Congratulations to our teachers on World Teacher’s Day 31st October. Last Friday was World Teacher’s Day. The following was sent from Michelle Bruniges, one of the DEC leaders.

I am very proud to be a member of the teaching fraternity, described so perfectly by the OECD as ‘the knowing and caring profession’. Every day teachers make a difference as they inspire and engage young people to learn and succeed. Often it is years later that a teacher realises the impact that she or he had on a student, or an entire class. World Teachers’ Day is an important day internationally to acknowledge the skills and efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex society.

This year is the 20th anniversary of World Teachers’ Day, inaugurated on 5 October, 1994, by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to commemorate the adoption of the UNESCO and International Labour Organisation recommendation concerning the status of teachers.

Most countries celebrate World Teachers’ Day on 5 October but, since that date falls in the Australian school holiday period, we mark the day on the last Friday in October. This year’s celebration is today, 31 October.

Positive feedback about our students who attended Keira Community of Schools Climate Watch Camp The principal of the Killilea Enviro Centre sent the following in a letter to our school.

‘May you pass on to the students congratulations on their participation. They were an exceptional group in both behaviour and enthusiasm for the project. They were truly great ambassadors for their schools and community.’ Well done to our enviro leaders!

Sun safety Well done Balgownie kids for taking responsibility for wearing hats to school and in the playground. It means that more students can play safely in all areas of the playground. Keep up the effort! We want to see 100% of students with a BALGOWNIE school hat on their head in all breaks!

Remember that in 2015, from Day One, all students will need to have a Balgownie bucket or wide brimmed hat or will need to play in the shade. Please make sure that your children are prepared for this change for next year. NO CAPS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE WORN IN 2015.

Mural on wall near values poles is sensational. Our mural, painted by Zac Bennett-Brook has been completed and is proudly hanging on the wall. The story is a Dharawal story about reconciliation, the Yandelora (Lyrebird) story. This peaceful garden is a place for reflection and quiet time. It looks fantastic!

Music Count Us in held last Thursday. Our students joined together for a musical experience last Thursday with many other schools. The school performed for each other with K-2 singing Blue Moon/Do you Wanna Dance, Stage 2 singing Michael Jackson Medley and Stage 3 Netball girls chant. At 12.30 the live stream began where our students sang ‘Paint me a Song’ with the rest of Australia. An enriching experience for our students, which celebrated the place of music in our curriculum and in our society.
There are many challenges and rewards in engaging and supporting students and teachers today require a combination of valued skills, including quality teaching, management, collaboration, insight, creativity and understanding. I want to thank and pay tribute to the thousands of amazing teachers in our public education system – and the legions of staff supporting them in their work. I extend my respect and appreciation to you on World Teachers’ Day.

Entry to Government Selective High Schools for Year 7 in 2016 Application is required by 17 November 2014 for parents or carers of Year 5 students who wish their children to be considered for placement in Year 7 at a selective high school in 2016. This is for the academically selective schools, such as Smiths Hill High School.

There are 17 fully selective high schools, 25 partially selective high schools, 4 selective agricultural high schools and one virtual selective high school offering selective placement in Year 7 in NSW. Boarding places are available at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School (boys only), Hurlstone Agricultural High School (co-educational) and Yanco Agricultural High School (co-educational).

Parents can apply for up to three selective high schools. Placement in the virtual selective high school is restricted to students intending to enrol in a government high school in a country area far from a city.

Parents of Year 5 students have received a letter which is an expression of interest in applying for selective high school placement for their children. Please return these slips to the school by 24 October so that we know who is intending to apply.

Those students who wish to apply will be given an information booklet. This is also available on the High Performing Students Unit’s website at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. All applications need to be made online as no paper applications will be accepted. No late applications will be accepted by the Selective High School Unit.

All students wanting to go to a selective high school for Year 7 in 2016 will have to take the Selective High School Placement Test on the morning of Thursday 12 March 2015.

Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

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**Thought of the week**

*Don’t let what you can’t do stop you from doing what you can do.*

- John Wooden

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**Joke of the week**

*Q: What do snowmen wear on their heads?*

*A: Ice caps!*

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**Congratulations** to the following students who have demonstrated our values of **Respect, Responsibility** and **Real Learning**.

These students have earned themselves a wrist band.

Well done!

Stefanie B 1/2D   Isabella G 1S   Gemma K 1S
Han T 1S         Skye S 1S        Eva B 2S

And well done to the following students who achieved the PBS Badge.

Liesl L 1/2D     Gabriele L 1S    Alex D 1A
Amelia B 1S     Olivia S 2S

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**Canteen News**

The canteen will re-open on Monday 10th November. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered - we have a full roster for the remainder of term 4.

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**Uniform Shop Now Open**

[http://balgowniepnc.com/uniforms](http://balgowniepnc.com/uniforms)

Have the ease of paying via Credit Card, PayPal, Direct Deposit or even Cash* or Cheque*.

No more queues… Just order online, choose one easy payment method and deliveries are made every week to you nominated child’s classroom.

For further enquiries or appointments please email uniformshop@balgowniepnc.com

*Cash or cheque payments are to be made through the canteen slot in a sealed envelope with your order number.

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**Community News**

**Becoming a Foster Carer – Information Night**

Attend a foster care Information Session and hear about fostering from local foster care agencies and foster carers. Learn about:

- Steps to become a foster carer
- Roles and responsibilities of foster carers
- Support available to foster carers
- The need for all types of carers
Wednesday 5th
November 6.30pm –
8.00pm
Ribbonwood Centre
93-109 Princes Highway Dapto
(To register your attendance contact Savita on 9281 8822)