Professional network meetings- Widely recognised educational researcher, John Hattie, proclaims the biggest impact on a child’s learning is the quality of the teacher. Staff at Binya prides themselves on keeping up to date with latest evidence-based research and trends.

Last week I attended the Principal Network Meeting with the Director of Public Schools NSW presenting the Performance Development Framework in tandem with the Country Organiser, NSW Teacher’s Federation. This practice aims to bring a consistency in protocol across NSW in teacher performance appraisal, ensuring all teachers meet a minimum proficient standard. This document nurtures not only the professional development of all staff in line with the standards, but also a professional culture of collaboration… learning is not lonely ;)

Additionally we were challenged to consider what 21st century classrooms/schools could, and perhaps ‘should’ look like… with the view that if we keep doing the same old thing, we are guaranteed to get the same results. Therefore, how can we get better results??? How do we ‘turn kids on’ to engage in their learning? We looked at some scenarios of how other schools are tackling the challenge of personalised learning to engage children in their learning. We will no doubt continue this exploration as we consider how best to prepare our children for the future.

Data around student attendance across our Riverina schools was also discussed as an area of concern - we need our students to be in schools in order to learn! Sounds obvious, however there are around 20% of students absent from our schools in the Riverina each day… thought provoking.

Have a great weekend.
Karen 😊

Term 2– Week 4

Friday 15th May, 2015

Thank you to Brett and Caryn Deaton of PROLOP for their generous donation of $200 to go toward the regeneration of our native trees.

School Website – The school website has been updated with photos and a calendar of events. The newsletter can also be viewed online. The school website address is [http://www.binya-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.binya-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/).

Good Luck to Milly Burcham and Leah Boyd who will be playing in the Small School’s Mortimer Shield girls League Tag Team on Tuesday 19th May.

We wish Harry Rowston all the best as he spends next week in Sydney representing Riverina in AFL. Harry will have a full three days of competition against the best students across the state- no doubt he’ll give it his best, and hope that Riverina comes away with a state title ;)

Next Thursday our students will attend the Griffith Zone Cross Country. This always proves to be a great day of competition and school moral as our kids compete and cheers each other on. Top 4 place getters will qualify to compete at Riverina on June 11. Good luck everyone!
P&C NEWS - Next meeting: AGM
Tuesday 9th June @ 7pm. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. All agenda items to Kirsty Rowston, one week prior to each meeting.

Earphones – could each family please replace their child’s broken/lost earphones for classroom use.

FOR SALE - Bark chips $20 per trailer load. Please contact the school to arrange collection.
Green firewood $80 per trailer load.

KIDZ KONNECT - Meets every Monday at 10am during the school terms.

Come along and join in educational activities that cater for child interaction while mums, dads and grandparents can have a social catch up.

Naplan
Congratulations to our Years 3 and 5 students who participated in the Naplan assessments this week. All our students did their best, were relaxed and fully aware of the purpose of the testing -that is, for teachers and students to reflect on what they have learnt, and where to next 😊 Just another teaching and learning tool.

Teacher Talk - Genius Hour

Some parents may have heard their children mention Genius Hour.

What is Genius Hour?

Genius Hour is time set aside in class for students to study their passion on a new idea or skill once a week for a set amount of time.

Why is Genius Hour important?

Students take ownership in their own learning. They learn about something they want to learn about. Genius Hour sparks curiosity, and students have an opportunity to become their own Genius. Genius Hour encourages life-long learning, imagination, perseverance, self-awareness, adaptability, as well as other life-lessons.

How will Genius Hour work at Binya?

Students will participate in Genius Hour every Monday afternoon if all other work is completed. They spend several weeks researching the topic before they start creating a product that will be shared with the class/school/world. Deadlines are limited and creativity is encouraged. Throughout the process the teacher facilitates the student projects to ensure that they are on task.

As an end project, students must present their topic to an audience.

Some more information is on our school website (see tab ‘Classroom Capers). Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to seeing what our students will create and share. 😊 Helen Foy
Home Learning
Our home learning program is one to enrich children’s learning opportunities, accommodating a variety of thinking styles, to encourage students to want to engage.

Some children enjoy a routine style of worksheet to recall facts – for these students we provide weekly mental books. Some are stimulated by interactive means, which is supported through Reading Eggs and Mathletics online programs. Our Accelerated Reading (AR) program also supports children to read with understanding, as they sit comprehension type tests after reading their chosen novel.

The Learning Grid promotes multi-sensory learning, which is THE best way to learn. If home ‘work’ is set, it should be meaningful and provide children with the opportunity to apply their academic (and other skills) to the real world. Activities in the Learning Grid offer a range of tasks to engage in action, language, creation and independence/responsibility.

K-6 students all have a grid this term. Children participate in an activity of choice and then respond (through writing, photography, drawing, computer design etc). First emphasis is to respond freely – then our Yr 3-5 are using this piece to edit and correct 2-3 spelling words. This enables our students to develop spelling skills as they are needed – their errors show what they don’t know. They can either look at spelling knowledge, or extend with better vocab choices.

Some students have created some amazing pieces of work. See Charlie Kite’s example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s on next week?</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th May</td>
<td>Kidz Konnect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th May</td>
<td>Mobile Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mortimer Shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSWPSSA AFL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th May</td>
<td>Canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st May</td>
<td>Zone X Country @ Lake Wyangan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kid’s Corner

Binya Students will be on display at Central Plaza!!!

Mrs Calabria has been creating some masterpieces with our students titled ‘Looking through the window...’ Students painted on canvas using acrylic paints. They wrote about their inspired art using creative language techniques. They look very professional- just like an art gallery! The canvases are currently being framed and will be at Central in the next couple of weeks. We thank Cheryl Wood for giving us this opportunity to showcase our school.

Looking through my window... I can see a beautiful rainbow cast across a crystal clear pond. Lilly pads hide many creatures just below the surface. *Emily*

Looking through my window... I can see a young, brown sausage dog standing out the back. Tongue panting, tail wagging, eagerly waiting for a pat. *Bailey*

Looking through my window... I can see a beautiful sunset. I love how sunsets bring out the rich colours of the farm. My chestnut mare and foal are resting peacefully as the sun slowly drifts down behind the Binya hills. *Claire*
Looking through my window…
I see a beautiful pond under a tree. Hiding in that pond is a crocodile, snapping happily in the warm water. **Greer**

Looking through my window…
I see an owl. There are two black bees buzzing around in the bright sunny morning. **Max**

Looking through my window…
I see my favourite Froggy! He jumps into the pond and goes Splash! Splash!...Splash! **Charlie**

Looking through my window…
I see three peculiar, white doves sitting high on a branch, all facing the same way. I wonder what has caught their attention? **Leah**

Looking through my window…
I see a young chestnut mare smiling at me! She gives a quick snort, scrapes her hooves and gallops off into the sunset. **Luke**

Looking through my window…
I see a big, weird planet with funny aliens. The planet has only two aliens. They play happily together, having great fun. **Leo**

Looking through my window…
I see a lady with exceptional, elegant, exquisite hair! So colourful and vibrant, with her wavy locks hypnotising you as you pass by. Outstanding! She wakes up every morning like a glorious, colourful dream. **Milly**

Looking through my window…
I see a garden with a beautiful butterfly fluttering between four colourful flowers. It is collecting yummy nectar to eat. **Amelia**

Looking through my window…
I see an oak. This picture is meant to bring out the inner beauty of this ordinary tree and the everyday animals living in it. I got the idea from my dreams about this oak tree...elegant, pretty and calming. **Sam**

**Thought for the week**

*Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same.*

[Image source: pixcelco.com]