What a fantastic finish to our intense term of learning at Binya P.S! There’s been no taking it easy this week either!

Our P&C ran a fantastic Bikeathon day on Sunday. It was beautiful weather, lots of kids, a great course to ride, beautiful food and great company with so many coming along from our community. It was all in the aide of Cancer Research with the tally to date being $680! Thank you to the hard working P&C volunteers and community contributions.

Mrs Foy and I attended a regional training day in Griffith on Tuesday about the upcoming School Planning Process 2015-2017. As a result of the many new reforms that have hit education, this process has undergone changes also. The session was very informative, enabling us to gain some direction in how to ascertain necessary priorities in order to effectively educate our children as 21st century learners. It’s an interesting thought, when most of the jobs our children will perform later in life haven’t even been invented yet? What skills do we therefore need to equip our students with, in order to be prepared? Part of the process is to gain feedback from our community. We thank our visitors for their participation in our community survey today. It is important to gauge how we are perceived in the community, assess what people think is important in education and align that with what we do well, and what we need to develop. Surveys will also be posted out and discussions with staff, students and P&C will follow in the ensuing months.

On Wednesday we again enjoyed involvement from our community who so kindly accepted their invitation to come and talk to our students about World War periods in Australian History, through their family stories and experiences. We soon came to realise there are far more stories ‘out there’ among our community than there are students to hear!

The children were put into groups and interviewed Brenda Spears and Kevin Rowston about their father, Harold Rowston in WWII. (Jan Evans also sent along some artefacts to contribute). Bob Spears spoke to a group about what it was like as a very young boy growing up in Tharbogang during the war period. George Turner offered a view as a care-free teenager in rural Australia, with acknowledgement of women and what their roles were. Ms Alison Johnstone came back to talk about her Great-grandfather, William Williams, as an aboriginal soldier, and prisoner of war in WWI in France!

The children will now spend some time next term collating their information, and creating a historical recount of each person. We hope to host a special assembly to share the students’ work next term. And to solve the problem about the diversity of people in our community with family histories to share, we plan to interview more people next year in the centenary year of Gallipoli.
Today of course was our student display of concern for other’s health and challenges through their ‘Kids Care’ special community assembly. It was quite a moving day as we thought about a Griffith friend, youngster Lexi Witton and her family facing a long road of treatment ahead for her leukaemia. We also supported the ‘ice-bucket’ craze in effort to raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease in the hope that funding will enable much needed research to discover causes and treatment. Our assembly reflected on the many locals who have suffered as a result of this disease. We kept sight of the cause... before the dunking of the principal!!! I shiver as I type!!! I could only keep sight of the good cause... why couldn’t it have at least been a warm day?!

Thankyou so much to the many people, who donated food for our sales, made monetary donations, attended our students’ assembly and celebrated their achievements, and of course supported by purchasing raffle tickets to win the right to dunk me! And the winner was... Will Tiffen with our student Leo Geddes who was drawn from the ‘good behaviour’ lucky dip draw (I have never seen the children so well behaved as the last two weeks?! There is always detention next term ;-) I would also like to thank our staff for their tremendous support in making the day run so smoothly. And to Mrs Forster for her beautiful ‘Lasagne Lunch!!!!’

Holidays are upon us now and I wish you all a happy and safe break. Thank you for your support of our students and school community. We look forward to working with you next term.

Karen 😊

School Leadership

Congratulations to our student leaders for their fantastic ‘Kids Care’ day at school today. Our students had a vision to assist others in their time of need through health challenges. Together they planned with the leaders to host a day of great fun and celebration, and raised some funds to help Lexi Witton and Motor Neurone Disease research. Mrs Forster will be taking $300 to the Lexi charity organisation and Mrs van Buuren will deposit $1010 in the Motor Neurone NSW foundation this afternoon! A huge effort from our supportive community. We thank everyone for their generous support, and for coming along and making an enjoyable day for our community to wind up the school term. Total Amount Raised $1310.

Rankin’s Springs Gala Day

Last week K-6 participated in the Rankin Springs round robin Gala Day. The infants did tabloids and had a lot of fun. Primary competed in the round robin in soccer and netball. We played a full day versing each school in both sports with 7 players! It was exhausting but fun. We missed out on the overall trophy by a mere point! But we did win the handicap. Better luck next year!
Tennis coaching begins Thursday 9th October for our Term 4 weekly sport. We will be catching up on our last round of Barellan sport on Friday Week 1, as we had to postpone due to our ‘Kids Care’ day.

By Ben Rowston

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**Book Chat** – Congratulations to Patrick Mickan and Sam Conlan who joins the fifty sessions of reading club!!! What an amazing effort that is?!

Congratulations to **all** our ‘reading worms’ who reached their target this term. Below is a picture of the children who have been rewarded for their good reading ethic, with more reading! A book prize!! Happy holiday reading everyone 😊

Eliza Burcham, Ben Rowston, Milly Burcham, Eliza Burcham, Sam Conlan, Leah Boyd and Claire Burcham.
(absent: Patrick Mickan)

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**Home Learning Challenges**

Primary students **projects** about a war hero/legend is due Friday, Week 1.

Everyone should: **Read, read, read!!** Next term we are looking at the **bushranger era**, and considering whether people are actually heroes or villains?! You might find some books that prepare some background knowledge on our topic.

**Writing Holiday Challenge!!**

_Students are challenged to put their holiday TV/Movie/Reading time to good use._

Over the holidays the sun will start shining, but ‘occasionally’ kids might be watching T.V. Here is a challenge to make it meaningful... and competitive, with a prize for the winner of course! Students are challenged to find:

**Step 1.** An ad that follows the story graph perfectly

**Step 2.** A movie/book/ magazine article that has a sizzling start

**Step 3.** A T.V serial/book with a great tension scene.

**Step 4.** A cartoon/comic with terrific dialog.
Step 5: An extract from a TV or book with a Show, don’t tell segment.

Step 6: A deleted movie scene that reveals Ban the Boring.

Step 7: A movie with an Ending with impact.

Record your findings, and prepare a means to present your results to the class after the holidays - eg outline how each item demonstrates the focus and supporting why you think your choice meets the criteria, perhaps supported with a youtube clips, copies of book etc.

Kid’s Corner

As Australia fast approaches the centenary of its involvement in World War 1 at Gallipoli we find it more and more difficult to find ‘original veterans’ from the war periods. Students have considered how important it is becoming to continue our family and Australian historical stories long after our loved ones have passed on. Hence we were very fortunate to interview some of our local families who were able to talk to us about their family involvement in war. Students will work in groups to construct each person’s story and present a summary of their historical recount next term. Meanwhile here are some interesting facts our students have recalled from the interviews that form a basis of their summary note-taking:

Our infants children used the ‘sketch to stretch’ strategy to help her recall information facts!

Sam Conlan: Mum, are we winning the war? Mum, what is a war? Mum, when will the war end?

Poor Bob Spears was only three when the war started; he didn’t know what was happening. Life was a breeze for poor little Bob. But, they didn’t have many things… shoes were precious. So he used to walk to school in his shoes, but hid them under the bridge on the way so he ran around school barefoot… that way he never wore his shoes out too quickly! And, never told his mum his real secret!

Leo Geddes: Bob’s dad was too unfit to go to war. He went to work in the coal fields. His mum couldn’t go to war either; she stayed home to look after Bob, who was only a young fellow. At the end of the war they had a big celebration – they had a dance and party at the hall. After the war he said lots of things changed- like music, television and computers.

Leah Boyd: Bob Spears remembers how rare many basic foods were. He told about his mum getting the absolute most out of her tea leaves. She used to hang them out to dry so then they could use them over and over… they were usually only good twice! He never had sugar in his tea because it was rationed with coupons – and that was a waste on him!
Amelia Burcham: Riding his push bike to town (Tharbogang to Griffith) was an exciting achievement and lots of fun for a young Bob Spears, as that was his first time going to the movies! It was also the first time he ever tasted a meat pie... for a whole 4 cents!!

Greer Geddes: William Williams was an aboriginal soldier. He was a prisoner of war in France. When he escaped he got shot. He went to hospital in England and then he went back to the war again. He was happy after the war. He came home to his family.

Patrick Mickan: Cobar Bill Williams went to war to fight the other countries to protect Australia. He was an aboriginal soldier. He got caught in a net and was captured and put in prison during the war. He got out and fought again. When the war was over he came back to his house. He won two medals.

Ben Rowston: Ms Johnstone came and told us about her great-grandfather, ‘Cobar’ Bill Williams- nick-named ‘Cobar’ because came from the outback area near Cobar. He was one of the ‘Black Anzac’s’. He had tried to join the war a few times, but was denied because he was aboriginal. They didn’t have many rights in those days. Eventually he was accepted, as were others. He fought overseas in France, as a communicator in the trenches. He had to jump from trench to trench with a huge backpack on. It was very dangerous.

Jordan Boyd: Cobar Williams was an aboriginal soldier in WWI. He was shipped from Australia to England, then to France, marching for two weeks north to the battle fields. His job was in communications- he had to jump between trenches to deliver messages to captains. He was captured in France by the Germans and kept a prisoner of war for six months. The Germans actually scraped glass on his skin because they thought he was dressed in camouflage. And when they saw the blood coming out, they asked him what country he was from; he said ‘Australia’.
Amelia Rowston: Pop’s dad was a farmer. His name was Harold. At Yenda Pub, Harold signed up to go to war. When he signed up he got a free beer! Harold drove a truck with people in the back in the war. His family stayed home.

Claire Burcham: Oh, when will it rain? I’m sick of the drought. When will it end?

Harold George Rowston owned a farm in Weethalle. Because of the drought Harold had to sell his farm, ‘Notswor’ (name – Rowston spelt backwards!) He moved to Binya and joined the war so his family could have money and clothes to wear from his soldiers pay – better than waiting for the rain!

Bill Geddes: Harold George Rowston went to war in 1939 on a convoy of trucks through the ‘red centre’ of Australia, from Adelaide to Darwin. From there he went on to New Guinea to fight the Kokoda campaign. His job was to drive a truck through treacherous terrain – jungle, persistent rain, malaria disease and the fear of ambush! He had to drive bombs from airstrip to airstrip-if there was no plane, they’d open the tailgate and dump the bomb and just drive! Noone was going to hang around as an easy target for ambush!?

Harry Rowston: Old Pop Rowston, not Kevin- Harold Rowston, went to war when he was 38 years old- that was pretty old to join. He had a farm at Weethalle, which was pretty small and it wasn’t doing too well because of the drought. So he sold it up and tried his luck with a little corner shop in Sydney. It was also hard to earn money so he moved his wife and a young Kevin, back to Binya before he joined up for war.

Eliza Burcham: George Turner was in his teenage years when war broke out. He was living with his aunty at the time to help his uncle on the farm. He didn’t understand all the worry when his aunt and uncle cried at the news. As teenagers are, he still had that carefree attitude and didn’t spend too much time worrying about the war. He did try to join three times, but he was knocked back because he was a rural worker.
Thought for the week

happiness
DOES NOT DEPEND ON
what you have
OR
who you are
IT SOLELY RELIENS ON
what you think

“Buddha”

Kinder Transition program

Our 2015 Kindergarten transition program will start next term (starting October 9th). We welcome Charlie Kite and Max Conlan to our school; two very excited boys! Not only will they join in our fantastic craft program with Mrs Calabria and Mrs Clifford each Thursday, but they also get to join in the tennis coaching sessions with Cheryl Rawle each week... a pretty tough start to school life ;-) 

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 😊

Key Dates for the Diary:

Term 4:

Students and Staff Return Tuesday 7th October

P&C News - MONDAY 13th October, 2014. This an exceptional meeting date to discuss catering for the Garden Festival.

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

Term 4 - spring/summer weather ahead! Bound to be a lovely term for Kidz Konnect! Come along and meet some welcoming Binya/Barellan families who meet each Friday in our beautiful school grounds, set among the Binya hills.

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!
IGA Cards

Please consider supporting our school by asking for an IGA Community Benefits Card at the checkout when next shopping. IGA donates a percentage of money spent back to the school.

What’s on Week 1, Term 4?

**Week 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 6th October</th>
<th><strong>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7th October</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8th October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th October</td>
<td><strong>Tennis</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Kinder Transition</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 10th October</td>
<td>Barellan Sport</td>
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Community Announcements

School Tennis Camp

Monday 22nd September – Wednesday 24th September

9am – 12 midday

Enquiries – Cheryl 0429 126 586