Tuesday 15th November 2016
Week 7 Term 4

Principal News:

Welcome to another week at Bethanga Primary School! Students and teachers have been busy, busy with lots of events on as well as preparations being underway for transitions both in and out of Bethanga Primary School and the commencement of assessment and preparation for report writing... term 4 is always a hectic one! I thought I’d take this opportunity to reflect on the growth of our students in the time that I have been here.

On commencing at Bethanga, it was identified that strengthening the EQ program was part of the schools Strategic Plan and a goal in the Annual Implementation Plan. Because of this, we conducted an 'EQ test' to see if students knew what EQ was and how strong their emotional literacy was as well as their understanding of what it means to be an active learner. In general, we found that although some of the older students said they had heard of EQ, only two could say what it was (in very generalised responses such as ‘talking about feelings’ or ‘playing games to get along’. We then complimented our weekly EQ game session with a weekly explicit EQ lesson across term 2, 3 and 4.

Recently, we had students complete the same EQ test - the growth in understanding was amazing!! In the original test, students were able to on average name 5 feelings, now the average is 10! I have inserted some of the responses students gave in the post-test, a real testament to the strength of our EQ program not just increasing emotional literacy and the ability to recognise feelings in self and others, but also the realisation that being an active learner goes beyond ‘listening to the teacher’ and is something that not only requires effort and self-control but can have a huge impact on our achievements in all academic areas.

To follow on from this, I will be asking parents to feedback their thoughts on EQ and if they believe it has had an impact on their child/ren. Your opinions are highly valued so I would really appreciate a high number of these surveys being returned ASAP. The survey will be available on the school app but we will also send home a hard copy. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Rachel Saunders
What is EQ?

- Games, working out our feelings and making strong choices (foundation)
- Learning to be an active learner, playing games, learning about responsibility and naming emotions (grade 1)
- We play games like cat and mouse to teach us to keep trying and get over things (foundation)
- Learning about helping people, feelings and what to do when you are angry (grade 1)
- Playing games and learning about challenging ourselves and naming feelings and how to communicate (grade 2)
- It's about caring for each other, learning strategies for when I'm worried and naming feelings (grade 2)
- It's about being an active learner, having a growth mindset and using meta-moments (grade 4)
- It is when you try to be your best self and have a strong mindset (grade 5)
- It means to be an active learner and it helps you to be grateful and not greedy (grade 5)
- It means having a growth mindset, being caring and being a proactive learner (grade 6)
- It is when the whole school gets together to learn about being an active learner (grade 6)
What does it mean to be an active learner?

1. Communication – ask someone for help
2. Don’t give up – self-talk like ‘I can do this’
3. Making hard goals and sticking to them (grade 2)

1. Being your best self
2. Have a kind heart and be helpful to others
3. Control your own behaviour, not others (grade 3)

1. You have to have confidence in yourself
2. Have a growth mindset
3. Have strategies for staying calm when things get tough (grade 3)

1. Focus on the task at hand
2. Listen to the teacher and ask questions if you don’t understand
3. Stick to your goals and be persistent (grade 4)

1. Be a positive role model for others
2. Have a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset
3. We come to school to better ourselves, not be better than others (grade 6)

1. Be focused on my work
2. Using proactive meta-moment
3. Using a growth mindset and being my best self (grade 6)

1. Listening to the teacher
2. Focus, working really hard
3. Keep trying (foundation)

1. Listen and do your best work – be your best self
2. Ask for help
3. Ignore people that are loud and being a distraction (foundation)

1. Challenging yourself to learn hard stuff
2. Participating – practising, asking questions
3. Being your best self (grade 1)
Remembrance Day 11th November 2016
On Friday, we held a Remembrance Day service at our ANZAC garden to honor those who have served to protect our Country, who have lost their lives and those that continue to serve. Thank you to everyone who purchased a poppy.

Report Writing Day – NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL TUESDAY 29th NOVEMBER
Teachers will be using this day to prepare student reports which will go home in week 11.

The students in grades 4-6 had a fabulous day out on the weir last Friday for their first practical sailing lesson. Hopefully the sunshine continues this week! Please ensure if you plan on picking your child up from the venue that you have notified Mr Hogan of this prior to the day as this impacts the travel requirements.

The session runs from 12-3, students got back right on 3:30pm, many who then got on the bus to go home! If you are happy for your child to be dropped off at Bellbridge at approximately 3:15-3:20 instead of catching the bus home, please ring and notify us at school or send a note in with your child. We will need to determine before the day, who is being dropped at Bellbridge to reduce the potential for confusion.

Transition News

Foundation 2017: Kindy visits will take place next week prior to our first school based transition session. Although originally scheduled for this week, due to staffing restrictions, student activities and kindy operational hours, we have changed to next week. This is an opportunity for our future foundation students to meet their year 5 buddy in an environment they feel confident in. On Friday next week, we will have our foundation students at school from 9-11:30am.

Year 7 2017: Students attending WMYC next year have a Small Schools Transition Day at the campus they will go to in 2017 on Thursday 24th November (families should have received information regarding this directly from WMYC) This is a full day event with transportation the responsibility of families.
The Woolworths marketing whizzes have been at it again! The World Explorer cards have been a hit for many and have generated some fabulous discussions in the junior classrooms—we have learnt the difference between Continents and Countries, we have looked at the Oceans that surround each Continent and we have learnt how to read map co-ordinates to find Countries! This promotion is now finished (or finishing this week?) So that students have the opportunity to complete their collections, I am asking them to bring their folders and any spare cards in on Friday so that they can be supported to swap and complete their collections. If you have any cards lying around the house that you are not using, please send these in.

Class Structures for 2017

We will be sad to lose 6 students at the end of this year (students transitioning to secondary school as well as a family re-locating) with our Foundation numbers the same as 2016 on 3, our projected enrolments will be 30 in 2017. We will have a junior class F-2 (Mrs Wood and Mrs Saunders) and a senior class 3-6 (Mr Hogan) and will continue to provide a high quality specialist program which will include: Indonesian, Music, Blueearth, MARC van as well as Visual Arts. Miss Guymer will still be a familiar face around school stepping in to assist with relief teaching and leave cover. On the 6th December, we will hold an 'Up!' Day: Where students experience a day in their 2017 class. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Production

Everything is progressing beautifully in preparation for our whole School Production which will take place at the Bethanga Town Hall on Thursday 15th December at 6pm. Students have been asked over the next two weeks to bring in their costumes so that they can be labelled and hung so that we can keep them all together. Prop preparation will commence in the next two weeks also. If you would like to assist with props could you please speak to me ASAP

Kanga Cricket will take place tomorrow at Willow Park. Students will travel by bus leaving school at 9am and returning at approximately 3:15pm (unless a note has been filled in authorising Bellbridge Drop-off) Students are required to be in full school uniform, including hat. They will need to bring sunscreen, lunch and snacks (there is no canteen facilities) as well as a large water bottle. Parents are welcome to come along and spectate, if your child will be going home with you at the conclusion of the event at approximately 2:30pm, please have them signed out by Mr Hogan first.
Please go to The Cube Wodonga’s website for details of this event scheduled for Monday 5th December - I highly recommend it!

Signs have gone up around the school this week informing students and community members that access to the school grounds out of school hours is only permitted with Principal Authorisation. Playing unsupervised on school grounds could result in an injury or damage to property; this action takes care to avoid such outcomes. If you notice anyone at school out of hours, please let us know.

Book Club will go home today - please return all orders and payment by next Friday 25th November

Just a reminder to parents that if your child is away for any reason (other than a school event), an absence note is required even if you have called or spoken to a teacher about this absence. It is a legal requirement that we retain absence notes for 7 years! A piece of paper with the date of absence, reason and parent signature is all that is required. If you would like more copies of the school absence note slip, please let your child’s classroom teacher know and they will be able to send more home.

Library Update!

I am excited to announce that the shelving for our new library has been ordered!! The picture books will be displayed in the ‘tubs’ that we saw at Tallangatta which make it easy for junior students not only to browse through the many books we have but also makes it easier for returning books to their correct location.

Our fiction and non-fiction books will be stored on the beautiful curved shelving that we already had on our wish list but coincidentally was also at Tallangatta! The furniture is made at the time of ordering in South Australia so it is most likely going to arrive over the holidays... What a fabulous resource to come back to in the New Year!!

HELP NEEDED: Tree Removal

Over the weekend, it appears that a tree was split during the storm. With the help of Ella, Darcie and Marnie, I managed to strip a substantial amount off it and have it in a pile on the basketball court. The main trunk part still requires cutting into smaller pieces. If you happen to have a trailer/ute at home and would be able to remove this tree and dispose of it either at the recycle centre or at a private property with a bonfire stack can you please let me know ASAP