Basket Range Primary School Newsletter

Friday 4 March 2016  Term 1, Week 5

Exciting Times....

This term started well with students, staff and community settled happy and ready for exciting times.

New students

I would like to begin this newsletter by welcoming our new students; Orson N, Amber S, Zeni B, Sage W and Oscar L to our school. They are enjoying the exciting times and adventures in Rm. 3.

Uraidla Show and Sustainability Fair

This special South Australian country fair was celebrated by the school and community. As a school we developed a display and made our special scarecrow Constable B. Ranger, for the Uraidla and Sustainability Fair. He is currently visiting Lenswood Primary School but will return soon.

It was exciting to hear that one of our students Sage W, received a first place for her decorated egg family and a third for a basket of 12 eggs. Congratulations Sage!

Connecting with Others

As part of the Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) we have continued to work in partnership with Talomo Central Elementary School.

In 2013 the school raised money to provide sports equipment for the school and in 2014 we sponsor two students assisting with their educational needs. In 2015 we continued our partnership by sending over a book written and illustrated by our students titled ‘Our Place’. They reciprocated by sending photos and stories of their school and special places.

Small Schools working together

As a small school we value opportunities to meet, work and learn with other small schools and sites. Some of the ways we work and learn together are;

♦ As a Professional Learning Community with our cluster schools, Uraidla, Norton Summit, Lenswood and Upper Sturt. Educators from these schools engage with Professional Learning by working together to plan, share and assess units of work.

♦ By participating in a Combined Sports Day. The other schools competing are Scott Creek, Heathfield, Upper Sturt, and Mylor.

♦ By hosting special events such as Kindergarten Easter Activities. This provides opportunities to make links with pre school children and families in a fun interactive way.

This year we will deepen our connections by working together to share ideas and learning about what is the same and what is special and unique about our places. We are also in the process of linking with a sister school in China.

Chinese New Year wishing tree.

Nancy Saccoia
Principal
Room 3 News from Sue...

What a busy beginning to the year we have had in Room 3.

We love our beautiful room at the bottom of the path, with our sandbox and toys, our sink with running water and a place to sit to remove our outside shoes and put on our slippers before we enter the class. Our room is a calm space divided into areas for both formal and informal instruction.

One of the first things we did in week 1 was to work out the volume of the big sandpit so we could order the sand for our ‘maths in the sandpit’. Shaded by tall gum trees and overlooking a valley of orchards and vineyards, the children build roads, construct shelters, make forests with small branches and create tunnels and ditches for waterways. They develop spatial awareness and social skills such as co-operation and inclusiveness, and learn to share materials and resources. They work out their own rules and what is ‘fair’ in their play; so much opportunity for deep learning.

Judith Cranwell is once again providing invaluable support to the children with their reading and some spelling games. They enjoy their time with Judith up in the library at the new big wooden table, and have settled into the routine nicely.

Each week we have library time and this week the children scrubbed and swept the verandah and pews so they can sit overlooking the garden and read to one another. We also spent a busy morning cleaning out the chook coop for the arrival of two new chickens who are turning out to be excellent layers. Every day we go and collect the eggs, check their food and give them the contents of the scrap bucket. There is a rumour that some bantams will soon be joining them.

Wednesday afternoon is now our regular gardening time and we are very grateful for the generosity of Luke Stone offering his expertise in teaching the children about composting and the science of gardening. We are planning on building a shade house close to Room 3 so that we can propagate some plants for our Winter Fair and Luke has also offered to help and guide us in this.

Thursday afternoon is cooking and craft time. The children have been making knitting needles and we are about to start learning to knit. Our first project is a knitted recorder bag. The children are very keen to learn recorder and lessons will commence next term. Alternate Thursdays we attend Chef Callum's cooking class.

This term we are baking bread and making products to sell at the Winter Fair. Our first endeavour is Tomato Chilli Jam.

I would like to thank the parents and carer's of the children in Room 3 for your tremendous support in making the start to the year as smooth a transition as possible. The children have had many new things to take in and are settling in and finding their place within the class. You have all contributed to this. Rosie, the flowers are a joy.
Room 2 News from Deb...

From the mouths of the class:

These last weeks we have been doing many fun things. We also now have a pen pal from Lock. I have enjoyed talking to my pen pal by sending letters, you find out many things about how life in Lock is. Most people asked how our school is, so watch out teachers.

We made some grass heads, if you don’t know what grass heads are talk to a room 2 student. We also made a story up about them which was good fun (at least for some people!)

We had good fun making wax pictures and painting them. We got to take the candles we used home. If you have not seen the candle or do not have it then be careful because you might see your kid set the house on fire.

We learnt a lot about Captain Cook and what he did. We have learnt about the Batavia and what happened on the ship. We have also progressed one percent in Chinese. Don’t worry parents that’s not bad news it is a new high score!

In music we are singing Hall of Fame. I bet you didn’t know that, that, that … Um, that the, um well that… Cows can walk upstairs but not down! True fact … I think.

So far this year I have enjoyed have new pen pals. We write to each other and answer their questions. The school is in Lock in the centre of the Eyre Peninsula. We also have made Chinese wishing trees which the Chinese use at Chinese New Year to hang their wishes for the year on. We also have a new Chinese teacher called Amelia. She is great fun. We play a Chinese game almost every lesson which is really fun.

I have learnt the history of Captain Cook. We have found out that Captain Cook’s first ever job was a shopkeeper and he had 5 siblings. We also have learnt some new fitness games. There is one called bee keeper where there are two bee keepers and they need to catch all the bees and put them in the hive.

Did you know that Captain Cook was not the first one to set foot on Australian soil? There were a lot of explorers that had landed on Australia but didn’t know that this was it and that it was this big. Also did you know that Captain Cook was killed in Hawaii? He was stabbed to death.

So far this year I have enjoyed making my grass head and writing a narrative about it too. I enjoyed making the candle was painting because they are fun and they teach me new things. I also like the song we are doing in music—Hall of Fame. I have learnt a lot about Captain Cook, like were he grew up and the journeys he made around the world.

Did you know? Our teacher Deb is related to one of Captain Cook’s sisters and related to a boy called Joseph Cummings who made a road to Port Lincoln. There are lots of things about your teachers that you don’t know until they tell you. We did a lot of work about Captain Cook like he was not the first person to go to Australia because the Dutch were trading spices around the world.

Freddy

So far this year I have enjoyed making the grass heads, fitness games, Captain Cook inquiry unit, doing Siya Humba with Robin in music, grass head narratives, leaders meetings, monitor jobs and pen pals from Lock.

I have learnt about the history of Australia and Captain Cook.

We have also been learning about the Batavia which is a boat which found Australia first but sunk off the West Australian coast.

We also learnt some multiplication because we got some multiplication sheets and made a book so that we can practice our tables everyday. We also learnt how to make grass heads.

Did you know that Captain Cook’s first ship he sailed on was called the Free Love?

Oliver

This year so far I have enjoyed music and the fitness games and our pen pals. Because I love music and we are learning ‘Hall of Fame’ and I love that song. I love fitness because we have played lots of games like freeze when we run around and when Deb blows the whistle then we freeze and the last one moving is out.

This year we have pen pals and they sent us letters and we are writing back to them. After a little while we will be able to skype them and email them.

I have learnt that there is only one or two Tree surnames in Australia and that Deb might be related to Captain Cook. His niece married someone named

Abbey

Marnie

Freddy

Oliver

Abbey
Tree which was Deb’s name. Did you know that all kids do not like maths tests but we still have to do them. Did you know that Captain Cook had 6 kids but had no grandchildren because all of his children died before him. **Charlotte.**

This year so far I have enjoyed Grass head making, a fun thing to make out of old stockings and soil and grass seeds. Making the Chinese Wishing Trees for a topic on the Lunar New Year. Also having new pen pals fro a school in Lock, a town in the centre of Eyre Peninsula, I have learnt that people around the world have wanted a new name for the Chinese New Year, because it is not just a Chinese celebration. It is a thing that other countries do as well. I have also learnt heaps about Captain James Cook, like how he had 6 kids, but all of them died before he did and none of them had children, so therefore there are no more Cooks left in his line to this day and so many other things that are too long to list. Did you know that people say that the name Basket Range came around because we are surrounded by hills, and the main area of Basket Range is the valley, so we are shaped like a basket. **Imogen.**

This year so far I have enjoyed doing the grass seed head narratives because I got to write a fun story about our grass seed heads. For my story I copied Undertale. My grass head’s name is Garatt. He has a black hood and a quiver but I have to pull the hood back so that his hair could grow. I have learnt a lot about Captain Cook, the Endeavour and pre 1770 such as the Batavia and the mutinies. Two white mutineers were left on mainland Australia and told to wait for the ships to come and rescue them when there were on the spice route but in the end they all died. Did you know that we actually have pen pals all the way out in Lock? Which is awesome! They sent us some cool letter with sticky notes on them, and we are writing back to them. We are also hoping to skype them, which will be awesome too. Anyway basically I am just saying that I am loving this year so far. **Kalan.**

So far this year I have enjoyed cellophane names, cut outs, double image pictures, fitness games, pen pals from Lock, shape drawings, and the personal collage because they are fun and relaxing. I have learnt much more about maths and I have learnt heaps about Captain Cook and the early settlers. Did you know that Captain Cook wasn’t the first one to discover Australia? **Charlie**

So far this year I have enjoyed making the grass heads and typing up a story about them, also I’ve enjoyed learning about Captain Cook and replying to our new pen pals. Hearing that we are having pen pals all the way in Lock is so exciting for us. I have learnt that Captain Cook was not the first person to find Terra Australis and that his mother and father were called James and Grace Cook, but her maiden name was Pace. Did you know that Captain James Cook called the whole east coast of Australia New South Wales after he had discovered it? Also that he was born on the 27th October 1728 and he died on the 14th February 1779. **Brigitta.**

Did you know that Captain Cook was not the first person to discover Australia? Actually the Dutch were the first people to discover it, not to mention that it was originally called New Holland, then more people can and called it Terra Australis then finally they called it Australia. By the way, do you know how the crew members survived when they were stranded? They didn’t, some of them did build a fort made of ricks which is the oldest fort in Australia, but the other crew members waited for the ships to come and rescue them when there were on the spice route but in the end they all died. Did you know that we actually have pen pals all the way out in Lock? Which is awesome! They sent us some cool letter with sticky notes on them, and we are writing back to them. We are also hoping to skype them, which will be awesome too. Anyway basically I am just saying that I am loving this year so far.

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I have learnt about the Chinese wishing trees and that there is a little red pocket that hangs off the tree full of money from the bank in the Chinese New Year. Also I learnt about Lock, a little town in South Australia. The have a small Area School and it is a farming community. They mostly farm wheat and sheep.
**Governing Council...**

Thank you to those who attended the Governing Council AGM last week.

Congratulations to our Councillors Mark Parker, Nikaela Stephenson, Kirsty Keys, James Houston, and new members Oscar Winter, Mick Lorenz and Deb Duncan.

We also wish to thank those retiring Councillors Sue Gleeson, Kate McMurray and especially Greg Cramond our Chairperson for the last several years.

As Ethan, Greg’s youngest child has finished his primary schooling Greg has retired from Council after a long association of approximately 15 years with the school. He has been a very active member of our community, serving on Governing Council a number of times during his association with us. Greg was a member of the Steiner Steering Committee (he has also retired from this role) and was a steadying voice of reason as the proposal was developed. Greg has been part of a group visiting Mimili on several occasions and over the years has provided us with some fantastic photos of numerous school events. He has always been willing to assist whenever we have called and no matter how strange the request; whether it be to provide a tree to be decorated for the concert, to pull a car up from over the edge in the parking area or to remove wildlife of the feathered variety from a classroom.

We thank Greg for his work over the years and know that our association will not end. Just wait Greg, we are sure there will be a strange request coming your way in the not too distant future...

**Parents & Friends...**

After a hiatus in 2015, the Parents & Friends Group met last week with renewed membership and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see so many families represented and we especially welcome those new to the school. A number of activities have been put in place for this term, namely

**Canteen Fun Day (Friday 11th March)**
Students will have the opportunity to order recess and lunch from a number of tasty (and healthy) options prepared by our volunteers.

**Easter Activities Morning (Thursday 17th March)**
The school has invited children from a number of Kindergartens in our vicinity to participate in this Activities Morning. P&F support staff in a number of ways during the morning. We will run an Easter Basket Raffle and are asking for donations suitable for this. Thank you to those who have already made donations. A raffle book has been sent home to families and we ask that it is returned to school by 11th March. Tickets are $1 each. Further information has been sent home in a separate note.

**Kyton’s Fundraiser (for collection Tuesday 22nd March)**
Order forms were sent out last week and need to be returned to school by Friday 11th March. Don’t forget to ask family and friends if they wish to order!

Further information will be sent by email about these and other upcoming activities. If you wish to join the P&F or find out more about the Group please contact the school. Everyone is welcome!
Our 2016 Student Leaders with Principal Nancy Saccoia.

Upcoming Dates...

Tuesday 8 March
Excursion—Leaders Conference—Year 6,7

Friday 11 March
Canteen Fun Day

Monday 14 March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Thursday 17 March
Easter Activities Morning

Thursday 24 March
Pupil Free Day

Friday 25 March
Good Friday

Monday 28 March
Easter Monday

Friday 1 April
Sports Day

Monday 4 April
Excursion—Maritime Museum—Yr 4-7

Thursday 14 April
Celebration Assembly

Friday 15 April
End of Term - Early Dismissal 2:15pm

Monday 2 May
Start of Term 2