Excursions—such a rich opportunity to embrace new learning, consolidate what is learnt, question and begin to make connections through reasoning and making generalisations. Some refer to such activities as 'extra' curricular; rather, we see the benefits as 'co' curricular. Quality excursions are selected to enrich our teaching curricular with students experiencing first hand, the very places, the historical records and displays, highly technical presentations (VERY life-like holograms and special effects included), experts in their fields that help make sense of their learning.

Our excursion to Glenrowan, Ballarat and Melbourne last week was nothing short of amazing. It was so rewarding to witness our students digest their learning from this year, about Australian life in the 1800's, medieval times, space, and engage in quality questioning and observations to really gain a sense of what life was like; the technology and innovations; how society lived and the changes to our systems that evolved as a result of events from these times (thank goodness!)

Upon our return, the primary students then shared their learning with the infants... Rarely have I seen such a captive audience, and vocal leaders explaining the ins and outs of what they saw, did and learnt! It was priceless.

Aside from specific history and science curriculum knowledge and understandings, there are of course a multitude of 'other skills' experienced as students shared accommodation, practised independent hygiene, budgeted for and ordered meals, used public transport trams, walked and entertained themselves—'screen-free'!

I thank Mrs Patti Gullifer, Viv (MIA) and Mrs Foy for their input into the itinerary. Always a lot of planning and preparation, and a tiring schedule to make the most of our limited time, but an action packed learning experience that only enhances the classroom! Mrs Gullifer also chauffeured us as our personal volunteer bus driver- a generous donation that our students, parents and school appreciate greatly! (Especially in harvest!!)

Transition to high school days are upon us already as the year nears its end. Yesterday Jordan spent the day at Barellan Central. He was among friends as he caught the bus with Michael Conlan. Eliza will be off to St Francis next Thursday and Ben and Bill to Wade High on the 27th November.

Today was our small schools network 'Science Day' kindly hosted by Mr Nathan Hartley and staff at Barellan Central School. Following on from the new
Science Curriculum training Mrs Foy and I led for the P6 network, we approached Barellan to present a range of engaging, hands-on science experiences for our students; with the added aim to up-skill our primary teachers in curriculum experience ideas and technology/equipment to support inquiry based learning. We will have a range of reports next week!

With the end of year nearing, a host of planning and organisation in schools needs to take place. I thank our community members for your participation in our surveys in order to analyse perceptions and values we hold in education and specifically Binya School. These thoughts are collated, along with staff, students and Dept of Education policies and directives, to guide our planning for the next three year period. Yesterday Mrs Angela McNamara (Small Schools Finance Centre manager) spent the day with Mrs van Buuren and I in preparing the Annual Financial Statement for 2014 and making budgeting plans for 2015. On Monday I will be attending a School Planning Day with department representative, Mrs Sue Ruffles and several principals from our P6 network at Beckom.

Hope harvest is treating you all well.

Have a great week!

Karen 😊

Thought for the week –

For all school enquiries and information please call our office on 0269683221. School hours are 8.30-3.30pm. If the office is unattended (even for after hours enquiries), please make sure you leave a message and a staff-member will return your call as soon as practicable. (The machine beeps at us so we won’t miss your call!)

Key Dates for the Diary:

Term 4:

Monday 24th Nov - Friday 5th Dec - Royal Life Saving - Barellan

Tuesday 9th December – Yr 6 Farewell Dinner

Monday 15th December – Presentation Night

Kinder Transition program

Don’t forget we welcome any newcomers to ‘come and try’ at Binya. Our Kinder transition program runs each Thursday from 9am -3pm, however students are welcome to come and look around any time. Bus transport enquiries contact Jan at the Post Office.

Enrolments for 2015 are being taken now 😊
Kid’s Corner

WOW! A real castle! Well not a real castle of course. We went to Kryal castle for our excursion. It is right near Ballarat. Do you know the difference between a fort and a castle? A fort doesn’t have a ‘keep’, so we were just in a fort. There were a lot of different rooms in the castle. My favourite was the torture room. It was creepy but still cool. But my favourite thing was the sword fight. On the Ben scale I give it 10/10. **By Ben**

Ready Fight!

Last week on the primary excursion we went to Kryal Castle. Kryal is not actually a castle because it doesn’t have a keep, it’s really a fortress. There was a throne room, a wizard’s tower, a maze and an arena. Militia training was the best part; we got given foam swords and shields to fight with. Firstly we had teams of year 4 versus year 6 and Patti and Mrs Conlan were the queens. Afterwards we went in the maze Luke got lost.

The Kryal castle visit was too short maybe next time we could spend a whole day there. **By Bill**

The Old Melbourne Jail- definitely no 5 star motel! If anything... horrid! The cells were dark, claustrophobic and upsetting places. No toilet, not enough food, no freedom! 23 hours alone- just a bible, a bucket and a tiny small straw mat as a bed. No friends, no family and certainly NO COMPANY. So many prisoners went insane- I would too...only outside for one hour a day to walk up and down, back and forth. I would not like to get in trouble back then! **By Eliza**

The Old Melbourne Gaol is a gruesome and harsh gaol. People go mad because they were squeezed in tiny cells. Being claustrophobic isn’t a nice feeling. 23 hours in a dark, cold cell is a big punishment for people. If they behaved they moved ‘up’ to the men working
chopping wood and crushing rocks. Woman did laundry, washing and more washing. There was a lack of food light and fresh air. Gruesome deaths happened at the old Melbourne gaol. 133 out of 5,000 prisoners were hung. Gruesome and harsh gaols were built to deter criminals. You’d better not mess with the law!!!

By Milly

In the Melbourne jail the most severe criminals got hung. The most famous criminal to be hung was NED KELLY. The two rows of cells are small. The top cell is big and 8 people can fit. Thank goodness we don’t live back then with the death penalty! By Luke

Last week Yrs 4-6 went to Melbourne. We went to the MCG, which was my highlight. We got to go in the change rooms that the players use, they were massive! We even went on the ground! We went into the games room which included football games and cricket games - I did every game. They were awesome! The excursion was great 😊 By Harry

And we stopped at Shane Crawford’s sign at Findlay! How could we not after reading his book in class 😊

Remembrance Day 11th November

Remembrance Day was yesterday. We made red poppies and the year 6 read out information about Flanders Field. We stood quietly for 1 minute at 11.00 to remember the soldiers in all wars and those who have died in war. By Leah
Science day

On Friday, Binya Public School is going to Barellan for a science day. We will be doing lots of fun experiments. We will be watching science demonstrations and doing science experiments. There are other schools coming like Barellan K-6, Rankins Springs, Weethalle and Beckom. It should be a fun day with all the activities. By Jordan

K-2

In Science K-2 are learning about the life cycles of different animals.

Sam – Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Claire – Life Cycle of a Turtle

Emily – Life Cycle of a Chicken

Greer - Life Cycle of a bird
Patrick – Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Millie R – Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Bailey – Life Cycle of a Chicken

Leo – Life Cycle of a Platypus
**Year 6 Fundraiser**

**For Sale**

**Zooper Doopers**

**When:** lunch time

**Cost:** 50c

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As the weather is getting hotter students are welcome to put their lunches in the fridge. The students are to place their lunches in the pink bucket in the morning. **Can all containers be clearly labelled to save confusion at lunch time.**

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Mrs Clifford provides fantastic educational learning experiences for interested toddlers and pre-schoolers each week! Mums and dads can sit and enjoy a nice cuppa and cake while the kids are entertained.

**Each Friday 10-11.30am... rain, hail or shine!**

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**P & C News**

**Next Meeting:** Monday November 24th at 7pm.

All agenda items and RSVP’s to Kirsty Rowston (president).

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**P & C Raffle**

**Tickets available at the school and Binya Post Office**

**Ticket price:** $5.00

Drawn at Presentation Night – Monday 15th December

**1st Prize:** Kawasaki KFX50 ATV

- Courtesy of J & P Motorcycle

**2nd Prize:** T7500 Pedal Tractor with Loader

- kindly donated by Codemo Machinery Services Pty Ltd

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We still have many cakes/slices containers! **If you are missing a container** from the garden festival call in at any time and collect it or phone the school to enquire (0269683221).