Basket Range a dual stream school in 2017...

Over the last 18 months the Governing Council, Basket Range Community and the Steiner Hills Community have worked tirelessly to introduce a Steiner stream at our school. Their belief and hard work have made this dream a reality. We are now laying the foundations for a successful evolution to a dual stream school in 2017.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals for their leadership and passion Karen Church (Principal 2014) Greg Cramond, (Chair of Governing Council 2015); Kate McMurray and Melanie Higashioka (Ashton Playgroup). Their belief, resilience, determination and persistence inspired Governing Council, Basket Range and Steiner Hills Community, Steiner Steering Committee and DECD personnel to share the dual stream vision and bring this initiative to fruition.

As a dual stream school Basket Range will offer both a Mainstream Education curriculum and a Steiner Education curriculum alongside each other. In line with our strong belief in one school one community students will work together in the afternoons (see draft timetable). Our mission is to ensure we meet the needs of all children through an authentic and balanced education, allowing them to go into the world with confidence.

As a small Hills Community school, in a unique setting Basket Range has always had a strong sense of community. We believe that a community approach to education is central to the success of our dual stream school. This philosophy is evident in our curriculum units of work collaboratively planned, taught and showcased. Examples of these units are Snakes, Bridges and our current unit on redeveloping the schools shared areas.

At Basket Range we pride ourselves in maintaining our small class sizes, having committed teachers and the privilege of working in this unique environment. We have an ongoing commitment to sister schools in China, Philippines and APY Lands (Mimili) and we celebrate the knowledge that once a Basket Range student always a Basket Ranger.

I am looking forward to continuing this journey with you.

Nancy Saccoia
Principal
Room 3 News from Sue...

This term has been very busy. In Room 3 we are continuing our History/Geography studies with a focus on Indigenous perspectives and have begun to examine the map of Australia with its many language groups. The children have insightful understanding about what it might mean to lose one’s language and how that could impact on a person’s sense of identity and belonging. I am continually in awe of your children and their ability to sympathise and connect with others and others conditions and situations. What a wonderful world it would be if it were filled with such human beings.

The big news this term is the arrival of our Tree-house. In Week 1 of this term we began our lesson on ‘The Story of Money’. We had an introduction to this in Term 1 when we discussed what we might like to have in our classroom that would be something that everyone could enjoy and decided that a Tree-house would be perfect. We found out how much it would cost and explored ideas about how we might earn some money to get one. We had lots of ideas flowing including asking parents to just give us the money! After further discussion we agreed that earning the money ourselves would be the best idea because we would use our own skills and resources to get

So, as it was the season for tomatoes, we decided to make Tomato Chilli Jam and Kasundi to sell at the Winter Fair. The children washed their hands, put on aprons, pulled up their sleeves and chopped, scooped and peeled 10 kilos of tomatoes. Then we measured the ingredients into a big pot ready for the long slow cook.

Our product looked very appealing in its jar with its little fabric covering and colourful label and the children were quite sure it would be irresistible to buyers. At the Winter Fair a number of the children helped on the stall and practiced taking money and giving change. Once all the takings had been counted they were delighted to find we had more than enough money to buy our prize.

Before we went to purchase our Tree-house we learnt about trading and bartering. The children all chose an object from the class and were given 10 glass beads each to add to their exchange if needed. They discussed what makes one thing of more value than another and compared and considered the value of an object based on its usefulness.
Room 3 News from Sue...

From the variety of objects they had gathered they decided the one thing of most value was a small ball of blue wool (over the set of painting jars in a carved wooden stand or the guitar), as the wool could be used for so many different things. Many afternoons were spent setting up shops and making products to attract buyers. We ‘borrowed’ some real money from Sara and learnt the different values and how to work out change.

We discussed the notion of trading the 44 jars of product we had made instead of giving money for the Tree-house. At first the children were very excited to think that Luci might love what they had made, but then someone suggested that she mightn’t like tomatoes or chilli or spicy chutney! Someone else thought that she might need other things than food and the conversation turned to the things that people need in order to make their lives comfortable, as well as the different things that we need to pay for, such as rent, power, water, food, wood for heating, clothing, entertainment, etc... Perhaps, suggested one of our youngest children, Luci would like to make these decisions for herself. So in the end they decided the best idea was to give Luci the money (which Luci very much appreciated).

We had learnt about the history of money and how and why we came to need something that could represent an amount or value and which can be used to buy anything rather than just the thing you could trade for. Our learning has been an exploration and I think the children have a very good grasp of what money is and what it represents.

And so, we journeyed to Luci’s shop and made our purchase and whilst we were there the children made lists and added up the amounts of other things that caught their eye. Finally we brought our treasure home and invited the ‘big kids’ to come and see it. We think they really like it too.
Room 2 News from Claire...

What a busy and exciting term we have had so far—it’s hard to believe it is only Week 4! The children in Room 2 have been busy with excursions, planning projects and getting together with Room 3 to share their learning.

For our Maths focus this term we are planning out the refurbishment of some of the outside areas in school. On Friday’s we get together with the younger children to plan and organise the project, then during the next week we work on the maths skills we may have used or need in order to consolidate the learning. The past few weeks we have been working with data.

In Literacy, we have focused on story telling with a particular focus on autobiographies and different styles of writing (we are currently working in the style of Roald Dahl using ‘Boy’ as our inspiration). We have also used Drama methodologies to explore some of the ideas from the book and will continue to use Drama to explore themes and help to plan out some of our literacy ideas.

Science and geography will be more in focus this term with children having an individual project to complete which will not only enable them to explore aspects of the curriculum within their own year level but also have a project they have control over and can relate to. The start of the project began with a trip to the zoo exploring threatened species and in week 4 the children will be starting their individual projects.

Our class has begun to explore the ‘Seesaw’ app on the iPad and so far most of the children are able to access and use the app correctly. Once we are successful in using it I intend to invite parents to download the parent Seesaw app on their smart phones, tablets or computers. Here you will be able to see some of the work your children do in class as they will be able to share it with you.

So far the term has been non stop with trips and activities and three extra faces in the classroom. Now our Korean guests have gone home its business as usual and the class feels small again. That said no time to rest we have two more exciting excursions coming up for book week next week!
Room 2 News from Claire...

Zoo Education Unit

We had some time for fun at the Zoo Playground
Winter Fair
Sunday 3 July 2016
Upcoming Dates...

Saturday 20 August
Steiner Talk 9:30 am

Monday 22 August
Book/Science Week Excursions to Stirling Library
John Gardner, MP visit

Tuesday 23 August
Excursion—Peasant Prince 8:30am sharp

Wednesday 24 August
School Open Day—Prospective Students (11:30—12:30)

Friday 2 September
Country Canteen (Student Run)

Friday 9 September
School Closure Day

Wednesday 14 September
School Open Day—Prospective Students (5-6pm)
Governing Council Meeting 6:30pm

Basket Range Primary School
16 Cramond Rd Basket Range SA  5138
PH: 8390 3466       FAX: 8390 1062
EMAIL: dl.0511_info@schools.sa.edu.au

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