

Respect

Courage



Resilience

Compassion

A Strong Beginning for a Great Future

Steven Lynch

Principal

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Term 1, Monday 1st April 2019

School Review

I have received our School Review report, which is a good recount of the findings of the review. The report looks accurate and now goes back to the reviewer for their final actions.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN Testing for Grade 3s and 5s is coming up in May from the 14th – 24th. We have had some trial tests and whilst the test is quite hard to get onto the children are handling it quite well. Please find a link below where children can go into NAPLAN 2019 and do some practise. We will also do some more practise at school on this site earlier in Term 2:

<https://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

I tried it and you may have to click twice on the initial letter code for some reason (but that just may be me too!). Let me know if you need some assistance. This is for Grade 3 and 5.

IEPs

We have been working on individual education plans and goals for the children. I am available before and after school for IEP meetings with parents/families next Thursday April 4th from 8am until late. Please make an appointment in your child's diary or call the school. Thank you.

Working Bee

On the last day of term, Friday April 5th at 12pm there will be a working bee at the school. There are a few jobs doing as below:

- sweeping leaves
- weed gardens
- check full drain
- pick up sticks
- examine overhanging tree branches
- examine drain in driveway
- clear foyer entry garden and so on
- books sorted into levels in boxes
- transplanting plants
- looking at resprouted trees.

Afterwards we will be having a free sausage sizzle for everyone to say thank you. I look forward to seeing you there.

Lunch Order Day

We will be having a lunch order day on Thursday April 4th (second last day of term) from Jingellic Store.

No Bus

On Friday 5th of April, there will be no afternoon bus service due to school finishing early after the working bee.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to Kristie and Maryann who have organised our Easter Raffle! Tickets have been sent home. The raffle will be drawn on the 5th of April – the last day of term. Good luck and thank you for your support.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

We have been invited to do Woolworths Earn and Learn again this year. It would be a great opportunity for us to purchase some plastic hockey sticks, big books or sandpit equipment – all things we need at the moment. We will have a sticker box in the office at school and we will place one in Wodonga Woolworths. If someone could volunteer to take the box into Woolworths Wodonga that would be great. I will try on Wednesday when I go past for a course in Wangaratta. Thank you in advance for your support and please spread the word that we are collecting.

Musical Instruments

Thank you to Hayden who has offered to pick up the musical instruments in Albury for us. It is very much appreciated.

Somers Camp

I have received a little brief initial information about Somers Camp this week. More information will be sent through to us soon.

Cluster Activities

We have been included in a range of cluster activities including various days such as World Environment Day and NAIDOC Day. These will be great socialisation opportunities for our kids. We do plan and assess writing together etc... so it is great to feel connected in these groups. Lyn Sharratt's research that I am studying at the moment also points out the importance of working as a cluster to improve student outcomes. Please watch the Diary Dates regularly. We will need assistance with transport for some of the days such as our Environment Day at Bethanga next term and in Term 4. We are hosting the Term 3 NAIDOC Week activity at Walwa. We will need some help from parents with cooking breakfast and dinner at that time. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sight Words

The children in the junior school are learning their sight words. These should be learnt by quick sight recall as a whole unit and not really sounded out slowly. The idea of learning sight words is to speed up reading fluency to then aide comprehension.

School Website

Erin and Tyrone have been working hard to update our school website. We have added our policies and information about ChildSafe. For further information about any policies or the school, please refer to our website which has more information. Our website address is:

www.walwaps.vic.gov.au

We also have a Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/Walwaps/

Advertising

We will be accepting business card sized ads in our newsletter. If you would like to advertise a business in our school newsletter each fortnight it will cost \$25 per term or \$100 for the year.

O H and S

We are almost compliant in this area. Staff will undergo various refresher online modules to update their skills and understandings throughout the year to keep up with latest legislative requirements. We have received more online reminders this week.

Child Safe

I want to remind everyone that Walwa Primary School is a Child Safe school. This means that we care about your children and want them to be safe at all times and in all situations and we will comply with strict government guidelines about ensuring our school is an extremely safe place for children, after the family home. We are working hard to maintain these standards.

We recently had more awareness training in this area as a cluster and I feel confident that we will meet the requirements, through our review, to be compliant.

However, our overall mission is to ensure that parents understand we are working to create a culture of safety in regards to student welfare in our school so the students' safety is of the utmost importance before anything else in the school.

Just a reminder that if you work with children in the school at any time that you need to have a Working With Children's Check.

Please visit PROTECT website for further information about ChildSafe requirements:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx>

Grade 4-6 Canberra Camp 2019

This year we are going in late May to Canberra with the other small schools in the cluster. The dates are:

Wednesday May 22nd, Thursday May 23rd and return Friday May 24th.

The itinerary includes fantastic venues such as The War Memorial, Questacon and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) just to name a few.

You can use your CSEF of \$125 to assist with the costs involved here if you are eligible. Also we are happy to set up a payment plan over the first two terms (or longer if needed). Further information will be sent home in Term 2.

Homework

I would like to see our students have an excellent commitment to their homework from the beginning of the year. Homework requirements are as follows:

Grade F/1 – home readers each night, sound and sight-word practise each night

Grades 3-6 – spelling practise, times tables, reading each night

Homework Club

Homework Club will be held again next Thursday March 28th from 3.15 – 4.15pm. Next term, the after-school sessions will become Thursday Geology Club.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge has now opened. We will be participating this year. Anne and I will work out more of the fine details very soon. Stay tuned!

CBCA Book of the Year Awards

The titles for this year's awards look fantastic and very relevant to our country students here in Walwa. Please find a link below for more information. We will look at purchasing many of these in the coming weeks:

<http://www.cbca.org.au/>

Child Health and Wellbeing Project

At our Principal Forum in Wangaratta earlier this term school principals were informed of a World Health organisation program run through Deakin University involving communities in improving health and wellbeing outcomes for students. Please see information attached to our newsletter for more details. All data needs collecting by Week 8 Term 2.

If you wish to opt out from this experience please ring the school or send back the opt-out form that will be coming home soon. Please read the attached form for further details. It will affect Grade 4 and 6 students only.

Professional Development

Last week I attended the Professional Learning Community training in Myrtleford. This is a program that encourages us to look at our school (and cluster) data and focus on how we can use it to best meet the educational needs of our students. Like the Literacy Leaders course it involves myself working on a project to present at the last day. Lots of learning to do!

On Monday and Tuesday April 1st and 2nd I will be at a term Cluster Planning at Bethanga Primary School and on Wednesday April 3rd I will be in Wangaratta for the third session of Literacy Leaders.

Thursday Geology Club

For Term 2 the students have expressed interest in having a Geology Club for the term. I am very happy to run this activity looking at sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks, their origins, volcanoes, fossils and the earth's forces. This will commence in Week 3 as we have ANZAC Day in Week 1 and I am at a PD in Week 2.

Family Counselling

Free family counselling is available to us through info@gatewayhealth.org.au Please contact them on that email address for further information or to make an appointment or ring 0260228888. I am not sure if appointments are in Albury/Wodonga or Corryong so please call them to find out. If anyone in your family needs counselling please contact them for this free service.

Curriculum

The whole school will be studying a Science Unit about Weather this term. This unit is about weather in our area and how it occurs. The children have been sketching the weather daily. As well they have been doing food dye and glow-in-the-dark edible jelly and making Native Insects Hotel.

In Maths we are currently studying numbers and division.

We will also be working on Respectful Relationships this term and below is a link for the Level 3 and 4 curriculum I am basing it on. The kids are enjoying it a lot:

<http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/Resource/LandingPage?ObjectId=7327c6bf-696a-41c4-8fc3-3c45dccc8bd>

In Writing we are moving onto persuasive texts. In PE we are focussing on hitting and kicking skills in relation to balls.

Maths-a-thon

We are aiming to hold a Maths-A-Thon in Term 2. This will encourage the students to learn some really useful number facts and help raise some money for the school. There will be no fundraising in Term 1 as there was a lot for families in Term 4 last year and this term there are fees and savings needed for the Canberra excursion for Grades 4-6. If you could assist me with the Maths-A-Thon please let me know! Thank you.

Cluster Writing Moderation and Planning

Today I attended a cluster planning day for Term 2. We also took samples of writing from our school to moderate or compare with other schools to see that our marking is accurate. We also developed a writing wall to identify students at risk and just where our students are up to. It was a valuable exercise to see where all of the students are out and our students are quite comparable towards above the level they should be at in the Junior levels. Tomorrow we will do the same for the senior students. Four goals for writing for all of our cluster students are:

- write with spaces between words
- spell high frequency words correctly
- use boundary punctuation for sentences and
- write letters correctly.

It was great to get some focus for our writing goals. We are also doing a junior unit next term called "Where Do I Live" which will look at Walwa and the Murray River.

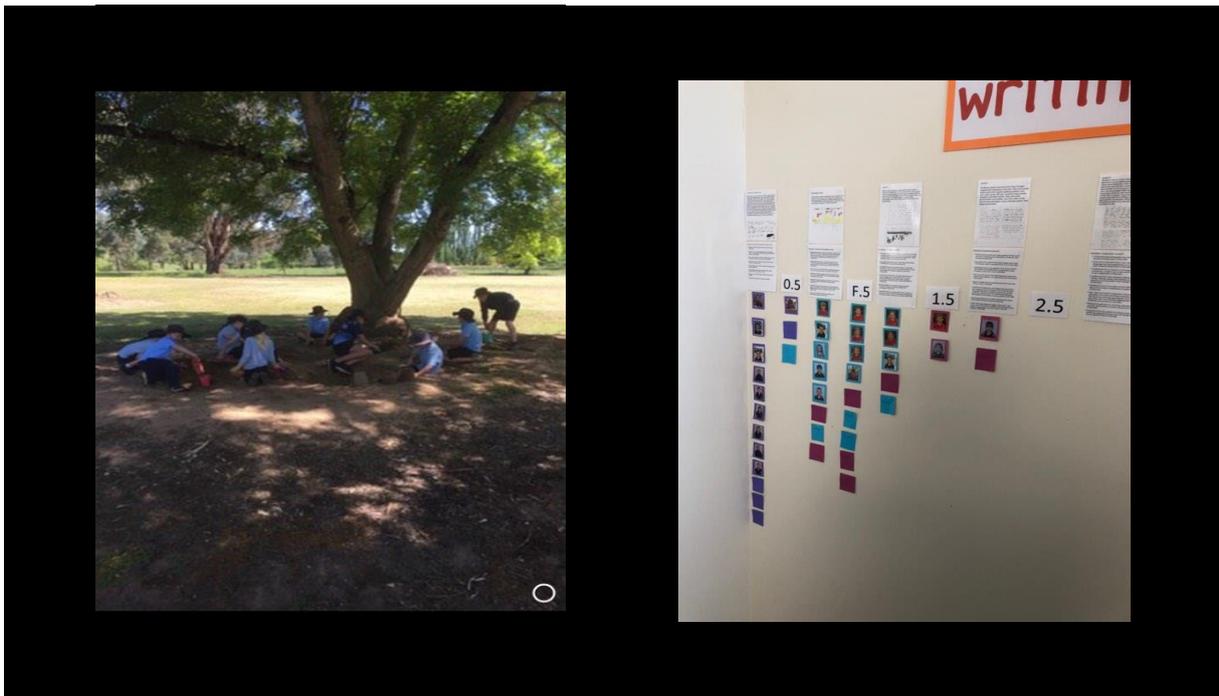
Data Logging

La Trobe University will be attending this Thursday to install a data logger in the creek which can measure such things as temperature and speed. We look forward to meeting Julia and it is great to work with so many of the universities in the area in so many and varied ways. It is great that they keep thinking of Walwa Primary School!

Dates to Remember

- Monday and Tuesday Mr Lynch Planning at Bethanga PS
- Wednesday April 3rd – Mr Lynch at Literacy Leaders Course in Wangaratta
- Thursday 4th April – IEP meetings with families.
- Friday 5th April – Last Day of Term – Working Bee at 12 noon, Free Sausage Sizzle at 1pm, Easter Raffle drawn
- Tuesday 23rd April – First day back of Term 2
- NAPLAN Online Assessment – Tuesday 14th May to Friday 24th May
- Grade 5/6 Cluster Camp – May 22nd, 23rd and 24th
- Wednesday June 5th – World Environment Day – Cluster Day at Bethanga Primary School – (parent transport needed)
- June 10th – Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend
- June 25th – Woolworths Earn and Learn ends.
- Friday 18th-19th July – Eskdale PS Sleepover at Walwa PS and Friday NAIDOC Day

WALWA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A CHILDSAFE SCHOOL



Playing in the sandpit under the lovely tree The cluster writing data wall at Bethanga PS