Welcome to Week 8 newsletter.

Frocks were in full frolic, plenty of bling, high heels and legs on show ;-) Great food, great company and great music. It would be an understatement to say the Binya Ball was just a success... it was fantastic!

With a little over 100 people in attendance for the revival of the Binya Ball, and many apologies, it was evident that both our local and wider community are keen to get this event back on the calendar 😊

We have been very fortunate to have support of numerous people and groups to assist us in the smooth running of the Ball:

Thankyou to

- **Blame Sally** (Matt van Buuren and Sally Guest) in donation their time and fantastic music!
- **Our P&C** members for their assistance and support in cleaning and gathering their friends.
- **Edna Conlan** for her amazing floral displays - Edna spent all day creating! **Danae Conlan** for assisting her in collecting wildflowers from the hills 😊
- **via Carl Chirgwin** who publicised our event and attracted guests from Griffith. **Community Radio** is also making a $200 donation to assist the running of Kidz Konnect!
- **Yenda Hotel** (Lance and Jodie Gilbert) and **Bruce and Bernadette Bandy** for donating the use of their bus for transport ... and our volunteer drivers **Sally Irons and Owen Brown**.
- **MIA Quickskips** (Brian Irvin) for supporting us with a skip for rubbish removal.
- **Community members** for sending in photos for our walk down memory lane.

- **Community donations** - Noel & Jan Evans, Lesa & Brent Jamieson, Geoff Irvin, Rhonda & Norman Ellis, Jeanette and Simon Brumby.

Four students, very exhausted yet high on adrenalin, bounded their way back to school on Wednesday afternoon! These lucky students participated in two full days of fun activities, including a sleepover, with Hanwood Public School at the **Peer Support Camp** this week. Here’s an extract from an email Mr Gary Workman (HPS assistant principal) sent us:

> It was fantastic that Binya Public was able to be part of this excursion as well. You should be extremely proud of your four senior students. Their manners and behaviour on the excursion were wonderful. Pass on my congratulations for their effort and enthusiasm during the excursion.

> I must also say a huge thank you to Lois (Clifford). She did an amazing job over the two days assisting in a variety of ways. Her help was greatly appreciated.

> We are very grateful for the opportunity to be involved! Congratulations to all involved 😊

The P6 Network **Spelling Bee champions**- Bill Geddes declared champion! Eliza Burcham runners-up! Congratulations to our senior students on their success! And, indeed to all our students who participated well in a very tight competition. ALL our students made it through several rounds before being eliminated.

Have a great week, Karen 😊

**SPORT**

**Sports Captains**- Ben Rowston and Bill Geddes

**AFL**- Western-Riverina AFL trials where held yesterday. Harry and Ben went to the trials. Unfortunately they didn’t make the team; however they did win one game from three. It was a great day.

**Trent Barrett Shield**- on Wednesday, 19th of March, Harry Rowston played in the Small School’s Rugby League team in the NSW knockout in Griffith. They won all their games and Harry got the best player in the team award. Well done.
Meanwhile Leah Boyd played in the girl’s Austag team. They lost their first game so were knocked out of the draw, however played an extra two games in the consolation rounds and won them! It was a great day and Leah really had fun.

Notes are going home for expressions of interest in Griffith Zone Touch trials to be held in week 10.

Next week is a quiet week for sport! We might actually stay in school and catch up on a bit of work ;-) 

Leadership

School Captains- Eliza Burcham and Jordan Boyd

Jordan- Harmony Day

Stomp, stomp, stomp the kids fly off the bus and into school in their Harmony Day clothes. 21st of March is National Harmony Day. The main colour of harmony day is orange; the colour they wear to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia. Yesterday we did Harmony Day hands in all different colours. We decorated the hands with henna art from India. It was hard doing the henna art, got to be an artist to do it properly!

Eliza- Peer Support Camp

The year 6 from Binya along with Hanwood PS year 5 & 6 attended a peer support camp on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Barellan Hall.

Hanwood and Binya participated in foot art and tribal logos, which was where the people in your group made a name and a logo for your team. We did some team building games. Then we had a talk about leadership skills and after that made some shelters out of masking tape and newspaper. We did some trivia before we had to make up a team. We also did decorating of helium balloons. Next we played tooth brush hockey. We also performed our songs - that was so funny! The next day we had Live Fit do some activities and we got to for a swim. Yay! A big thank you to Miss Simpson, Mr Workman and Mrs Clifford. It was a great experience to meet new people and to learn new skills.

P&C NEWS -

Next meeting on Monday March 24th, 7.30pm.

All agenda items to Mrs Kirsty Rowston (president) to be distributed for discussion at the meeting.

Hats, hats hats!!!

Please continue to talk with your children about the importance of wearing hats and sunscreen.

“The Great Reading Wall of Binya” is under construction!

And remember community members, you too can keep reading and send in your details, so we can add you to our Great Reading Wall of Binya! The children love to see your additions 😊
Danessa Mickan has been reading ‘Bush Nurses’ - inspiring true stories of nursing bravery and ingenuity in rural and remote Australia, as edited by Annabelle Brayley.

Some of these stories will raise the hairs on the back of your neck, others will make you laugh and some will make you cry. But there's no doubt you'll be amazed at the strength of character and the skill of these nurses who are the backbone of medical practice in rural and remote Australia.

What is Bailey Drinkwater reading? Interview by Bill Geddes

What are you reading? The 26 Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths.

What is it about?
It’s about two boys that live in a treehouse and write books.

What was the funniest part?
The funny part was when Terry got all of the flavours of ice-cream available.

How did you come to choose this book?
I have already read it and loved the book, so I decided to read it again.

What are your thoughts and recommendation on this book?
I like the book because it’s funny and silly.

This week’s book chat is looking at the fabulous children’s picture book author, Mem Fox. An ‘old favourite’ with many families starting out in picture books with quality books such as, Time to Sleep, Boo to a Goose, Hattie and the Fox and Where is the Green Sheep? Some of these books are available in ‘board book’ publications also, which is great for babies and early toddlers to engage with the book without fear of ‘soggy dribble syndrome’! These books are proven to be excellent as pre-reading skills are developed through predictable patterns and rhyme. Many young children become able to read these stories as their first books to read ‘independently’... and don’t they feel clever!

Mem Fox has other fabulous stories such as Possum Magic and Koala Lou (I do love you) which are brilliantly written in engaging storyline and illustrations, to convey a message. Many busy mums and dads would relate to Koala Lou with her many children consuming so much of her time that she doesn't always have time to remind her children of her love. Such books are a great way to speak to your child about sensitive issues, i.e. through the ‘distance’ of book characters.

Mem Fox is so passionate about the importance of giving children exposure to a huge variety of quality literature. She has written many parenting books to encourage parents on the do’s and don’ts to support your child in their exciting journey into the world of literature. One such book is, ‘Reading Magic’, a good read.
UK visitors report:

Ding-dong! Ding-dong! Imagine that deafening sound ringing and ringing? I reckon I would scream after my nice, quiet, peaceful upbringing in Binya. Mum's best friend Rhondy and her family came and talked to us about England. The arts and architecture was intriguing. Big Ben clock tower is enormous, as big as a skyscraper! But wait—there's more! Buckingham Palace is another humungous building. It's the home of the royal—Queen Elizabeth. I think I'd be afraid those guards at the palace, standing stiff as statues looking all grumpy and serious. How amazing are those attractions? One day I'll be there looking at them with my own eyes! By Milly

Luke, Milly and Mrs Conlan experimented using Seven Steps to writing success...

Luke's *before* piece:

On Friday Maddison and Jake came to school. They showed us their money. The money is called pounds and pence.

Luke’s *after* version:

Wow! I couldn’t believe Rhondy kept pulling out note after note after note! We quizzed her about the money they use in England. ‘You must be rich!’ we laughed. She showed us different pound notes, and coins that they call pence. The notes were a bit different, but wow, I was amazed by the number of different coins—hexagons, round circles, ovals and a mixture of coins made in silver, bronze, gold and even two-toned! “You better keep that wallet safe from us Binya Bandits!” Travel safe.

By Luke Forster.

The infants analysed at the different strategies we used:

Dollars, cents, pounds and pence. Rhondy and her family came down from England. They showed us the English money. Rhondy pulled note by note by note from her wallet! The coins are different colours and shapes. They have to trade for Australian money when they're travelling here. *By Leah*

Wow, this girl must be rich! She just keeps pulling money out of her wallet. Rhondy came from England. She told us about big buildings they have in England. Their money is very different, shapes like hexagons and circles and a mixture of both! It was interesting to see other pounds and pence. *By Harry*
Watch out! Never pass the terrifying Binya forest. If you do you will come to a blood-curling castle! You will never return because of the sinking sands... *By Claire*

The moat is surrounded by water. If you go in you would be dead. In the moat it is deep and if you try to swim across there is a sign that says “You can’t swim”. *By Patrick*

Retreat! Sling.... The archer set off six lethal arrows! The Binya knights won! Once we made knights in art class to protect Binya Public School. No dragon, no giant, no serpant can penetrate our castle walls! Binya is safe and sound. *By Sam.*

Beware of the deadly decorations. If you touch it you will be dead. *By Millie R*

In the castle there are some knights. We made the castle out of cardboard and made the knights out of egg cartons, feathers and googley eyes. *By Greer*

Beware of the Binya Castle it is deadly! Whoever enters will never return. *By Leo*

On Thursday we made some hands and it was fun. Mrs Clifford’s was the best because she did beautiful patterns. I went home and did ‘hanna’ on my hand! *By Emily*

On Thursday Binya School made Harmony Day hands to put on the castle. We decorated them and it was fun. We wrote Harmony words on the middle of our hands – belonging, sharing and co-operating. *By Bailey*

**Spelling Tip of the week**...

IGH - says ‘I’

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<td>G - go</td>
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<td>H - high</td>
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Using mnemonics to remember tricky sound combinations ... making up silly/nonsense verses can help remember more complicated spellings.
HOME LEARNING......

Primary project on Botswana EXTENSION - students will have until the end of term to complete their project on Botswana. Year 4 are each working on one aspect to collate and contribute to the class project, whilst Year 6 are working independently.

Please ensure you bring in your work for Library sessions to work on it in class too ☺

Screeching into the car park, quick phone call to school, bursting through the doors to an empty function room?? Late already.. now lost?? Hear the murmur of voices, perhaps I’ll ask that group of cleaners… No! it’s a meeting. Hang on, looks like a group of teachers- you can pick them, right? Is this it? Nine participants?? Welcome. Sit down. Sign on. There’s your book. Now everyone, you have one minute to write on each of the following five topics.. time starts now.

Oh great. Room of silence. I have to write? I didn’t even get a coffee. Think I need to go to the toilet. I can’t do this. I don’t even know what we are doing. Mine’s going to be stupid. Bet she makes us share. Nine people- how the heck am I going to hide?! I should just go home. 15 seconds- your kidding? I better get something down or I’ll be in trouble.

Oh, you have got to love professional learning days- puts you right back into the learner’s seat and realise what our students go through each day! The good news is I did share. I was terrible. Others were better- authors, high school English teachers… and me. But as the day progressed I learned new skills in writing. I was set up for success. Sharing wasn’t actually that bad as I began to feel comfortable within the room. I learned from others. I had learned the tools to write better......

And that is what I plan to now do for our students:

Seven steps to WRITING SUCCESS.

Key Dates for the Diary:

Term 1:
Young Leaders - March 30-31 (Year 6)
Tashi (Regional Theatre) April 7 (K-4)
Debating seminar (Griffith) April 7
Scripture - April 9

Term 2:
Cross Country (Yenda) - May 2
Small School Athletics - May 9
AFL Gala Day - May 16
THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi

WHAT’S ON NEXT WEEK?

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<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Piano Infants</strong></td>
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