Term 3 Planner attached

Welcome back! It is lovely to see all students, parents and carers smiling in the playground and classrooms. This is a fabulous term and I am excited about the wonderful learning, both in classrooms and extra curricula activities being offered for our students. This term includes:

- NAIDOC week
• School starters playgroup
• ICAS tests in English and Maths
• Athletics
• Southern Stars
• Choir festival
• Education Week – Open Day
• Stage 2 excursion to Killilea
• Book Week and Dress Up for Book Week
• Surf safety Yrs 2, 4 and 6
• Fathers Day stall
• Gala Day – AFL and Dragon Tag
• Soccer Joeys for K-2
• Keirabald
• Stage 3 excursion to Canberra

It is great to offer so many wonderful enrichment opportunities to our students. Our classes are already immersed in learning and the topics that our students are studying are:

**Early Stage One** – Special Places and On the Move

**Stage One** – Identifying Us and Watch It Grow

**Stage 2** – Understanding Our Communities and Beneath Our Feet

**Stage 3** – Australian Government and What’s the Matter?

All classes will be revising PBS values and learning about child
protection in the last 6 weeks of this term.

Our staff returned Monday and spent the day in professional discussion and reflection. We shared action research projects, that were undertaken in Term Two. Our staff demonstrated high level professionalism and reflective practice, constantly striving to improve the lessons for our students.

**Improvements over the holidays.** The long awaited toilet block refresh has occurred over the holidays and they are a much more pleasant place for our children. There is new paint and wall tiles. We are still in the process of putting the new labels on them.

The GAs have also been busy painting outdoor furniture, cleaning the tennis courts and gardening. Thanks.

**Playground Equipment** has been ordered this week. The necessary protocols have been followed and we are signing the contract for the play equipment. Let's hope the weather holds and we can get the equipment in by the end of the term.

**Communication methods** At our school we take communication with families very seriously and try to use a variety of methods to meet families’ needs. A critical part of our written communication is the newsletter. In 2014 we moved to being a paperless newsletter
school in an effort to help our environment. We currently employ the following methods to share the newsletter:

- Print and online versions on the website
- Print and online versions on Skoolbag app
- Email for those on the list
- Paper copies in the front office

Recent feedback has identified that there are some families who would still prefer a paper copy version of the newsletter to be sent home with students. We are offering an ‘opt in’ for paper copies of the newsletter. If you would like a paper copy, please complete the attached ‘opt in’ request slip and return to the office. *(Please consider our environment)*

**NAIDOC Week celebrated at Balgownie.** This is one of the most important annual cultural events for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - and all Australians. It is a celebration of the contribution made by Aboriginal people to our national identity and time to explore ways we can work together to build a better future. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2015 is: *We all stand on sacred ground.*

Zac Bennett- Brook, a celebrated local artist, High School PE teacher and ex-Keira High School student will be working with all classes this
week and next. He will be telling the Yandelora story of peace that is featured in our reconciliation garden (painted by Zac) and playing some indigenous games with each class.

At the end of this newsletter is a local Dharawal story about Mount Keira and the Five Islands. A great story to share with our children as they can see the main part of the story from our playground!

**Class supplies** At the start of the second half of the year it is a good time to check your child’s pencil case and replenish the used items eg glue sticks etc. Thanks.

**Uniform reminder** There have been some variations to our uniform that are occurring and I would like you to revisit your child’s uniform and remember:
• Black shorts, trousers or tracksuit pants worn by boys and girls should not have any logos or any colour other than black. That includes white piping or stripes.
• Jumpers and jackets are to be Balgownie School jumpers only.
• All hats are to be Balgownie School hats only.
• Shoes are to be plain black without coloured laces or any colour other than black. Boots or high tops are not part of our school uniform. Sports shoes may be worn on Friday. Ankle socks must be visible above shoes.

Our school has a good reputation in the community and one of the reasons for this is the pride our students show in our school by high standards of uniform. It is an expectation that students will be wearing the correct uniform. If there is an issue with finance, please come to see me. Otherwise, please support our school by ensuring your children are wearing correct uniform from Term Three onwards. The details matter!

Kindergarten students for 2016 in our local area. If you know of any students who are in our local catchment area please encourage them to visit our school to enrol.

School contributions. Thanks to those families who have paid their contributions. If you have not paid your school contributions for 2015 it would be greatly appreciated if you did as soon as possible. The
school depends on these funds to help meet our day to day costs and buy resources for our children to help them learn. You can pay online, by eftpos or we take cash and cheques.

**After School Supervision** is provided by class teachers and then by a member of staff who supervises the after school care and bus students. This teacher, usually a member of our executive, is also responsible for ensuring that any children who can’t find their parents, or vice versa are cared for and arrangements made. It is expected that our students are picked up or walk/bike home at 3pm.

We have a number of children and families who are playing in the school grounds for a short time after school. You are more than welcome to do this, but please remember that parents are responsible for their children. It becomes confusing for students if they are permitted to do things after school, that during the day they are not allowed to do. You need to be able to see your children at all times to actively supervise them.

Our children will be having Positive Behaviour for Success lessons this week around the playground reminding them of our rules and expectations. This is part of our proactive approach to ensuring that all students are explicitly taught our expectations and are reminded about ‘in bound’ areas. This includes all times that our children are in our school grounds.
Please support us and help your children by following school guidelines and making sure that toddlers and students are not in the car parks unsupervised, or down near the neighbours’ fences as we want to keep our children safe and maintain good relationships with other people. Please also ensure your children and toddlers are behaving in a way that is mindful of the wonderful things in our playground eg chess pieces, sandpit covers and the cubbies. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

The Story of Five Islands - (Oola-boola-woo)

www.coomaditchie.org.au/dreaming-stories

Oola-boola-woo, the West Wind, lived on top of Merringong (the Illawarra Range). With the West wind were his six little daughters Mimosa, Wilga, Lilli Pilli, Wattle, Clematis and Geera.

Sometimes the children’s cousins, who lived in a seaside camp just north of Red Point, came up the mountain for a visit. The little children brought gifts, but Mimosa, was not nice to the visitors. When her sisters played and laughed with their cousins, Mimosa scratched and fought. Oola- boola-woo was so annoyed at his daughter’s rude behaviour he snatched off the piece of the mountain upon which she sat, and threw it out to sea.
The large piece of rock flew through the air with the little girl, Mimosa, clinging to it! Plop! went the great rock into the sea, giving Mimosa a shower bath, which cooled her naughty temper.

She looked about and was scared to see she was a long way from the land. In fact, she was on an island, which no one could swim to because they were scared of sharks. Poor Mimosa! She was sorry that she had been naughty but it was too late. Day after day she sat on the island, until she turned into a mermaid, slid into the sea and swam about.

Mimosa’s fate should have been a lesson to her sisters, but after a while, they grew lazy and disobedient. One evening Oola-boola-woo, came home at sunset to find Wilga lying on a warm rock, playing with a pet lizard. She had not washed her face, combed her hair, or tidied the house. Oola-boola-woo was tired and angry.

Taking a big breath, he blew Wilga and her rock out to sea. How surprised the people in the camp were next morning, to see two islands in the sea, not far from the coast. It wasn’t long until Lilli Pilli, Wattle and Clematis were blown out to sea, on pieces of rock so that there were five islands, with five little mermaids sunning themselves.

So Geera was the only child left in Oola-boola-woo’s home on the
mountain top. How lonely she was! Her father was often away, so there was no one to talk to. There was no one to play with, for the children in the camp had long grown tired of climbing the mountain side to visit the naughty family on the top.

Geera sat hunched, with her arms around her ankles, looking down at the smoke of the camp, or staring out at the five islands. Year after year she sat, so still and quiet that she eventually turned to stone. Dust and dead leaves fell upon her, grass and wild flowers grew over her and so she became part of the mountain range.

She is now known as Mount Keira.

Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

Thought of the Week

We’ve got to come together, that’s what we want for Australia. One people. We are all Australians, regardless of your ethnic background, regardless of your political belief, regardless of your religious beliefs we are all Australians.

-Neville Bonner, Australia’s first Aboriginal senator.
**Joke of the Week**

Q: What did the curtain say to the wall?  
A: I'm tired of hanging around all day.

**SOCCAJOEYS**

A reminder that the Soccajoeys program will commence on Friday. The cost of the program will be $35.00 for the 10 sessions. The signed permission note and money must be returned to the office by Thursday 16 July 2015 Week 1 Term 3.

**BOOK CLUB**

Book Club orders are due before Thursday 23rd July. You can place Book Club orders and correct money in the gold slot in front office OR you can order online using the Scholastic Book Clubs ‘Linked Online Ordering and Payment’ (LOOP) platform for parents. The online ordering system eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to our school safely. **We encourage you to use LOOP for all your future Book Club orders.**

**WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN**

The Earn and Learn Program is running again this year in conjunction with Woolworths and Modern Teaching Aids. In past years we have been able to obtain lots of great resources through this program.
The more stickers we collect the more resources we can buy for the school.

From *Wednesday the 15th July* you will get one sticker for every $10 you spend at Woolworths. These need to be placed on a sticker chart, which we will send home when they arrive at school. When you have filled in a whole sticker chart bring the chart to school and place in the Woolworths Earn and Learn box in the front foyer of the school office.

Ask family, friends and neighbours to collect stickers for you. The more sticker charts we fill the more equipment we can buy. In the past some of the equipment we have obtained through this program have included the outdoor car near the cubby houses, the outdoor furniture on the kindergarten verandah and outdoor cushions. If you have any questions or suggestions on collecting lots of stickers please see Mrs Kerema in KK.
GRANDPARENTS READING PROGRAM

Dear parents/ grandparents,

Next term I will be starting up the Grandparents Reading Program. I would like to, once again, invite you to fill in the form below to participate in our school program. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in a child’s life.

This reading program will focus on improving students’ knowledge of sight words and reading strategies. A training session (1 hour) will familiarise you with the procedures involved.

I look forward to seeing you in Term 3.

Thank you,
Jenny Lewis.

GRANDPARENTS READING PROGRAM

I, ................................................................. (name) can assist with the grandparents reading program.
I can be contacted on ........................................... (home or mobile phone number).

‘OPT IN’ FOR PAPER COPY OF NEWSLETTER

I would like to have a paper copy of the weekly newsletter sent home with my child.

Child’s Name ...........................................................

Class .................................................................

(Please consider our environment)
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<td>14 July NAIDOC WEEK</td>
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<td>16 July Athletics carnival – Shellharbour School starters meeting 9am</td>
<td>17 July Soccer Joeys K-2</td>
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<td>20 July</td>
<td>21 July South Stars rehearsal 2.15pm</td>
<td>22 July Zac B Brook</td>
<td>23 July Choir performance and rehearsal School Starters Playgroup in hall 9-11</td>
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<td>27July Education Week</td>
<td>28 July ICAS – English Sthn stars rehearsal Sport stadium</td>
<td>29 July Open Day Picnic lunch 12-12.50 in classes 1-1.50pm – concert</td>
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<td>31 July Soccer Joeys K-2</td>
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<td>4 August Fire drill this week</td>
<td>5 August Brokers Athletics Sthn stars</td>
<td>6 August School Starters Playgroup in hall 9-11 K-2 athletics 12-2 Keirabald 6pm Wgong Art Gallery</td>
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<td>11 August ICAS -Maths</td>
<td>12 August Book Character Parade 9.15am P &amp; C meeting 7.15</td>
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<td>26 August Sthn Stars mass rehearsal WEC</td>
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<td>28 Aug Soccer Joeys K-2 Sthn Stars 10am show 7.30pm show</td>
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