Ellen Lawler Remembered
Wednesday, 20 March was the first anniversary of the death of Dubbo Public School staff member, Ellen Lawler. We all paused on this day to remember Ellen. Staff and students wore bright clothes, teachers spoke with their classes about Ellen and what we can learn from her and classes visited her memorial garden in front of the school to leave flowers, cards and tributes that they had made.

Grandparents Day and Easter Hat Parade
Grandparents’ Day and the Easter Hat Parade will be held next Thursday, 28 March. This is a wonderful way to recognise our senior citizens and to bring the school community together before the Easter break. Invitations have been sent to home to grandparents and family members so please come along and join in the fun and friendship. The P&C are providing a barbecue lunch and tea and coffee.

Grandparents’ Day Program
12.45 pm Visit Classrooms
1.25 pm Lunch (P&C Barbecue)
1.45 pm Grandparent’s Concert
2.15 pm Easter Hat Parade and circus performance

Our grandparents’ concert promises to be outstanding, with performances from the recorder groups, choirs, band and dance groups.

Easter Hats
On Monday afternoon the children will gather in their Peer Support Groups to make their Easter Hats. Each Peer Support Group is made up of children from all years, with Kinder children being placed in the same group as their Year 6 buddies. The Stage 3 students in each group act as Peer Leaders and are responsible for running the group and acting as guides and mentors for their younger group mates. Over several years we have found that the students enjoy the process of creating their Easter Hats in a supportive, friendly atmosphere.

Parents & Citizens Meeting
On Tuesday night our new P&C executive took office and ran a well-attended and productive meeting. I spoke about current educational programs and Daniel Ebert spoke about the school’s program for Gifted and Talented students. We discussed preparations for Grandparents’ Day and formed a fete committee. Kylie McKeown is organising the Grandparents’ Day barbecue and would appreciate all the help she can get. If you can assist, please leave your name with Cathi or Terese at the school office.

‘Setting the Scene’ Program
It is very pleasing to report that ‘Setting the Scene’ has been a most successful program with 94% of our parents attending their child’s conference. I have collated the results of the Parent Evaluation Surveys and they were extremely positive. The comments indicated that we were successful in building positive relations between parents, children and teachers. I would like to thank all the parents who responded to the surveys. Your feedback is invaluable.

Congratulations to Students
Congratulations to the following students
- Lachlan Sinclair has been selected to represent Western region at the PSSA State Swimming Carnival at Homebush
- Thomas Potter, Dominic Ambler and Baye Wallace were selected to represent Dubbo District at the Western Area soccer trials.

Boys PSSA Cricket Results
The senior boys’ PSSA cricket knockout team has progressed to the third round after a victory over Dubbo West Public School at Riverbank Ovals last Friday. We wish them the best of luck in their game against Dubbo North Public School tomorrow.

Regular Attendance at School is Essential
It is absolutely crucial that children arrive at school on time and are present every day. One day’s absence can mean that your child will miss out on vital learning. Absences from school must be explained. If your child is sick please contact us by phone on the day they are absent and send in a note stating the reason for their absence when they return. If you visit the doctor ask for a medical certificate.
Term 2 Staff Development Days
The first two days of Term 2, 2013 will be professional learning days for all public schools in NSW. Day 1 will be devoted to mathematics and student welfare and on Day 2 we will be discussing the new Australian Curriculum which is being phased in during 2013 and 2014. These two days will be pupil free and students will return for Term 2 on Wednesday, 1 May 2013.

Greg Shortis
Principal

School News

PSSA Sport Term 2
PSSA winter sport will start in Week 2. Cost is $3.00 per week or a one-off payment of $24.00 can be made at the school office. Don’t forget, we have EFTPOS now.

ICAS Competitions
Entries in the 2013 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools Competitions are due at school by Monday, 8 April. Students can take part in competitions in the areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. Entry forms are available from the school office. For more information on the competitions visit www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

Wacky Wednesday
Week 9’s WW deal is ‘Twisted Chicken’ and is crumbed chicken in a wrap with lettuce and tomato, with or without sweet chilli sauce. Cost is $5.50 and includes a popper. Orders and payment need to be in by Tuesday, 26 March.

Year 6 into Year 7, 2014
Expression of Interest forms for Year 7, 2014 are due back at school tomorrow, 22 March. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Excursion Report – Wambangalang EEC
Yesterday Year 6 students went to Wambangalang Environmental Education Centre to help improve their teamwork skills. The first thing we did was orienteering and Eliza and Niki taught us how to use a map. We had to use the map and some signs in unusual spots around the woodland to find our way around one of three tracks. The tracks were the goanna, wombat and possum tracks. The time for the fastest team was 21 minutes.

After that we were split into three groups. Our group’s activities were low rope, initiative and the 7 metre high flying fox. My favourite activity was the low rope (Mitch) and Merrin’s was the flying fox. Year 6 loved it at Wambangalang and were really tired when they got back.

Merrin West and Mitchell Rosenbaum (S3T)

On Wednesday, 20 March Year 6 participated in a leadership excursion at Wambangalang Environmental Education Centre. They worked in teams to complete orienteering and initiative activities including the low ropes challenge. The flying fox was the favourite activity on the day. The students were safe respectful learners throughout the day. Everyone had a fantastic time.

Community News

RSL Youth Soccer Club
RSL Youth Soccer Club has places available for players under 5 to under 11. Season starts 6 April 2013. Contact Rowena on 0448 922 362.

First Holy Communion St Brigid’s Church
An information evening for parents of children taking first Holy Communion will be held on Tuesday, 2 April at St Brigid’s Church. For more information contact Katrina Isbester on 6882 4233

Thanks to Mrs Lawes for the report and photos.