Welcome to Week 4 Term 3

Monday August 8, 2016

This week our students and community celebrate NAIDOC week. During the week students will participate in a variety of activities that support this year’s NAIDOC theme “Songlines”. Our Aboriginal Education Committee has worked hard to ensure that our celebrations are a success and I thank them for this. You are invited to attend our NAIDOC morning tea on Tuesday August 9 at 11:20am in the library as well as our assembly on Thursday August 11 at 12:15.

If you hold a savings account with Community Mutual talk to them about nominating Ben Venue as a community partner. By linking Ben Venue with a saving account, donations are made to our school. This money can then be used to purchase additional resources for our school.

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

You may remember that our students also participated in a Tell Them From Me student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between August 22 and October 21. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday August 19. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Academic News

The Spelling Bee Final is on this Wednesday for students in Years 3-6. Good luck to all the students who are involved in this. I hope your hard work and dedication pays off!

The Mathematics ICAS competition will be held next Tuesday August 16. It was fabulous to see the digital artworks of the Year 3 students after their excursion to Thalgarrah last week. From discussions with the Year 3 teachers, students not only had fun but learnt a lot about their environment as well.

Last week many clothing items were borrowed due to the wet weather. Could you please ensure that all borrowed clothing is returned to our Office asap. Thank you.

Start thinking about your costumes for the Book Week parade!!!

The Book Fair will be on Thursday 25 at 8:30am to 4:00pm.

BEN VENUE

Ben Venue Public School

where great things are always happening!

Book Fair

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This week I am attending several finance workshops as well as attending a mandatory Principal Induction conference. Ann Lewis and Jeanenne Gale will be relieving in my absence.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

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Sporting News

Last Tuesday many students from BVPS participated in the District Athletics carnival. Although we don’t have official results, I’m told that many of our students performed particularly well and will go on to represent Ben Venue at the regional athletics in Tamworth on September 2.

Several teams played in the PSSA knockout last week. Our senior boys had a comprehensive victory over Ross Hill while our Rugby and both our Hockey teams were knocked out of the competition by stronger teams. Well done to all the students who have given up their lunch times and arrived at school early to train. I would like to thank Mrs Karen Watson, Mr James Waters, Mrs Sue Lye, Mrs Jeanenne Gale and Miss Kate Frizell for their contributions in preparing our teams for these competitions.

The PSSA gymnastics competition is being held today. Best wishes to our school competitors and Miss Rebecca O’Hara who is coordinating the event.

P&C/ Parent Club

Our monthly P&C meeting was held last Wednesday. Thank you to the P&C who have kindly donated money to purchase the equipment needed to ensure we don’t have any WIFI black spots in the school as well as purchasing a new set of hockey socks and bibs for our sporting teams and two megaphones for teachers to use while on Bus Duty.

The P&C have also decided to hold another exciting fundraiser later this term. More details to come

Don’t forget- Special lunch next Thursday August 11.

Next P&C meeting will be held Wednesday September 7 at 7pm in the staffroom.

Parent club will be holding a morning tea and canteen on Friday August 19 at 9:30am.

Have a great week.

Lou Moffatt

Expression of Interest

Ben Venue has purchased a new app called School Stream. We hope that this new app will improve, simplify and make communication between school and homes easier and more user friendly. As we are still getting to know School Stream, we are looking for approximately 20 parents to volunteer to be on a small parent committee to trial the implementation and use of the app. Once this is working efficiently we will then make it available to the whole school.

To be involved in this trial you are required to have a smart phone or device and attend an introduction to School Stream session on Thursday August 18 at 3:30pm

If you are interested in being part of this team please email the school with Attn: Kia Fabian. benvenue-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you and I look forward to working with you.

Kia Fabian

P & C News……… Special Lunch Order Day

Any helpers would be greatly appreciated!!

Please come to the canteen on the day between 11:30—1:00pm.

Thank you for all the students and parents who supported the parent club 5 cent challenge, we raised $751.25! The class who raised the most was 4F and second place was 1M. Well done, thanks again. Michelle Peck

P & C News……… Special Lunch Order Day

Around the Classroom………

KS Welcome to Week 4 of another busy, fun-filled term in Kindergarten. In English Kindergarten students have been reading and discussing a variety of Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. We have also enjoyed trying our hands at some Aboriginal art techniques and are looking forward to participating in NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Kindergarten has begun dance lessons in the hall for PE. So far we have had fun learning the ‘Hokey Pokey’ and the ‘Chicken Dance’. We will learn a new dance each week as well as practising our favourites.

Just a reminder to all parents and caregivers that if your child is absent from school please send a note to school on the day he or she returns advising of the reason for the absence.

Sue Lye

3E thoroughly enjoyed our excursion to Thalgarrah last week.

The weather was cold and wet but that did not stop us from enthusiastically investigating the environment through photography. We learnt about the importance of an interesting subject, light, close ups, framing, rule of thirds and perspective when taking a photograph. Our photos were amazing! The light rain that fell when we were in the forest enhanced our photos of leaves and streams of water. After we took the photos we edited them and they were printed and framed for us by Maree at Thalgarrah. Matt also showed us how to make a digital book from our photos. It was a fantastic and memorable learning experience!

This week we start an English unit on the Olympic Games, focusing on the concepts of theme and symbols. We will research the reasons why and how the Olympic rings and other symbols are used and we will compare advertisements relating to the Olympics. We will be keeping a tally of medal winners and follow the progress of the Hockeyroos with special interest as one of the team, Georgina Morgan was a Ben Venue student.

Our History unit this term is “First Contacts”. Students will learn about how to use inquiry skills to discover what Australia was like before Captain Cook arrived and the impact of his arrival.

Congratulations to 3E students who tried out for Starmaker this year. I am so impressed by your organisation skills and effort. Good luck! Thank you to all parents and caregivers for regularly replenishing their supplies when needed.

Kerrie Edmunds

DRUMMOND MEMORIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL will be hosting the 2016 Berowra to Bowen Variety Bash.

Over 100 cars are participating in this year’s Variety Bash and will be on display on the Drummond Memorial School oval from 8am on August 22. Bring the family and meet the drivers and see the fantastic pre-1976 cars.