Every Child Matters Every Day
At Officer Primary School we hold the following values – the four “R’s” for all members of the school community.
- RESPONSIBILITY
- RESPECT
- RESILIENCE
- RELATIONSHIPS

As a staff, we make a commitment in 2014 to make these core values part of our explicit teaching on a routine basis.
We invite parents as well to engage in teaching and living by these values.

Date: Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} August, 2014

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

SCHOOL COUNCIL
This week I had the pleasure of attending my first meeting of the Officer Primary School Council and meeting some of the parent members for the first time. I was impressed by the dedication and interest shown in the school by these parents who clearly have a passion for their school.
At this meeting some concerns were expressed regarding the changes that have occurred this year in a number of areas and a perceived lack of communication about some of these changes back to the community.

One area of concern related to the lack of communication about the status of the Principal position and a query as to why the community was not better informed about the arrangements for this term. The reality of this is that the arrangements for this term were not confirmed until part way into the first week of term, following Sue Nelson’s decision to extend her leave through to the end of term. When I commenced on the Wednesday of that week I had very good intentions to explain all of this in the newsletter but was called away from school early on the Thursday morning to deal with a family emergency that led to me missing the rest of the week. Paula Spierings was left to introduce me to the community in the newsletter with very little knowledge of me and my background.

I apologise for the lack of information and for the record I will explain a little about myself.
I have been a proud member of the teaching profession for over 30 years with experience in a range of class teaching and leadership roles within schools. I am a strong advocate of state education and enjoy working hard to ensure that all students are catered for and provided with opportunities to succeed. My substantive position is that of the senior Assistant Principal at Berwick Lodge Primary School, although I spent Terms 1 and 2 of this year in the role of Acting Principal at Pakenham Consolidated School. I live in the local community of Emerald with my husband and have two adult children, a daughter who lives and works in Canberra and a son who resides in Berwick with his wife and young child.
At this stage I expect to remain in my current role of Acting Principal to the end of this term and am enjoying the opportunity to gain experience in a small community school.

The second area of concern was around the apparent changes in the delivery of curriculum, particularly in the junior area of the school. Earlier in the year parents had attended information sessions about the introduction of the Kath Walker approach to teaching and learning and had been confused by the sudden change back to a more structured approach that took place early in Term 2. The decision to take a step back was made in response to evidence that many of the students were not coping with the developmental play type activities and behaviour problems were escalating and causing general disruption to the effectiveness of the program. It is possible that the implementation was a case of “too much too soon” and in the future the staff may consider how they can reintroduce aspects of this approach in a more controlled manner. In the meantime, the students have responded well to the consistent implementation of clear behaviour management strategies and the learning outcomes are very positive.

I am glad that the parent members of School Council raised these issues but also rather disappointed that they had to wait for a meeting to do so. I would like to reinforce that the door is always open for parents to ask questions and seek
clarification from myself or other staff members. When concerns are not aired in the correct forum rumours and speculation can cause a lot of unnecessary angst.

SCHOOL REVIEW

Next week Win Warren the Lead Reviewer involved in the School Review process will visit the school to conduct three field work days. Over the three days she will be involved in talking to a broad range of stakeholders in the school. On Monday this will involve all of the Education Support Staff, on Tuesday it will involve all teaching staff and on Thursday it will involve parent groups, School Council members, and students. Win will also undertake classroom observations to ensure that she develops a really good understanding of how Officer Primary School operates.

I have some parent groups organised for Thursday 21st August but still have a few places for interested parents. One session is scheduled between 9:00am and 9:45am and the other is scheduled for 2:30pm to 3:15pm. Please let me know if you would like to fill one of the available places.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Our staff are currently involved in a process of reviewing many of the out of date policies to ensure that the school meets VRQA requirements for school registration. As the policies are developed or reviewed they will be placed on the school’s website for community feedback. The Management and Accountability Committee of School Council will consider this feedback before presenting the final drafts to School Council for ratification. The policies currently available for comment on the website are Mandatory Reporting, Enrolment, Custody Issues, Discipline, Bullying, Working with Children, Media, Social Media and Internet Usage. As you can see we have been very busy! When providing feedback on these policies families need to keep in mind that some aspects of these policies are based on guidelines from DEECD that cannot be changed, therefore some suggested alterations may not be possible. We will leave these policies on the website until the 31st August.

REPLACEMENT TEACHER ARRANGEMENTS

Each year schools allocate a portion of their cash grant from DEECD for the replacement of teachers who are absent due to illness or other personal reasons. At Officer this budget has been very generous and has generally covered all requirements. This year we are finding ourselves in the position where these funds are running short and we do not have the resources available to ‘top up’ funds by taking money from other areas.

To ensure that we have some resources to draw upon through to the end of the year have implemented the following range of options to cover teacher absences:

- Priority will be given to utilising available funds to replace absent class teachers.

- Specialist timetables may be reorganised on occasions to enable us to utilise specialist teachers to replace absent class teachers.

- Specialist teachers who are absent will not be replaced and their programs will be cancelled on the days they are away.

- Classes may be split to cover some absences of class teachers.

The staff are fully supportive of these measures and in the case of class splits are fully prepared to cater for extra students, even if they are from a different level. We are fortunate that class sizes overall are very favourable and that our teaching staff are skilled in catering for a range of ability levels.

Lynne Brenner
Acting Principal
CAR PARKING
PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE WHEN PARKING OVER AT THE CHURCH AND THE CARPARK
OPPOSITE THE GRAIN STORE.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

8 DAYS AND COUNTING

The Trivia Night is almost upon us. It's going to be a fantastic night to see some familiar faces from within the school community and some not so familiar faces from outside the local area. A fun night to be had by all. Plenty of laughs and hopefully, plenty of winners. It's not too late to join us. Looking forward to seeing you there next week.

A CLOSE-KNIT community at Officer Primary School hopes for a big turnout to a trivia night planned for this month.

While the school's reach isn't as big as other primary schools in the area, staff and students would like to see a huge crowd at the event planned to raise money for new student readers and laptops.

With a goal of $10,000 in mind, they hope to draw a large crowd to the Beaconsfield Community Centre on 23 August at 7pm.

The fun-filled night will include a silent auction, raffles, games, prizes and a lucky envelope.

There will be more than $10,000 worth of items up for grabs, and you can be in the running for one or more.

Get a ticket for $17 each or $150 for a table of 10.

For more information or to get a ticket, contact Michael Ball on 0408 303 773.

School trivia has lofty aims

Officer Primary School students, back, Charlie, William, Blake, middle row, Nicholas and Tayla and front Paige and Zed. Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS
BLACK AS THE NIGHT
ATTACKING EVIL
TO PROTECT GOTHAM CITY
MAN AT DAY, BAT AT NIGHT
ALFRED IS BATMAN’S BUTLER
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE HIM.

BY ADAM P.

Accessories are what riders need.
Neighing is the way they talk.
itching & scratching against a tree.
Manes & tails are plaited nicely
Active and energetic.

Lots of carrots make them happy.

Show jumping and dressage are my favourite events.

BY KELLY Y

H uman man turns into a huge green muscle bound monster when
U nable to control his anger he transforms into the hulk he
L ikes to smash everything in his path one of his enemies is
K law he is a super villain

BY ZACH S.

G root is part of the guardians of the galaxy he never
G rots or gets mouldy & he’s a living tree.
O riginally he was a bad guy & then he became a hero. He’s the
O nly Groot in the galaxy & Groot will use his
T ree powers when Groot gets angry.

AMazing with water.
A Quick in the water like a bullet.
A Quick for sneak attacks.
A Logical is he.
A Logical is he.
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Grade 3/4 DC have been studying poetry this term and
while the class has enjoyed listening and learning about
haiku’s, limericks and rhyming
everyone has enjoyed playing
with acrostic poems and shape poems too.

BY MITCHELL M.

N ice sheep in the meadow
U nable to sleep... check for pea’s princess
R unning a flag a racey
S even dwarfs off to work they go
E ver witches cast a spell the princess will sleep beautifully
R apunzel let down your hair
Y ou’re the fairest princess
R unning through the town upstairs downstairs in a night gown
H ighs can break your crown you know
Y ou will fall down with a puff puff
M ice running up the clock tick tock
E asly, mesmle, miney moe

BY AYEBAB P.

IRON MAN

Iron man is part of the avengers.
Red and gold are his suits and
One silver suit called iron patriot, he makes
New suits every 5 or so weeks.

M r Stark or Tony Stark makes
A lot of suits in his spare time and at
Night and day his tinkering stuff in his fab.

BY MITCH R.