included it again so that new families to the school will become familiar with the Kidsmatter Framework. Please take the time to read this information and please feel free to discuss any concerns or ideas with Action Team Members.

Bronwyn Hollett (Guidance Officer/Leader of Action Team)
Mark Winrow
Principal

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JANUARY**

31 P&C Election Day Bake Stall and Sausage Sizzle

**FEBRUARY**

18 P&C General Meeting 7pm Venue: Uniform Shop
19 Parent Partnership Evening, BBQ & Disco
20 Student Leader Induction Ceremony

**MARCH**

6 Artslink Performance – Last Tree in the City
18 P&C AGM 7pm Venue: Uniform Shop
31 School Photos

**P&C**

**P&C General Meeting**

Wednesday 18th February 2015 at 7pm in the Uniform Shop. All Welcome.

**P&C AGM**

Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7pm in the Uniform Shop. All Welcome.

**Election Day Bake Stall and Sausage Sizzle**

This Saturday, 31st January gives us a great opportunity to hold our first fundraising event for the new school year. We will be holding a bake stall and sausage sizzle in the undercover area while voting for the State Election takes place. Drinks and tickets in 100 boards will also be available.

Once again we are putting the call out to our wonderful chef’s out there to assist with this event. Anything homemade will be gratefully accepted. Cakes, biscuits, slices, jams, fudge - just to name a few! Please remember to label your cooking with all ingredients. Please do not price the items – we will price all items when they arrive. I am also looking for assistance to run this event on the day. If you can assist for a couple of hours (or for the entire morning) please call me on 0418 844 280. Set up will begin from 7am. Bake stall opening from 8am.

If you can’t bake or volunteer, please bring a couple of dollars when you vote to support the P&C with a purchase.

Deb Kerkin
P&C Fundraising
Introducing KidsMatter Primary

Do kids matter? Of course! They matter to families, to schools and to the community. These are the groups that KidsMatter Primary wants to bring together to improve children's mental health.

Good mental health is vital for learning and life. Children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life's challenges. They also learn better and have stronger relationships with teachers, family members and peers.

KidsMatter Primary is a national mental health initiative that has been trialled nationally in over 100 schools since it began in late 2006. KidsMatter Primary has been developed in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, beyondblue: the national depression initiative, the Australian Psychological Society, and Principals Australia (formerly the Australian Principals Association's Professional Development Council). The trial was also supported by Australian Rotary Health (formerly the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund).

Research has found that up to 14% of Australian children have mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and behaviour problems. Only one out of every four young people with mental health problems receives professional help. Sometimes this is because parents, carers and school staff are unsure whether children need further help. They may not know what kind of help is available or where to get it. In some cases it may be difficult to access child and adolescent mental health services in their area.

KidsMatter Primary has three major aims:

- To improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students
- To reduce mental health problems among students
- To achieve greater support for those students experiencing mental health problems

One in seven Australian children have mental health problems - KidsMatter Primary aims to reduce this.

The four components of KidsMatter Primary

Schools can make a difference to children's mental health and wellbeing by addressing four key areas. Each KidsMatter Primary school will be working on the following four components:

1. A positive school community
Positive relationships at school enable children and families to feel that school is a place where they feel welcome, where they will be listened to and where they can contribute. A positive school community helps children feel that school is a safe place where their needs can be met. Research has shown that when children and families feel connected to the school, children are less likely to develop mental health problems and they succeed better at school.

2. Social and emotional learning for students
Learning how to manage feelings and get on with others is an important part of children's development that helps them learn better and feel good about themselves. Teaching children social and emotional skills as part of the school curriculum gives them tools for coping with emotions, solving problems and learning more effectively.

3. Parenting support and education
If we want to promote children's mental health and wellbeing, it makes sense for families and schools to work closely together. Schools can support parents and carers in their central role of caring for children by making useful information and resources about parenting available and by letting them know where they can get further assistance.

4. Early intervention for students who are experiencing mental health difficulties
When children and families are able to access effective mental health intervention early it can make a significant difference to their lives. KidsMatter Primary schools learn to respond more effectively to children's mental health difficulties by identifying when problems may need follow-up, providing information for families and developing links with mental health services in their local area.

This resource is part of the KidsMatter Primary initiative. We welcome your feedback at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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