Dear families,

What a fantastic week we had last week. I had the opportunity to travel with Years 5 and 6 along with Mrs Clarke, Miss Dash and Miss Maxwell on their overnight excursion to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains.

Over the three days our students had the opportunity to visit:
- Parliament House
- The War Memorial
- The Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Questacon
- The Snowy Mountains Hydro, and
- Snow play at the top of Thredbo

The student’s behaviour at all times was outstanding, they certainly did themselves, the school and their families proud.

Thank you also for all the positive feedback we received for our trial of posting regular updates on our school Facebook page. Mrs Clarke and I were able to post photos and regular updates throughout the excursion.

We hope to be able to do this on a more regular basis for a wider range of events.

Some of our students have provided recounts of the excursion please look for them in this newsletter.

Just a reminder that we can only post photos of those students who have returned the red ‘Permission to Publish’ form that was sent home in term 2. If you have not returned this form you can collect them from the front office.

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal

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**Kindergarten 2014**

If you have a pre-school child turning 5 years old on or before 31st July 2014, they are eligible to enrol in Kindergarten for 2014.

If you haven’t already done so, please collect an enrolment form from the office and return to school ASAP. If you are aware of neighbours or friends with eligible children, please advise them to come and introduce themselves and ask for an enrolment form and information about the school.

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**K-2 Sports Fun Day**

K-2 had an excellent day on Wednesday 7th August with their sports fun day.

They participated in a range of activities from egg and spoon races to Newcombe Ball and an obstacle course.

We had great weather and the day was enjoyed by students, teachers and parents. It was fantastic to see the children encouraging one another, giving the activities a go and having fun.

Some of our upper primary students also helped out, offering guidance and demonstrations of activities to our younger students.

Thank you to the students and teachers for such a lovely day!

Miss A Minihan
Grandparents Day 2013

Stage 1 held their Grandparents day last week. We had a fantastic turn out with lots of visitors attending and enjoying the afternoon with their grandchildren. Thank you to all who attended it was a wonderful afternoon!

Below is a recount of the day written by a student in 2L.

Last Thursday, on the 15th of August, at 12:00pm all year 1 and 2 classes presented a performance for Grandparents at Blairmount Public School.

Firstly each class presented an item in the hall. The grandparents felt happy and enjoyed it.

Next grandparents were invited to the classroom where we drew some giraffes. The grandparents drew giraffes too. We were watching a step by step video on the whiteboard.

Lastly, some grandparents joined us for some afternoon tea.

Then I went home and I felt very happy.

By: Tatiana 2L

Year 5 and 6 Cake Stall

On Thursday 5th September Year 5 and 6 will be hosting a cake stall. All cakes, slices, biscuits and sweet treats will be supplied by the students in Year 5 and 6 with all money raised going to the Year 6 farewell. All students are welcome to come and buy a tasty cake during recess and lunch on the asphalt. If there are any cakes left over on the day parents and students are welcome to purchase these after school.

Child Protection Education

In government schools, child protection education forms part of all students learning in Personal Development Health and Physical Education from Kindergarten to Year 10.

Students learn skills in recognising if they could be unsafe and strategies for protecting themselves.

Strategies including saying 'no' if they can, going away from the situation and telling a trusted adult what has happened as soon as possible.

Learning is organised into three themes: Recognising Abuse; Power in Relationships and Protective Strategies.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the content covered in child protection please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

P&C Update

The next fundraising event will be the The Smurfs 2 P&C movie night. We have booked the Dumaresq Street Cinema on Tuesday 17th September. All tickets will be $8 and are now on sale each Friday from 16th August between 8.30am – 9.00am and 2.30pm – 3.00pm. There will only be 300 tickets available for this event, so please get in quick to ensure you don't miss out.

The P&C Fathers Day stall will be held on Friday 30th August.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 2nd September at 6pm in the staffroom. As always all parents are welcome to attend.
Spelling Bee

Stage One spelling champions
Wow! What spellers there are in years one and two at Blairmount.

Last Friday Stage One held their Spell-Off with representatives from each class taking to the stage to say, spell and then restate their word.

Year 1 finalists included: Alexander Verma and Sascha Hoffman from 1A; Eva Pikula and Lincoln Fretton from 1L; Stefanie Nyciuk and Sophia Tiatia from 1C; and Mei-Ling Chan (standing in for Neha Naidu) and Elijah Mani from 1/2M.

Year 2 finalists were: Reda Al-Salemi and Meleana Mounga from 2L; Aleksandra Mitrovic and Zephaniah Leota from 2C; Caitlyn Chaoprasy and Jessica Khouri from 2E; and Jackson Price and Laurence Phengsamay from 1/2M.

Our Champion Spellers were Jackson Price (Year 2, 1/2 M) and Elijah Mani (Year 1, 1/2 M).

Here is a sample of the words they knew: echidna, midnight, birthday, Campbelltown, November, Summer and birthday.

Thank you to families who helped their children to learn the words and the students for enjoying the challenge of new words.

Spelling Bee finalists set for next round
Stages 2 and 3 Spelling Bee finalists have been determined with lots of students showing they have worked hard.

The stage 2 finalists were Ashleigh Clissold from 4/5S and Kirra Walters from 3G.
The stage 3 finalists were Sophita Korkeaw from 6C and Faith Faleali’i from 6D.

Congratulations. These students will attend the Regional Finals at Preston Public School on Wednesday 18 September.

Stage 3 Camp

Stage 3 had a fantastic time at the Snowy Mountains last week. We spent Thursday at Thredbo and there was plenty of snow for snowball fights and to build snowman. It was freezing at Berridale where we stayed but the rooms were very warm and extra blankets were supplied. We also enjoyed nice, warm food and there was a variety to choose from each night.

On the way down and back, we stopped at Canberra to visit Parliament House, The War Memorial, Old Parliament House and Questacon. All students were very well behaved and showed a high level of respect at all the places we visited. Well done to the students for the excellent behaviour.

Overall, the students were very well behaved throughout the entire 3 day stay, here are some stories from the children that attended camp and a small selection of photos.

Miss Dash
Camp
I woke up and was ready for camp by 7:10am. I headed to school and placed my luggage on the bus and we were off to Parliament House.

As soon as we arrived at Parliament House, we looked at the pictures of the old and new Prime Ministers. Some pictures were painted and some were photographs.

Next we drove to the accommodation, it was fantastic. There was a heater and a bathroom and I thought that was the best room I have ever seen.

After that we had dinner, it was hot chips, meat and veggies. Then we went to the room to play games, watch TV and eat lollies.

The next morning, we had some breakfast and got ready to go to the snow. We hired our snow gear which included boots, pants and a jacket. We played at the snow for a good two hours.

Later on we had showers and got ready to play at the games room, I played basketball; it was Year 6 against Year 5. Then we had dinner and went to a disco. Then we got to watch TV for 30 minutes and after that we went to sleep.

The next day we packed up and got ready to leave. We did lots of activities before we got home. We went to the Snowy Hydro, War Memorial and Old Parliament House. My favourite was Questacon, it was so much fun. I went on the slide, played four way air hockey and I also got a souvenir, it is called fool’s gold.

In the end that was the best camp ever and when I get older I am going to do that with my friends.

By Kayden Fox

Stage 3 camp
On Wednesday the 14th August stage three went to camp. We went to Canberra and to the snow. We didn’t have to get up too early, we left at 8am. We were all overly excited with high expectations and we weren’t disappointed.

We had a long drive to Canberra where we went to New Parliament House. At Parliament House we were given the opportunity to role play as if we were the government. After a long day we went to our accommodation at Berridale.

We were up really early the next morning and on our way to the snow, I was really excited as this was the first time I was going to see it. We were all fitted out in our snow gear and really excited about going up in the chair lifts. I didn’t even mind how cold it was. The most fun though was when we had a snowball fight and not even the teachers were safe. Sorry Mr Turnbull.

That night after a great day we had a disco at our motel, and then it was off to our rooms to prepare for another big day.
On Friday we went to the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric scheme, the War Memorial, Old Parliament House and my favourite Questacon.

Old Parliament house was really good and we all had fun. We went to the House of Representatives where we once again got to pretend we were the government. It was great to hear about the history of our old Prime Ministers.

We knew we had to be quiet and respectful when we were at the war memorial as it is a national place to respect all the people who had fought in wars for us.
I had never been to Questacon, I was happy to see that we could have a lot of fun with science. I loved the slide and went on it a few times.

When we were finished at the Questacon it was time for the long trip home. A lot of us fell asleep which I am sure made the teachers happy. I really had a lot of fun and wished we could all do it again. Thank you Miss Dash, Miss Maxwell, Mrs Clarke and Mr Turnbull, we had the best time.

Gemma Dalmas

Accelerated Literacy in Year 5

Text patterning is a writing strategy students use in class to encourage them to write like authors.

Students focus on a sentence from their accelerated literacy text and use the structure of the sentence to create their own. Students in 5A are studying George’s Marvellous Medicine and were asked to text pattern the following sentence:

It was a thin icy, smile, the kind a snake might make just before it bites you.

“Go away and leave me alone, you’ll just break my heart all over again”. Suddenly there was a silence. It was a sharp, sad silence, the kind the weather makes before it storms. (Taneesha Fernando 5A)

Stage 1 News

Well done to all our class spelling bee finalists.
A big congratulations to our four stage 1 finalists: Mei-Ling Chan, Elijah Mani, Jackson Price and Jessica Khouri.
Our year 1 winner was Elijah Mani
Our year 2 winner was Jackson Price

Student Medical Forms

During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child's health.

If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms in the mail and will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do.

The new forms will help us collect your child's important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we’ll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child.

We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions please call.

Happy Birthday

Shaianne Tahana, Annalise Formosa, Tiarna Eade, Jordan Faauliul Chmielewsk, Alyssa Rattanathip, Stefanie Nyciuk, Dylan Meneses, Taleah Gesi, Monalisa Figota, Grace Firth, Salina Dunn.
The attendance champions for week 4 are **KH**

Our Target 93.8%
Where we are now 92.58%
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