Welcome to Kindergarten 2014!

Noah Chenoweth

Brock James

Attachments:
Walk for Joints
POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Each year staff at Niangala Public School implement teaching programs as part of the NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) K-6 Syllabus. A whole-school approach is the most effective way to develop a caring, respectful, inclusive, and supportive culture in our school. In addition the school works in partnership with parents/carers to inform and involve them through regular correspondence in newsletters, assemblies and other school activities.

At the beginning of each year students are involved in focusing on constructing a set of positive class rules. They explore the concepts of core values including, being fair, staying safe and setting the standards for acceptable behaviour. Negotiations of these ground rules are based on respect for self and others. It also assists students gain an appreciation and understanding of how individuals bring their own unique strengths to the school community.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Thursday 6th February students participated at the Small School’s Swimming Carnival with students from Nowendoc, Woolbrook and Yarrowitch Schools. This competitive and non-competitive environment provided an opportunity for students to demonstrate skills in swimming and water confidence. It is good to observe students foster positive feelings of success for themselves and others and enjoyment in these outdoor events.

Congratulations to the following students who will participate at the Armidale District Swimming Carnival on Thursday 20th February in their age races and relay:

Emily Clarke, Natalie Dale, Lane Clarke, Darcy and Jack Burge.

CALENDAR   TERM 1, 2014

Thurs 20 Feb    District Swimming Carnival Armidale
Fri 21 Feb      Leaders Induction Assembly 10.30am
                P&C AGM 1.00pm - All welcome
Mon 24 Feb      AASC Swimming Walcha
                ICAS entries due to school
Wed 26 Feb      Peer Support
Mon 3 March     Taster day Walcha Central School Years 5 & 6
                AASC session at school 3-4pm
Mon 10 March    Regional Swimming Carnival
AUSTRALIA DAY POETRY WINNERS
There were many top Aussies at the annual Australia Day breakfast in Walcha. In the poetry competition Niangala Public School students excelled by winning the following awards.

**What Australia Means To Me**

- W- Wattle trees blooming as you walk through the bush.
- H- Hot beautiful days just great for a swim at the pool.
- A - Ant hills everywhere, fantastic for a set of cricket stumps.
- T -Tar roads, but we don’t see much of them out in the bush.
- A - Australia is a great place to visit, it has fabulous people that say G’day mate.
- U - Uluru is Australia’s heart.
- S - Sisters annoying, funny, going into you room when not allowed.
- T - Trucks transporting life stock all over Australia.
- R- Recognising a kookaburra laughing as you trip over a tree stump.
- A- Aboriginal paintings that were drawn on rocks and trees over 40,000 years ago.
- L- Laughing around an Aussie camp fire eating doughboys.
- I- I like Australia because of the beautiful wildlife and how free we are.
- A- Aussie BBQS and a great game of cricket.
- M- “Merry Christmas” everyone says at Christmas as we play cricket.
- E- Eat steak, Aussie beef we call it mate.
- A- Australia is a free place where there are no wars.
- N- Nan and pop are always coming to visit us, family is very important.
- S- Swimming in the rivers and having great fun.
- T- Towing rocks to mums lovely garden.
- O- Old dogs are going great; they are doing their jobs and working hard.
- M- Mum says come inside kids, its suppertime.
- E- Echidnas are all over the place, especially under the dog kennels.

**What does Australia mean to me?**

Standing in my paddock I hear magpies and kookaburras talking in the tall, green, gum trees. I see wallabies and kangaroos bouncing, they are going to find new fresh green grass to eat. I feel a fly land on my nose, I swish it away and it flies off into the air.

The sky is blue and I can see some clouds in it, looking like little balls of cotton. I can smell grass growing in the heat of the day.

That is what Australia means to me.

**Peer Support Program**

As part of the Chaplaincy program in 2014 the Peer Support Program will commence in Term 1. The Peer Support Program is a peer led, skills based, practical learning program which involves training student leaders to facilitate student groups each week. Our Year 6 students have already commenced training with Mrs Savory and plan to begin leading their groups in Week 6.

The Peer Support Program will empower Year 6 students with valuable leadership, group work and problem solving skills. The group activities will help to develop in all our students resilience, assertiveness and strategies to make healthy life decisions. The program also builds and maintains positive peer connections and relationships within the school community.

Chloe, Emily and Lane have been enthusiastic during training and have great leadership potential that we look forward to seeing them use and develop through this program.
Niangala P&C

- The Annual General Meeting of Niangala P&C will be held this Friday at 1pm - election of Office Bearers for 2014 - followed by general meeting. Please support your children and their school by attending this meeting.
- Copies of Niangala P&C Recipe Book are still available from the school for $12.

2014 Walcha Rodeo Poster Competition

Congratulations to the following winners:
1st - Shane Levingston
2nd - Hayden Clarke
3rd - Emily Clarke

Communicating with your school

While it can be hard for busy parents, staying in contact with the school is important. Communication is one of the key parts of the relationship between the school and home. Watch this video to find out more:

Series books to ignite summer reading

Series books can be a great way to get your kids hooked on reading. Reluctant readers and children who struggle with comprehension can also find series books easier to enjoy. Find out more:

Is your child in a new class without their friends?

At some stage in their school life your child is likely to find themselves in a class without their close friends. It's normal for them to initially feel a little anxious about this, so how should you handle it?

Summer food safety

You can greatly reduce the risk of food poisoning during the summer period by chilling food in the fridge before packing your child’s lunch and then putting a frozen drink into their lunchbox. The food will stay about 12 degrees cooler. Have a look at more school food tips:

Homework and study planning

Most children find planning easier to understand when they have a visual representation of their day or week in front of them. Help your child learn to manage their daily tasks and responsibilities with this weekly schedule template.

Jargon busters

Wanting to start the school year with clarity and wondering about the meaning of some of the school terminology? Here’s a list of common abbreviations or terms to make the world inside the school gates seem a little more familiar.

School’s back

Life seems to go from zero to 100 during the first few weeks of school. These parents have pooled their years of experience to bring you some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly. Good luck! Back to school checklist: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist

Learning to read

Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier.
Learning to read: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share