Principal's Report

Mr Graham White

Taylor Mellon

It is with great sadness that I write of the passing away of Taylor Mellon. Taylor was a student of our school from 2001 to 2007, from Kindergarten to Year 6 and those of us who were here in those years have very, very fond memories of Taylor.

There will be a celebration of Taylor’s life at St John’s Anglican Church, Westcott Street, Cessnock at 1pm tomorrow and I’m sure that I speak for the whole Paxton School community when I offer Julie (Taylor’s mum) and the extended family our sincere condolences.

School Director Visit

Bryan Campbell, our Director of Schools, visited yesterday and left very impressed with our school. Bryan visited all our classes, saw our students at work and met several of our staff. He remarked to me that he was delighted that several of the older students spoke with him so well and so confidently. He was also delighted to see all our students very involved in a variety of activities and had a bit of a chuckle over the fact that so many of the junior students were so engrossed in a Smartboard presentation on “Cyber Smart” that they didn’t realise that he was in their room.

School Photos

School photos were taken on Tuesday this week by Photoworx Photography. Gavin, the photographer, has stated that they should be back in approximately 4 weeks – just before the holidays.

Cross Country Training

Our school cross country carnival will be held on Friday, 28th March and all the children are training in our whole-school PE sessions. The carnival will, once again, be held in the neighbouring parkland and everybody is invited. Naturally, the course will be thoroughly checked, clearly marked and
monitored at every corner by school staff. Different lengths are run by the various age groups and a full team will be selected after the carnival to represent the school at the zone cross country at Cessnock Race Course on Thursday, 10th April.

Involvement in the school teams of this nature is a real advantage of small schools because we nominate and send the same size team as the much larger schools.

I’ve always thought that this sort of physical exercise is the ideal model for schools as it caters for everybody. Everybody can strive to beat a personal best (a “PB”) and our students really seem to have grasped that concept. We always stress to the kids that doing your best is all anyone can ask you to do and it also provides maximum satisfaction.

The other big, big positive in running as a school activity, is that it is a simple, free and healthy activity that can be enjoyed throughout a person’s life; as an individual, social or competitive pastime.

Congratulations on your attitudes kids, and good luck as you “run to Cessnock”.

Assembly Awards

Assembly awards from Week 6 went to:

Maddison Makayla
Hamish Samantha
Isabella Rocco
Tori Aimee

The Paxton Spirit award went to Austin and the Choir Award went to Seth. Congratulations, everyone!

Homework Award

Class 5/6 are still the homework stars and the trophy is still in their room, with 70% of the students in the class having a perfect record so far in returning completed homework.

Calendar – Upcoming Events

Term 1

Fri, 21st March  
Expressions of Interest forms for High School (Yr 6 only)
National Harmony Day
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
School Cross Country

Thurs, 28th March

Thurs, 10th April

Fri, 11th April

Fri, 18th April

Mon, 21st April

Mon, 28th April

Tues, 29th April

Calendar

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Tues, 29th April

Fri, 11th April

Good Friday

Mon, 21st April

Easter Monday

Mon, 28th April

Staff Development Day

Fri, 18th April

Children return for Term 2

NSW School Terms 2014

Term 1  
Tuesday 29th Jan to Friday, 11th April

Term 2  
Monday, 28th April to Friday, 27th June

Term 3  
Monday, 14th July to Friday, 19th Sept

Term 4  
Tuesday, 7th Oct to Friday, 19th Dec

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Friday, 21st March marks National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence and Paxton School will be holding fun activities throughout the day in recognition. Further information will go home on Monday.

Magazine Donations

The school is currently asking for donations of any old magazines that the children are able to cut up for craft lessons. Magazines can be left at the office.
The adult navy school shirt will be ready for pick up from tomorrow afternoon.

The cost of each shirt is $30 - payment can be made at the school office (cash only)

This year, Paxton Public School marks its 90th year on this site and we think that’s a great reason to celebrate!

A meeting has been scheduled to discuss possible ideas

- Monday 17th March, 2014
- 9:15am at the school.

If you would like to be involved in the planning of the celebrations please come along to the meeting and share your thoughts

~ Everyone is welcome to attend ~

The P&C is delighted to be involved in the Books in Homes program that our School has participated in for the past few years.

This year the P&C and the school are both funding this wonderful program to ensure it continuous for all students of Paxton Public School in the future.

The first book giving assembly will take place next Friday afternoon.

We hope you can come along and share in the student’s excitement.

Fundraising

Easter Raffle

The P&C are currently seeking donations of chocolate eggs, gifts and baskets for our annual Easter Raffle.

Thank you to the Paxton School families who have already sent in Easter donations.

The raffle prizes will be drawn at the conclusion of this year’s Easter Hat Parade.

All donations are gratefully received and can be left at the front office.

Easter BBQ Lunch

As part of this year’s Easter celebrations, the P&C will be holding a BBQ lunch the same day as the Easter hat parade.

- All Family members and friends are welcome to attend.
- Pre-order lunch forms will be sent home with students closer to the date.

Hope Estate

Thank you to the team of volunteers heading out to Hope Estate this weekend on behalf of Paxton Public School P&C.

Good luck on the BBQ’s helping to feed the hungry CMC Rocks the Hunter crowd.

Many Hands make light work

Your help and support will always be graciously accepted and appreciated by all associated with Paxton Public School.

Thank you for supporting Paxton Public School P&C

~ Together we can make a difference ~
Ten cybersafety tips every parent should know

Keeping your kids safe online is easy with a few simple precautions.

1. Nothing replaces parental supervision and education for kids about cybersafety.

2. Set a technology curfew.

3. Remind your child to never give out identifying information such as your home address, school name or telephone number in a public message such as chat or newsgroups.

4. If your child posts photos online, use privacy settings to limit access to people they know well.

5. Remind your child that people don't always tell the truth online, and they can't take anything at face value.

6. Reassure your child that they can tell you anything, without fear of losing the laptop or internet access.

7. If they get a message or email that's threatening or rude, they should 'STOP, BLOCK, TELL'. First step is to tell your child to stop responding to the abuse and then block those people sending threatening or rude messages if they continue. Let your child know that if they are being bullied, or know someone else who is, they should tell a trusted adult.

8. Never click on any links that are contained in emails from people they don't know. As well as sexual content, they could contain a computer virus.

9. If you suspect your child has been contacted by a predator, try to save a copy of the chat log (or whatever form the contact takes) for evidence. Call Crime Stoppers 24-hour line 1800 333 000 to make a formal complaint.

10. Your child will be using computers and the technology for the rest of their lives – you're in the great position of being able to get them off to a safe, positive start.

AN INVITATION TO PARENT/CARERS

Do you provide care and support to a Child/Young Person who is aged Pre-School to School Years with a Disability, Mental Illness or Chronic Condition?

You are Invited to attend our FREE Parent/Carer Information Sessions

Where: Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton
Time: 9.30am — 2.00pm
Cost: FREE — Morning Tea & Light Lunch Provided
RSVP: Thursday 24th April — For Catering Purposes Ph: 4921 4895 or 1300 887 776
or Educare-Admin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

When: Wednesday 30th April 2014
• The Impact of being a Parent/Carer – HNE – Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter
• Building Parent Resilience – Jackie Currey, First Chance

When: Wednesday 7th May 2014
• Siblings – HNE – Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter
• National Disability Insurance Agency – Suzanne Punshon
• Using Assisted Technology – Ben Coombe, Samaritans

When: Wednesday 14th May 2014
• The Importance of Support Groups – Bronwyn Thoroughgood - Families Supporting Families
• Child Behaviour that Challenges Us – Craig Moore, Clinical Psychologist
• Discrimination – Your Rights and Responsibilities – Claire Williams – Anti- Discrimination Board of NSW

Respite may be available by contacting Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre on 1800 052 222