Message from the Principal:
It's hard to believe we are already in week 3 of the term! What a refreshing break from the heat it has been! Our students need to be commended for how well they managed themselves and their interactions with others in the ridiculous heat last week - tipping the mercury at 42 on Friday, we stayed indoors and had a lovely day together despite the heat!

A reminder that our Bringing up Great Kids Program will commence this Thursday. It is not too late to register - feel free to bring a neighbour or friend that you think would enjoy the opportunity to learn some skills and strategies for strengthening their relationship with their children.

I am looking forward to catching up with parents this Friday for our Meet and Greet BBQ commencing at 5pm. This will be a great opportunity for us to mingle and chat in an informal setting while enjoying a sausage in bread! There is no cost associated with this evening but please ring the school ASAP to notify of the number of children and adults attending so that we can confirm the catering requirements.

Last night we had our first School Council Meeting for 2017. Being a part of School Council is a wonderful opportunity to have a better understanding of how the school runs and to also be an active contributor to progress and new initiatives. Each councillor has a two year term. This year we have 3 vacancies to be filled due to current councillors terms concluding. We thank Bruce Mitchell, Pete Arkins and Franca Schmidt for their enthusiasm and service to our school. Nomination forms have gone home with children today (we encourage outgoing councillors to re-nominate). You do not require any committee experience. Nominations close 28/2
The Scots School of Albury have invited us to a matinee performance of their production of Mary Poppins. This will be an all day excursion for all students as after the first act, we will have lunch with the cast and other guests before the second half. We will return to school at approximately 3pm. There is no cost associated with this event however permission notes will go home next week.

Sporting Schools is a fabulous government initiative, which provides funding to schools to access coaches and programs across a large array of sports. We have been successful in obtaining funding for term 1 and will commence an athletics program this Friday (Juniors 9-10am and Seniors 10-11am) Please make sure students wear appropriate footwear for this and as always the case – has a broad brim school hat and large water bottle.

Jolly Phonics is a fully researched, synthetic phonics and multi-sensory literacy program that opens the door to reading for ALL children. Jolly Phonics teaches all the main sounds by using a unique set of actions, making the learning effortless and fun. Jolly Grammar is a program, which applies to children from 7-12 years (and beyond for children with learning difficulties.) The children learn a unique combination of movements and colours to help them learn the basic elements of grammar. This means they learn the “nuts and bolts” of writing easily and naturally. They learn how to incorporate this knowledge into their oral language and writing.

Next week both Mrs Wood and myself will undertake professional development in Jolly Phonics and Grammar in Melbourne. We are both very excited to learn strategies to support students with reading and writing which take into account the need to have a multi-sensory approach to meet the needs of individual learners. Knowledge gained will be shared so that new strategies can be implemented consistently in both the junior and senior class.

This will mean that Mrs Roebuck will be teaching in the Junior room on Monday 20th February.

Sunday 26th February
It would be greatly appreciated if every parent could assist for an hour or two.
The main jobs will be -
- Weeding the front garden
- Clearing the garden behind the office building
- Pressure washing external walls of buildings
- Pressure washing decks
If you are able to, please come along - many hands make light work!

Junior School Council are organising a community fundraiser on Tuesday 28th Feb. Parents, students and community members are invited to come and enjoy pancakes for breakfast between 8-9am for a gold coin donation which will be donated to Uniting Care.

5/6 Camp – Canberra Mon 27th - Thur 30th March
Initial information regarding this amazing camp went out in term 4 and thank you to the families who have paid the $60 deposit.
The total cost of this camp is $360. With only 6 weeks until camp, we encourage families to pay 3 $100 fortnightly instalments, alternatively the total outstanding amount of $300 can be paid in full at your earliest convenience.
Medical and permission forms will go home with students in approximately week 5.

Congratulations
Each Monday at assembly we acknowledge students who are making strong choices to be active learners in the Bethanga Community. Congratulations to this week’s recipients who were -
Jack Neilson for a big improvement in his mental maths work.
Callum Vodden for fantastic independent writing.
Congratulations to Darci, Ella, Jordana (absent for photo), Lauchlan and Regan who will be participating as part of the mass dance group at the School Spectacular in September. After this day, we will commence weekly rehearsals. Further information will go out with these students.

We will be running an Easter raffle to raise money for school this term. To assist with this, we would appreciate families donating some Easter goodies that can be packaged as hampers for prizes. Donations can be sent in with your children or left at the front office. Raffle Tickets will go home next week.