On Wednesday 29th October Niangala students participated in a video conference Amazing Ants.

The children learned amazing facts about how incredible ants are. Ants are food for lizards, echidnas and magpies. Ants themselves eat sugary foods, meat and small insects. They also like nectar and pollen. Did you know that:

- people who study ants are myrmecologists?
- ants sting us and don’t actually bite us?
- there are over 10 thousand different ant species in the world?
- a male worker ant lives for only a few weeks?

Dr Abbott from UNE invited the students to take part in an experiment. A piece of cotton wool soaked in sugar solution, a small slice of frankfurt and a piece of scotch finger biscuit were each placed on a card and placed outside for an hour. Five of the cards were placed on the pavement and five were placed in the garden and grass. After an hour the number of ants on each piece of food was counted and the ants were collected and frozen in plastic bags before sending to Dr Abbott. The aim was to find out what foods ants prefer and to collect some ants and send them to Dr Abbott.

It was a fun experiment and the children learnt quite a bit about ants!
Last Friday Chloe Worth, Emily Clarke (Year 6) and Sophie Worth (Year 5) attended Science in the Bush at the University of New England in Armidale. This is a program of free science activities intended to demonstrate the astonishing variety and vitality of the science that happens in our part of the world. It is a day of hands-on workshops, with students taking on experimental challenges and coming face-to-face with cutting edge research.

**Sophie:** I liked the chemistry experiments - they used dry ice - put lolly dinosaurs in a chemical to see how they became extinct - also put a rose in a chemical and then dropped it and it shattered everywhere - used chemicals to make a glowstick effect.

**Emily:** The day was awesome! My favourite activity was when all groups were in the hall watching experiments - they set a pole on fire by putting a candle in the pole - they exploded things like balloons - at the end of the day I won a prize pack of a T-shirt, USB, gift voucher and science kit.

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**PREPARATION FOR PRESENTATION DAY**

Students are working hard to learn a play, dance and songs for Presentation Day. On the day students are to wear full summer uniform, including black school shoes. Some of the performances require a costume. Students will wear the same costume for the dance and play. Please read the following costume details thoroughly and send your child’s costume into school by Thursday 13th November in a plastic bag with their name written on it. They will also need to bring joggers.

**Brock, Noah, Isabell, Tahlia, Harry, Grant, Jayden, Hayden, Chloe and Braith** – t-shirt and shorts

**Emily (Mrs Claus)** – white or Christmas t-shirt and shorts (skirt and hat provided by school)

**Lane (Mr Claus)** – t-shirt and shorts, long grey school pants, gum boots (Santa jacket etc provided by school)

**Sophie and Lillie (reindeers)** – black t-shirt and black leggings (reindeer antlers etc provided by school)

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**Rural Women’s Community Pamper Day**

**Thursday 27 November 10 - 12pm at Niangala Hall**

Tea, coffee and morning tea

Hosted by: Centacare New England North West

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**CALENDAR  TERM 4, 2014**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12 Nov</td>
<td>Year 6 fundraiser, Pasta Night</td>
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<td>Tue 18 Nov</td>
<td>Pete the Sheep, Capitol Theatre</td>
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<td>Wed 19 Nov</td>
<td>Canteen - Hamburgers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Nov</td>
<td>Visual Arts Camp-selected students</td>
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<td>Wed 26 Nov</td>
<td>Presentation Day 1.30pm</td>
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<td>Thu 27 Nov</td>
<td>Rural Women’s Pamper Day</td>
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<td>Mon 1 Dec – Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Wed 3 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Breakfast 8.45am</td>
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<td>Wed 17 Dec</td>
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Leadership and public speaking are a strong focus at Niangala Public School. Assembly is used as an opportunity for the students to develop confident public speaking skills. Each fortnight, the school leaders, Lane Clarke, Chloe Worth and Emily Clarke lead the school through the assembly program which includes standing for the national anthem, student awards and student/class presentations.

At assembly on Thursday October 30, the older students read their creative writing stories *A Night of Terror*. Hayden Clarke, Chloe Worth, Braith Dalton, Grant Carpenter and Tahlia Galvin received merit awards. Congratulations to all students for their efforts.

Mathletics is an internet program based on the Australian mathematics curriculum.

At Niangala Mathletics is used as a support resource and a learning tool to reinforce concepts learnt in the classroom.

Mathletics not only engages children and makes maths fun, but it looks at individual strengths and weaknesses and provides feedback and support to increase students’ confidence in their maths abilities.

The children all have log-ins and can use Mathletics at home.
Niangala P & C

- Parents and friends are asked to provide a plate for **afternoon tea** following **Presentation Day**
- The next meeting will be the AGM and will be held in February 2015.

**Special visitors**

Niangala School welcomed some special visitors from Korea recently with Grant Carpenter’s mother and aunt visiting the school. The children sang the school song and presented the visitors with some Niangala School keepsakes.

Little Aussie Songsters competition


Ready for high school


**INVITATION**

to

**Parents, Caregivers, Relatives and Friends**

Niangala Public School

**PRESENTATION DAY**

**Wednesday 26 November** 1.30pm

at Niangala Hall

followed by afternoon tea.