Principal’s Report 9th August 2012

Thank you for your attendance and welcome to new members.

1. Student and staff news
- Student enrolment is 647 in 25 classes
- We welcome Jenny McKean who will replace Jayne Connell. Jenny has received a transfer from Armidale, commencing in January 2013.
- From Monday we will be increasing the number of teachers’ aides in classrooms to four, i.e. 1 per stage.

2. Building programs
   a. Landscaping school grounds
      - The garden project is proceeding well with the new borders erected. We will be planting in Spring.
      - The school vegetable garden has had a new vitality. Megan Rush is working with the Stage 2 Green Team and the garden is looking very productive. The grant is providing the goods for the project while the employment component is coming from the school’s environment budget.

   b. B block redevelopment
      - Our application for a dollar-for-dollar grant was successful. The DEC will provide $62500 to complete the project. The project included the relocation of the uniform shop, the establishment of the reading store and the redevelopment of the old library as a double classroom. We will move to complete the project when official notification arrives.

3. Communications with parents
   - Semester 1 student progress reports were sent to parents last term.
   - Education Week was an outstanding success. Six members of the school community were recipients of a Regional Director’s Award – Students- Zoe Reeve and Noah Amos Eakin, Staff- Cheryl Booker, Merran Campbell, Gaye McKenna and community member Helen Jarvis
   - Short messages from me will be sent to families who use the e-newsletter. This is a trial to improve communications.

4. Technology innovations
   - We were successful in negotiating a very favourable price on SMART boards from Electroboard. Their offer was a free SMART board for every two purchased (i.e. three for the price of two). The school will cover the cost of two boards and I have sought your support to purchase two. Our net increase of six SMART boards will mean we have reached our target of a SMART board in every permanent classroom. CONGRATULATIONS and thank you.
   - The new data projector and screen was installed in the hall in the last week of Term 2. We have allocated a laptop computer to the hall and the teachers have found the new resources very valuable. This project was funded by one of the school’s philanthropic supporters.

5. Recent events in the last month
   - Students have sat the ICAS computer, writing, English and spelling tests.
   - The first Arts Extravaganza was presented at the end of Term 2 to an appreciative, capacity audience. Thanks to the Arts Committee who catered for the event.
   - Brainstorm Productions presented the ‘Human Race’, a production which focused on a personal development theme. This is an inclusion in our school fee as the presentation is an important aspect of the school’s personal development program.
   - The annual school and district athletics carnivals were held at the new sporting facility at Ewingsdale.
   - The Byron Rotary Club brought the Bravehearts show to the students in Kindergarten, Stage 1 and Stage 2.
   - A visiting Science show (JollyBops) was very well received by all students during NAIDOC Week.
   - A band from Beenleigh Sate High School performed for the school.
   - We have had several groups of visiting students in classes from Japan schools. This has been very popular with students and their teachers.

6. Coming events
   - Year 6 Interrelate personal development program - Commencing next week
   - ICAS mathematics test- 14/8
   - Stage 3 ART SMART program for talented and aspiring artists- Next week
   - The school band to compete in the Lismore Eisteddfod.
   - Book illustrator Kim Toft will visit students in the library as part of Book Week.- 16&17/8
   - Jump Rope for Heart- 22/8
- Far North Coast Zone(17/8) and North Coast(31/8) Athletics Carnivals
- Numeracy Week is planned for 27 August
- Start of our Kindergarten 2013 orientation program with information nights, school visits and school tours with the Principal- 28 August
- Rights to Passage Dr Arne Rubinstein talk to parents about raising Gen Z children(4/9) and the Campout for Kids(7/9)

7. Arts Committee Report
- The Stage 2 and Stage 3 choirs are busy rehearsing for their performances. The Stage choir performed at the Coastal Kids, Arts Extravaganza and during Education Week. The senior choral choir is preparing for their performance at the Choral Festival in the Sydney Opera House on 18 October.
- Our Stage 2 and 3 choirs performed at Bayside aged care facility.
- Students in the choir performed at the closing ceremony at the Byron Bay Writers’ Festival while we had ten students selected to review children’s books, three were selected to be published in the Echo.
- The Senior Band and Stage 3 choir performed at Education Week Open Day.
- Arts Extravaganza was held at school, showcasing the school’s performing and creative arts programs.

Geoff Spargo