

Tall Timbers Newsletter



Strive to Achieve

BULAHDELAH CENTRAL SCHOOL

A PRIDE School

Term 4 Week 8 Issue 19

25th November, 2013

➤ GREAT NEWS INSIDE

- * Bul. Show Competition results
- * Public School system
- * Important dates
- * BCS students' accomplishments
- * Hosting a party
- * Library message

➤ BCS SCHOOL PROGRAMS



➤ VALUE OF THE WEEK

Participation. We promote participation & school spirit in an environment that values the participation of students, staff & the wider community. Are you actively involved in the life of the school?

➤ BCS STUDENTS VISIT LOCAL SHOW:

At 11.30am on Friday 15th November, Years K-2 and the Captain nominees from Year 5 boarded the bus for the Bulahdelah Show. A short bus trip down and we were ready to go. All the kids were excited as we sat down to watch the horses. Soon after we went and ate lunch. Sausage sandwiches all round. They were delicious.

Next we went to the petting zoo. The children were amazed at the beautiful baby animals.





After that we went up to the pavillion to look at all the work that was displayed.





We then went on some rides in sideshow alley. We had a choice of, the merry-go-round, the train or the dodgem cars. Most of us went on the dodgem cars.



We had a wonderful day at the Bulahdelah Show with our teachers and friends of the school!

Taylah Smith, Year 5

➤ **BULAHDELAH SHOW PRIZE WINNERS:**

Early Stage 1

Category	Place	Name
Line Drawing	1 st	Drew Lawrence
	H/C	Blake Matheson
Painting	1 st	Nathaniel Reitsma
	2 nd	Max Cherry
Collage	1 st	Corey Cunningham
	2 nd	Jye Bailey
Writing	1 st	Daisie Wheaton
	2 nd	Blake Matheson

Stage 2

Category	Place	Name
Line Drawing	2 nd	Shannon Powick
	H/C	Blake Richardson & Murray Jones
Painting	1 st	Jackson Lee
	2 nd	Westleigh Richardson
	H/C	Jackson Lee
Writing	1 st	Finlay O'Connell
Public Speaking	3 rd	Seleana Murphy (The Unsung Heroes)

Stage 1

Category	Place	Name
Painting	H/C	Charlise Luxon & Grace Kiehne
Writing	3 rd	Ruby Plummer & Oliver Gibbs

Stage 3

Category	Place	Name
Line Drawing	1 st	Bailey Middleton
Painting	1 st	Madison Hurtado
	H/C	Brock Buchanan
Collage	1 st	Heidi Buchanan, Taylah Smith & Lana Pringle
Writing	1 st	Chyna Smith
	3 rd	Liam Garemyn
Bush Poetry	1 st	Angus Plummer
	2 nd	Brandon Nott & Jade Gray
Public Speaking	1 st	Jordyn Watt (My First Concert)
	2 nd	Anjoli Luxon (Having a Mother Who's a Teacher)



➤ PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Bulahdelah Central School is a truly comprehensive school. It is one of our greatest strengths and one of the most important factors in what students have achieved. Education across this state was originally built around a system of comprehensive high schools. These are schools that enrol students from across the complete range of society. Students from rich families and students from poor families. Students who are physically disabled and those who are not. Students from all religious beliefs. Students who are academically gifted to those who struggle to read and write.

Once, if you lived in the local area you went to the local school and mixed with every other young person from that district. You learnt to accept that people were different and their life circumstances might be different to your own. BCS is proudly comprehensive. Walk around our playground and into our classrooms or onto our sporting fields. In the decisions that we make about our students' education we do not take into account what their religious beliefs are or how much money their parents earn.

We all wear the same uniform and everyone is treated the same and given the same opportunities. That is what a comprehensive school is all about. BCS proves it every year with our NAPLAN and HSC results.

NAPLAN and HSC scores though, are not the main point of what students have achieved and what they will take away when they finish school. I firmly believe that as a student who has attended a comprehensive school in a supportive community, they will take away much more than high marks and a world recognised credential. It is my view that students will be far more

equipped to deal with what life has to offer and the people they will meet because they have lived with and accepted the complete cross-section of society that we have here at this school.

Sadly the comprehensive model of education is being lost in this state. Currently more than half of the senior students in NSW do not attend a public school with the advantages of comprehensiveness mentioned. There is a perennial debate in our society about how much schools cost to run. From the Gonski Report to the recent decisions of the state government, you would realise that school funding has indeed been a very hot political issue. There are two related aspects to that debate. How much should we spend and on which schools should it be spent?

This newsletter is not the place to debate either of those issues. But I do want to make several points from my nearly 30 years in the system. I do that in the context of getting you to think about what your child has achieved so far in their schooling and where our students as citizens and parents of the future would like to see our system go.

Yes, the debate about school funding rages on. Yes, as a society, we should have that debate. Yes, all of our schools could be better funded. The dollars are important and we should all be accountable for them. But, they are not the most important. You cannot buy a good education. Instead the formula looks like this - you get it by establishing a positive relationship with high quality teachers in a positive school climate, with parental and community support and then everyone, students included, working as hard as they can.

Money is very important, but it is not the driving force in that agenda. Student success to date is because BCS has managed to get the right mix to that formula and allowed our student's hard work to shine through.

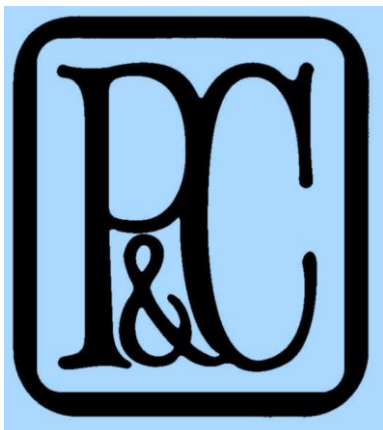
It's not an analogy I like to use but if BCS is a factory or a production line, then we turn out each year 40 to 50 well-educated, well-adjusted young adults, imbued with the values and attitudes required to make a successful contribution to society for the next 60 plus years.

Make no mistake; our students are receiving a world class education. The NSW curriculum is recognised around the world as a highly respected credential. Indeed the NSW Government makes a great deal of money every year selling the whole HSC system to countries overseas whilst other states are buying our 7 -10 curriculum.

Students are receiving their education in a proudly comprehensive public school and in a very supportive environment which includes you, their family and friends. As well students have access to highly qualified teachers and support staff, who guide them through school.

So by all means count the costs of educating our students. We are funded by taxpayers. They deserve to know on what and on whom their taxes are spent. They need to debate how limited funds should be spent and who is the most deserving. But never do that in isolation.

If we put a dollar value on the costs then let us put a dollar value on the product. The impact that our students will have on our local and national community over the next 60 to 80 years will be immense. As teachers we like to think that what happens here at Bulahdelah Central School is a significant factor in the contribution that they will make.



Date for final P&C Meeting Term 4:

9th December BCS 3.45pm



➤ BCS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:

We are now entering the final weeks of term and students in Years 7-9 will be sitting their final exams this week.

Year 10 are heading off to Work Experience after completing workshops in preparation for entering into Year 11 next year.

Last week we bade a final farewell to Year 12 at their formal evening which was held at the Bulahdelah Golf Club. The evening was very enjoyable and was a fitting farewell to Year 12 who looked splendid in their formal wear and thanks go to the Year Advisers, and the staff who decorated the club to make it such a wonderful setting.

In the next couple of weeks we will be working to produce a new timetable for 2014. As well we will be welcoming our new Year 7 students for 2014 at the Year 7 Orientation Day which is to be held on Wednesday 4th December commencing at 10am in the School Hall. Our Year 7 adviser for next year's Year 7 is Heather Moncrieff who has prepared a range of important information for parents and activities for Year 7. I urge all parents to attend this important day if your child is about to transition into High School.



Just a reminder to parents to ensure they closely monitor their child's use of social media and particularly Facebook.

Recent incidents of cyber bullying highlight the need to keep a close eye on exchanges taking place between children. Students at Bulahdelah Central School have had police inform them of the penalties for inappropriate use of social media. Furthermore the Department of Education has given the power to Principals to suspend students who engage in cyber bullying.

I will be absent during Week 9 December 2nd to December 6th as I will be working at Armidale High School for the week in preparation for my move to Armidale next year. The advertisement for the position will appear in the job advertisements in the next couple of weeks.

Lastly congratulations to all the students who entered or participated in the Bulahdelah Show. The Show is a great community event and it is a fantastic opportunity for our students to be part of it and to show off their many talents.

➤ IMPORTANT DATES:

Nov	25-27	Yrs7-9 Exams
	25-29	Yr10 Work Experience
	27-29	Yrs5-6 Camp
Dec	2-6	Yr10 Work Experience
	6-7	Yrs3-6 Tennis Championships
	4	Year 7 Orientation Day
	7	Roger Horton's community farewell Bulahdelah Soccer Ground 4.00pm
	9	P&C Meeting BCS
	9-10	Yr10 Taronga Zoo Snooze
	9-11	Secondary Lifesaving Program
	12	Primary Presentation 10.30am
	13	Secondary Presentation 10.30am

➤ **WELL DONE BCS STUDENTS!**



Alex Barry was the Bulahdelah RSL Sub Branch's successful applicant to be sponsored by NSW RSL on the "Young Endeavor" travelling from Devonport to Sydney for 10 days in January 2014! It will be an awesome experience for him. One of 5 chosen from NSW open to 17-23 year olds.



**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR
THE 2013 U18 SCHOOLGIRLS
ELLA SEVENS**

**10TH - 12TH DECEMBER 2013
ALICE SPRINGS**



Utah Edgerton has made the Australian Indigenous School Girls' Rugby Union 7's team, and will be going to Alice Springs from the 10th till the 12th December. We all congratulate and wish her well.

BCS Student on Home & Away

Tahlia Moffit (pictured 2nd from left) has had her first screening on Home and Away. She will be popping up as a Mangrove River school girl for the next 6 months.

Congratulations Tahlia!





➤ BCS DEPUTY PRI. PRINCIPAL:

Stage 3 students will attend camp for three days this week. They will be accompanied by Mrs McDonald, Mr Backhouse and I. The students will participate in a range of outdoor activities all the while being challenging and fun. Let's hope the weather gods are kind and the students get to participate in all of the planned activities. I would like to thank Mrs McDonald for organising this excursion.

Stage 3 students have been participating in resilience workshops over the past two weeks. They have two weeks to go to complete the course.

We are very lucky to have a prac student undertaking her practicum at BCS. Emily Wilde is working with Year 6. She is very lucky to have Mrs McDonald as her mentor. Mrs McDonald reports that she is doing very well providing interesting lessons and engaging the students.

Students in Years 3-5 have been doing swimming for sport and all students are progressing very well after the first two weeks. Swimming will continue for another three weeks. I would like to thank Miss Nixon for her organisation of the groups and lesson content.

Reports are being completed this week, by staff. It is the intention that reports will be forwarded to parents at the end of Week 10.

The Year 6 farewell will be held on Monday 16th December. This is a day where students and their teachers celebrate the completion of their primary school years. Permission notes will be forwarded to parents this week.

Kindergarten Orientation has concluded for another year. I would like to thank Mr Gibbs for the work he puts into making the childrens' first experiences at school engaging and memorable. We look forward to welcoming the students into Kindergarten in 2014.

REMINDER: If your student will be absent from school for 5 or more days on a family holiday, an EXEMPTION FORM (one for each student in your family) should be completed and returned to the school PRIOR to the holiday for principal approval.



REMEMBER!

to send in your Scholastic Book Orders by:

Monday 2nd December, 2013

Don't miss out on some excellent books, posters, games and fun things to make and do.

Time to party



At a glance

- Parties are part of a teenager's social life and a way for your teen to develop social skills.
- Keep up with what is going on in your teen's life and get to know their friends.
- Talk to your teen about your concerns such as hosting or going to parties.
- Planning is the key to a successful and safe party.
- Know the law about supplying alcohol to people under the age of 18.

Parties are part and parcel of teenage social life and help mark the move from childhood to adulthood. While most parties go off without a hitch, celebrations can go wrong and get out of hand – particularly if the party is unplanned.

Here are our tips to help ensure your teenagers and their friends have fun but remain safe.

Hosting a party

Communication and careful planning are the keys to hosting a great party. While the internet and social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter are great tools which can be used to spread the word quickly, they can increase the chance of gatecrashers turning up at your home.

Tips to avoid common party pitfalls

- Have a starting and finishing time for parties and decide if some areas of your home are off limits.
- Create a guest, or invitee list, and send personal, written invitations to avoid uninvited

people turning up at your home. Consider hiring security guards to deter gatecrashers.

- Lock away valuables and items that could be easily broken.
- Let your neighbours know about the party and provide them with your contact number should they have any concerns.
- Organise some fun, party activities.
- Let the local police know you are hosting a party. You can register your details online through the NSW Police Force My Nite website.
- If alcohol is going to be served do not supply alcohol to people under the age of 18. In NSW, except in specific limited circumstances, it is illegal to sell and supply alcohol to people under the age of 18 and carries a maximum penalty of \$11,000 or a \$1,100 infringement notice and/or 12 months imprisonment.
- Pre-plan your response to people arriving intoxicated or becoming intoxicated at your party, or bringing along other drugs.
- Have plans in place to deal with underage guests or others who bring alcohol along and attempt to supply them.

Going to a party

Parties are a way teenagers develop their social skills and interact with their peers, but like anything maintaining a balance is best. You may also have concerns about supervision, location and party arrangements. To help you make a decision consider:

- Discussing any concerns and negotiating some conditions, such as a curfew.
- Contacting the host's parents to check details such as adult supervision, location and arrangements regarding alcohol and transport.
- Discussing with your teen how they will get to and from the party. Will you do the drop-off/pick-up? Will they travel by taxi, take public transport, stay the night at a friend's place or car pool with friends' parents?
- Making sure your teen has a way to contact you should they need to (eg access to a phone, mobile phone, a phone card or change to make a call from a public phone).

A message from the BCS Library....

Please note that as of Monday 2nd December all borrowing will cease for Years K-11.

The Library will be conducting their annual stock take and all books must be returned by this date.

If your child has outstanding library book(s) could you please make sure they are returned by this date.

Sorry for any inconvenience and we look forward to resuming the Library services in 2014. Have a wonderful holiday and Merry Christmas to all!



**FINISHING DATE
FOR STUDENTS
K-11 TERM 4 IS:
WEDNESDAY
18TH DECEMBER**

Is dried fruit OK for Crunch&Sip®?

Although fresh fruit is the best choice, a small amount of dried fruit (eg sultanas or apricots) is an acceptable Crunch&Sip® option.

Dried fruit tends to cling to the teeth, so is best eaten with a meal or when a toothbrush is handy.

NOTE fruit straps, bars or rolls are **NOT** permitted as they contain large amounts of sugar.





CANTEEN SPECIALS:

BCS Canteen staff **Sheryl Barry (Canteen Manager)** and **Christina Watt** continue to provide a healthy and varied selection of foods for our students and staff. They prepare healthy one-off specials each week.

These specials are publicised each fortnight in the school newsletter and on the school web site. Students and staff are invited to order from this list in addition to the Menu/Price List.

Specials this fortnight are:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>RECESS</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>LUNCH</u>	<u>COST</u>
Nov 25	Meatballs	\$3.00	Prawn Cutlets & Salad	\$5.50
Nov 26	Banana Split	\$2.50	Zucchini Slice & Salad	\$4.50
Nov 27	Mini Pizzas	\$3.50	Calamari & Chips	\$5.50
Nov 28	Noodles	\$2.00	Salad Wrap	\$4.00
Nov 29	Mini Salad Wraps	\$3.00	Bacon & Egg Roll	\$4.00
Dec 2	Milkshakes	\$2.00	Fish & Salad	\$4.50
Dec 3	Mini Pizzas	\$3.50	S&S Pork & Salad	\$5.00
Dec 4	Chicken Wings	\$3.00	Quiche & Salad	\$4.50
Dec 5	Scones Jam & Cream	\$1.50	Calamari & Chips	\$5.50
Dec 6	Nachos	\$3.00	Steak Sandwich with Onion	\$4.50



HOUSEKEEPING INFORMATION:

BCS distributes the *Tall Timbers* newsletter by **FAMILY EMAIL**. Please ensure that your family email is entered correctly on our records. We also place a copy of our newsletter on our website; <http://www.bulahdelah-c.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Last Newsletter for Term 4: 9th December.

ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP-TO-DATE?

Parents, if you have changed any details e.g. your address, mobile phone, home phone or emergency contacts, could you please make sure you let the office know so we are able to keep an accurate record. It is important for us and your children that we are able to contact you in case of an emergency.