

Reminder- First day back for students in Term 1 is 28 January 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 4, and indeed the whole year, has come and gone and what a busy time it has been.

We celebrated our Presentation Day on Wednesday 9 December, which was a terrific opportunity to showcase the great work that is done at Kandeer School supporting our students.

It was also nice to be able to acknowledge the students, community partners, volunteers and parents for all of their support and the time they give to Kandeer School.

This year I have given my Principal's award to two students; Bailey Westblade and Tanah Jackson.

Bailey Westblade has come a long way this year. He has done work experience placements at Blacklocks Motors and also at Cavalier Homes and both employers have expressed their positive satisfaction with Bailey's work ethic.

Tanah Jackson was the other recipient of my award. Tanah has matured to a point where after a successful Transition Program, he will now attend full time at Murray High School next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our School Community Network for all of their support during 2015. I want to acknowledge Jean Evans, who has been a member of our Community Network since its inauguration in 1992.

I would also like to make mention of Constable Kylie Bowden and Constable Belinda Wells from PCYC. Thank you Belinda for your kind words and sentiments expressed at our Presentation Day Ceremony. Your support over the course of the year has been very much appreciated.

Thank you to Benjji Williams, who came down from Newcastle with his Musical Education Program, Earthen Rhythms, to lead the African Drumming on our Presentation Day. Benjji spent two days working with our students and staff to create a performance, which was enjoyed by all on the day.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to Jodie Murray, who joined us earlier in the year to teach the Primary Program. We must say farewell to Jodie, who will resume her duties at Lavington East Public School in 2016. I hope you have enjoyed working at Kandeer School, as much as we have enjoyed having you here.

On that note, I will hand you over to my staff, who will elaborate on their programs.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, a great new year and a nice well earned holiday.

Kind regards,

Peter Ellison.



Anthony's Class



This year has been my first year at Kandeer. Before working here, my background in education was in Physical Education so it may be obvious that I have a pretty strong interest in sport. With a history as a PE teacher it probably won't surprise you to hear that I am not one to sit and read books regularly, just doing my part for reinforcing the stereotype I guess, however, there is one book that I have read and then re-read a number of times. It's a book called 'Don't Die with the Music in You' written by the renowned Rugby League coach Wayne Bennet. While I love sport I am not necessarily a huge Rugby League fan but the messages that Wayne Bennett delivers and his uncompromising, to-the-point approach to sport and life just seem to resonate with me. Bennett talks about winning and losing, success and failure, and the role that responsibility and excuses take in determining which of these we end up being.



I thought that this newsletter would be a good opportunity to share with you a little snippet of philosophy from Wayne Bennett because I have found that at Kandeer we spend a lot of time teaching the importance of responsibility and I think he summarises it better than most.

'Excuses and alibis prevent us from being accountable, from taking responsibility. Sure, it's part of our nature to blame others, but if you keep going down that road there can be no destination, just road. Before the beginning of every football season you could sit down and write the excuse scripts for the coming losses: injuries, bad calls by the ref, tired, stupid, a whole lot of other theatrics. At the Broncos we have been together long enough for me to speak on behalf of everyone when I say that we don't make excuses. If we had been playing football as we should have, we would not have been in a position where a bad call could settle the game. It was our fault the score was so close, and we can't blame anyone for the loss. We don't go for the injury bit, the sick bit – we win or lose. That's all.'

As Sam Rutigliano, the college football coach said, "A man can make a mistake but he isn't a failure until he starts blaming others." Wait there's more. "Success is simply a matter of luck – ask any failure!"

Over the course of this year our class has experienced many successes, as well as its fair share of failures but I like to think that we have become better at learning from our mistakes.

The first half of the year saw quite a few changes in the make-up of the class. In Term 1 we said goodbye to Jacob and Brayden. We also welcomed Luke R. to the class. Term 2 saw Riley and David move on to greener pastures. They were replaced by Luke C. and Bailey. Early in Term 3 we said goodbye to Max and we welcomed Lyndon and Connor to the class from Janelle's. class. Finally this Term Jake F., Craig and Lloyd have all found a home in our room.

The topic we chose to study during Semester One was 'Survival'. This involved reading the novel 'Tomorrow When the War Began' by John Marsden and viewing a range of survival documentaries such as 'Touching the Void' and 'I Shouldn't be Alive'. The aim of this topic was to explore the challenges and obstacles different people have had to overcome in their lives and to encourage the class to consider the challenges faced by others in their lives, and how they have responded to adversity.



Early in the year we were lucky enough to get in contact with Simon from Fishooka. Simon ran a program with the class that entailed teaching the boys everything they need to know about fishing, the environment and even future employment opportunities within the fishing industry. The class was also introduced to the art of fly-fishing with surprising success. It was amazing how quickly the students were able to pick up the technique of fly-casting, particularly Jak and Luke R. because it is a rather challenging skill to master. Hopefully the boys stick with fly-fishing in the future. The entire class has thoroughly enjoyed Simon's enthusiasm and knowledge and they have comprehensively depleted his product stores. Thank you for your generosity Simon.



Sport this year has involved a variety of activities including: swimming at WAVES pool in Wodonga as well as Albury and Howlong pools, Gymnastics at Flyaway Gym and fitness training with Rhys at Sweat2Shred Fitness.



During Term 3 Janelle and I decided to conduct an Outdoor Education program. Aside from supporting the new class literacy theme, 'The Natural World', the predominant purpose for undertaking such a program was to develop resilience in the students by placing them in situations that may be challenging and to get them out of their comfort zone. There were a number of students who completed a large number of walks and they are commended for their effort. I encourage all the boys to accept future challenges with motivation and determination. All too often in life it is too easy to choose the path of least resistance but ask any successful person and they will tell you, *'if it's easy then it's probably not worth doing'*.

Pam has thoroughly delighted our tastebuds this year cooking just about everything you could imagine with the students. Coconut macaroons, cakes, wontons, pasta, gozleme, slices, even the shortbread and gingerbread you have eaten today. Thank you again for your effort Pam. It is certainly appreciated.



Woodwork has proven to be a favourite subject among the students in our class this year and there has been some fantastic projects completed. A testament to the quality of the works produced is that there is currently a coffee table sitting in my lounge room at home that was made by students in the workshop here. Aside from coffee tables there have also been toolboxes, tackle boxes, homes for animals, laundry tables, display cabinets and even wooden bowls turned on the lathe. A huge thank you must go to Tony for his effort, imagination and patience. It is very difficult to have seven students working on seven different projects at once, but it is a challenge that Tony has accepted and overcome.



We must also thank Marg Tanner who has conducted weekly gardening lessons with the class this year. During these lessons we have visited Albury landfill, developed a chook shed and kept the garden beds loaded with dirt.

In Term 3 we received an SOS call from Wewak Street School who were in need of some repairs to their bikes. The bikes are very important to the students at Wewak Street School so our class accepted the challenge. The offer of a reward meal at a local restaurant helped to motivate the class. All the boys really enjoyed this program. Jake F's knowledge was a great help and Luke C. learnt a huge amount about repairing bike chains. The reward meal was breakfast at Café Borella and there was many an egg and bacon roll enjoyed.



One of the most enjoyable days of the year was the inaugural 'Kandeer Klassic', a golf tournament held just last week. Luke R., Bailey, Lyndon and Jake F joined Mr. E., Neil and I as we travelled out to Yackandandah to take on students and staff from Glenroy Public school. After a closely fought battle we managed to come out on top and bring the shield home. There was no shortage of boasting on the bus trip back so I hope we can defend our title next year.

This year Bailey has been able to complete his WHS Construction White card as well as two bouts of work experience; one with Blacklocks and one with Cavalier Homes. This has been an exceptional effort Bailey and one you should be proud of.

Throughout Term 4, as a reward, we have thoroughly enjoyed watching the antics of the All Aussie Adventurer, Mr Russell Coight. We have also discovered that we actually have our very own comic act in the form of Lyndon. From throwing an eraser in the air and trying to catch it but forgetting that he was inside and having the eraser bounce back off the ceiling and hit him in the face; to the classic push bike stack, Lyndon has certainly kept us entertained. In fact, if they weren't accidents one might mistake his capers for those of a comic genius.

The recipient of this year's class award is Lyndon Wells. Lyndon is a fantastic attender. He comes to school just about every day which is a great effort. Lyndon has also demonstrated consistent effort since joining the class. He has completed a plethora of woodwork projects and is always an enthusiastic participant during cooking lessons. He even started his own business selling buckets but be warned he is a shrewd businessman and don't expect any favours on price, even if you are his favourite teacher. Congratulations Lyndon on a great year.



Finally I have to thank Neil. Anyone who has been in our room this year knows that it is Neil that makes it tick. From feeding us to the massages, the bus travel to the constant source of wisdom and the ever-positive attitude; Neil's support to all of us this year, myself included, has been amazing. Thank you, Neil.

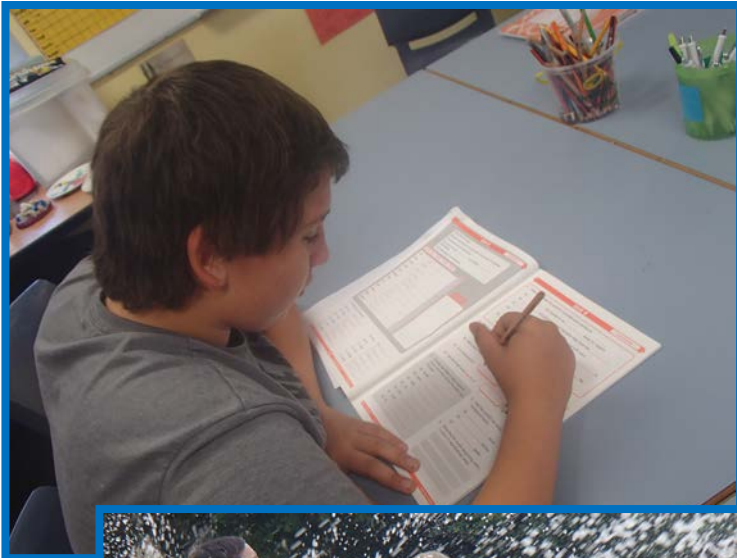


I'll finish with a few more words of wisdom from Wayne Bennett. This time he talks about attitude and I think it sums up the approach of all of us here at Kandeer. *"The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude. Constant reinforcement is the key. Where do you get it? By spending time, every day, every week, listening and reading and mixing with positive people"*.

Anthony Daley (Classroom Teacher)

Janelle's Class

I have taught at Kandeer School for many years now, and like many years before, it has been an absolute joy to reflect on the my Class of 2015.



Alongside Leonie, I have taught 14 different students, across 15 different programs this year. There has been a lot to plan, do, organise and learn, and this is of course only possible with the support of many people; not only from Kandeer, but also staff from other primary and secondary schools in the region and community members and organisations in Albury/Wodonga. I am extremely grateful for the ongoing help and dedication of those people.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the families of my students, who have always answered my calls, attended meetings when I have asked and have stood united with me to provide the best support we can for the students at Kandeer.

Every day at Kandeer is an assortment of emotions: joy, anger, delight, excitement, disappointment and sometimes sadness. For some students it can be a real challenge to manage how to cope, but others have become more flexible, adaptable and resilient and have managed to transition to High School, TAFE, or the workforce.

Two past students recently visited us at Kandeer; Brock and Jesse were with us last year. It was wonderful to see them so happy, managing their lives, driving off in their own cars with their red 'P' plates still shiny and new.

Over the course of the year there have been many success stories and achievements in my classroom. I have had the following students transition to High School; Andre, Jack D and Tanah. Another success story has been Jak Clark attending work experience with UPA Aged Care for 3 days a week throughout Term 4. All of these boys should be congratulated on their efforts.

Tanah Jackson is a Year 7 student in my class and is the recipient of my class award this year. I am so proud of Tanah's progress this year. He demonstrated a deal of maturity and made excellent choices in regards to his emotions and behaviour. He has completed a successful transition to Murray High School and will attend full time in 2016. I wish him all the best and congratulate him for all of his hard work this year.



Thomas Jackson, also in Year 6, moved from Jodie's class into mine in Term 3. I would like to congratulate Thomas on his smooth transition into my room.

Tye Rule is in Year 7 and has joined us from James Fallon High School just recently. We are all still getting to know Tye, but I would like to acknowledge some excellent choices he has made and that fact that he has attended and stayed at school every day since starting with us.

Jak Clark is a Year 9 student in my class. I have been so impressed with Jak recently. His confidence has grown and his maturity has developed. He is doing an exceptional job at UPA Aged Care, and is showing a very thoughtful, caring and considerate side of himself.



Hamish Simms is a Year 6 student, who joined us from Albury North Public in Term 4. He has been a pleasure to have in the class. I would like to acknowledge how well he has done adjusting to his new class and school



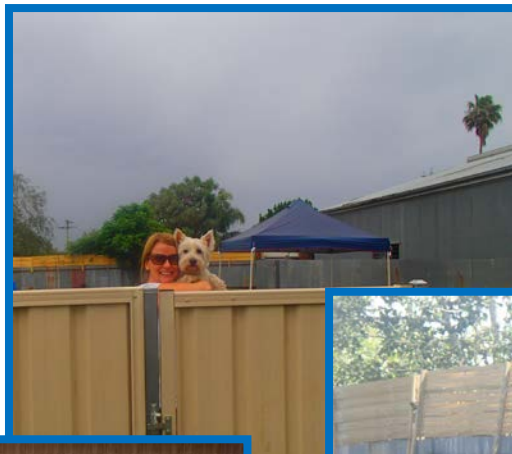
Bryden O'Bryan, in Year 8, is a delightful young man. Bryden's attendance is excellent and he thoroughly enjoys coming to school. He is always courteous, cooperative, happy and hardworking. For all of these reasons, Bryden received my class award this year at our Presentation Day.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the help and contributions of the following people:

- Brydie Charlesworth, from the Dog Education Centre in Wodonga. Brydie teaches the Dog Education Program, and she has allowed us to come in on weekly basis and play with the dogs and learn some training techniques.
- Tony Zerbst, for continuing all the great work you do with the boys in the shed in woodwork and metalwork. This year my students have made; coffee tables, boxes, bird feeders, trays, wooden games and even a turtle enclosure.
- Frank and Kevin from the Lavington Men's Shed, who come in and support the students in learning about welding and metalwork. With their help, Bryden created a beautiful metal garden chair.
- Bryden O'Bryan's Father Lee, for donating his time to help out in the classroom.
- Marg Tanner and Pam for teaching the very productive Cooking and Garden Programs. Thank you also, to Pam for the work that she does in her role as STLA.

- Paul Scannel, the curator of Albury Botanical Gardens, who assisted us with our gardening lessons. Paul taught us about native flowers and plants in our region among many other things.
- Constables Kylie and Belinda from PCYC, and Caroline from Community Adolescent Mental Health, for facilitating the 'RAGE' Program. This has been an extremely successful program, helping our students to better deal with their feelings and emotions.
- Simon Wallace, for presenting his Fishing Program, which assisted students to learn new skills and provide a possible relaxation technique.
- Ian McElwaine, for providing the Music Program, demonstrating an array of instruments and teaching the ukulele, and also for providing one to one supported lessons in Computer Coding and Programming.
- UPA Aged Care staff for the care that they have taken in supporting Jak with his work experience.
- Aunty Rose and Pansy, for facilitating the Aboriginal Education Program





Finally, I would like to thank my SLSO, Leonie Ryan, who I could not survive without. Leonie does so much in our room, from making Milo and toast, to cake decorating and of course her amazing Art lessons. Leonie always provides our room with an abundance of smiles and laughter. She offers consistent support and thoughtful advice, to both myself and the students in my room.

Thank- you for everything Leonie 😊

Janelle Dunn (Classroom Teacher)



Jodie's Class

Another term is drawing to a close and Christmas is just around the corner.

I have had another amazing term at Kandeer School with my wonderful students and Marg Tanner. So much has happened it's hard to know where to begin.

I would like to start by thanking Kate Schilg for looking after my class for 4 weeks this term, while I stood in for Peter as Principal. Kate did an amazing job with my students, who loved having her as their teacher. Thank you so much Kate. It was lovely having you in the school.



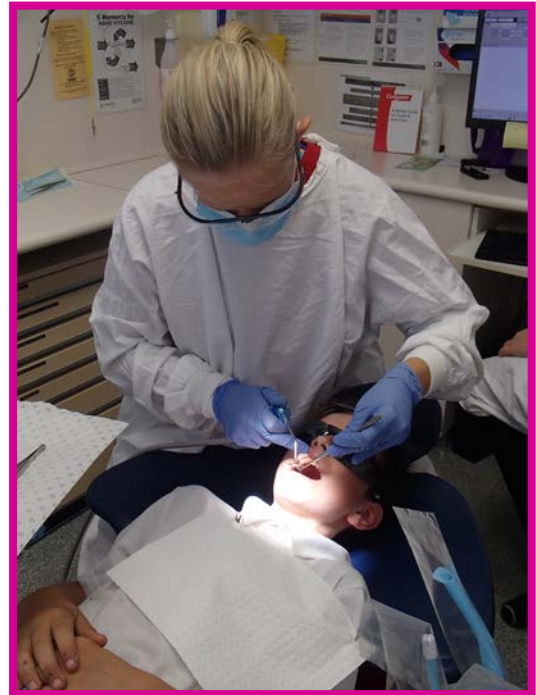
The students in my class have continued to work hard this term improving their literacy and numeracy skills. They did some great work during the term learning about Australia and its natural and built features. The boys did some fantastic research activities and produced some fabulous project based work.



All our hard work was broken up by the occasional visit from 'Molly the lamb' thank you Leonie for sharing the love around ☺



This term, as part of our Health program, the students in my class visited the dentist. They were given a check -up and taught about maintaining good oral hygiene. Thank you to the wonderful staff at the Albury Community Health Centre, for making the visit an enjoyable one and helping to take away a few nerves.



This term we were lucky to have Simon Wallace come in and teach us some of the finer points of fishing. We spent some afternoons at Horse Shoe Lagoon and the Hume Weir, relaxing by the water and perfecting our casting techniques. I would like to thank Simon, for delivering an enjoyable and informative fishing program.



This term we have welcomed Travis, from Albury High School to our Kandeer family. Travis has been taking part in a Transition Program, and will be joining us next year.

Travis joined us on an excursion to the Albury Pool, where we all enjoyed some fun in the sun.



As usual, in Term 4 our class enjoyed weekly woodwork lessons with Tony Zerbst. The boys' major project this term was toolbox, which they did a brilliant job on. Tony is teaching the boys some fabulous skills in the woodwork shed. It's amazing to see how much improvement has occurred over the course of the year, with each boy becoming so much more knowledgeable and independent in the shed.

We were privileged to help celebrate the birthday of one of our regular volunteers in the woodwork shed. Mr Frank Lang volunteers his time on a weekly basis to help some of our older students with special projects in the shed. Frank turned 80 years old, and we were happy to be able to share some birthday cake with him.



Cooking and gardening was again a weekly highlight for my students. Thankyou to Pam and Tanner, for all of the hard work they put in preparing exciting and educational activities in the kitchen and garden.

This term the boys made chicken schnitzels, beetroot salad, potato salad, sausage rolls and cakes, just to name a few things!



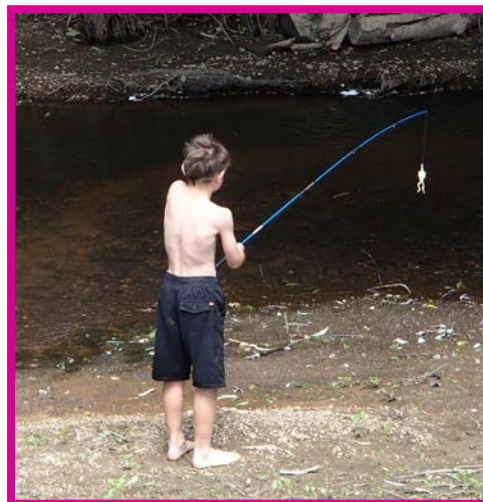
The absolute highlight of Term 4 for my class was our camping trip.

We had a fabulous time together out the back of Mr E's property at Yackandandah. The setting was amazingly beautiful, the weather spectacular.

It turns out Mr E is quite a talented cook and we loved the roast lamb he cooked us on his home made spit.



The boys enjoyed splashing in the creek, fishing, panning for gold, exploring, toasting marshmallows and telling ghost stories.





Excursions like this one are vital in building and maintaining relationships with our Kandeer Students. I am so glad that I got to take part in the camp. It is something I will never forget and I'm sure my students won't either. I would like to give special thanks to Neil Rodgers, for coming with us as our SLSO. Neil is fabulous with the boys, and not bad at putting up a tent either! Thanks Neil 😊

Thank you also to Pete for letting us camp on his property. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful and supportive Principal, who truly has the best interests of his staff and students at hand.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone at Kandeer School, for making me feel so welcome. I am tremendously glad to have had the opportunity to work at such a wonderful school. I have learned so much and will never forget my time here.

Jodie Murray (Classroom Teacher)