Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Young North P.S.

I apologise for the Week 3 lateness of this newsletter. May was the deadline for both the Annual School Report and three year Strategic Plan so I have been a little chained to the computer during the commencement of term. Both documents have been posted on the school website and I encourage you to have a read of them. The Annual School Report provides a snapshot in time of our school’s achievements over the past 12 months while the 2015-2017 is our roadmap for continued school improvement moving forward. Most of you know that I am happier chatting with community and students than slaving over paperwork. However, I do genuinely feel that our school system is experiencing significant and exciting changes that will see our teachers encouraged to be the very best they can be and our school’s encouraged to be entrepreneurial and student outcomes based in their planning and decision making.

A new focus document- The School’s Excellence Framework has been created to help scaffold schools to strong performance and a range of data and supports are being offered to school’s to help them understand where they lie on the road to excellence. On personal reflection, it is great to see our school measuring up as a great school when overlayed across this framework. In some ways though I am a little concerned about excellence being capped by a framework. I always thought excellence was that which is achieved by those who dared to think outside the boundaries and who were prepared to go further than those who have gone before. At least that is what I hope we are encouraging in our students with ‘Striving for Excellence’ being our overarching PBL focus. I also think that in our fast paced society, that ‘excellence’ is not a stable construct. It is something that is ever moving and forever being defined and redefined and will continue to be enacted upon by the generation of students who wework with each day.

Best Wishes
Mr Smerdon
Principal Young North PS
From the Office

Just a friendly reminder to bring in your glue stick for Term 2. Don’t forget me.

Reminder: Skoolbag App

You can download your free Young North PS Iphone or Android App now! Young North Skoolbag is not just for parents. It is a great way for ex students, grandparents and friends of the school to keep in touch with all of the exciting things happening at our school. Skoolbag will currently allow you to:

1. Receive Alerts - reminders and important information
2. News feeds- Newsletters and good news about our school.
3. Administration- copies of school notes and the ability to report student absences is also available.

DATE CHANGE for NEXT P&C MEETING.
Next P&C
Tuesday 12th March 6:30pm
The meeting date has been changed to facilitate organisation of the Variety Club bash Visit. Those able to support please attend. We need you!

P&C Mother’s Day Stall Tomorrow

The school’s P&C will be selling Mother’s Day Gifts at school on Friday. Students will have received an order note and should return their pre orders prior to Friday. Presents will cost $5. Thanks to P&C for your support.

Around the Grounds Sport Roundup

What a hectic few weeks of sport we have coming up. This week we have 30 students heading to the Young Golf Course to compete at the District Cross Country against runners from Young Public and the Combined Small Schools. We wish them all the best of luck and know that they will do themselves and the school proud.

On Friday our girls’ soccer team will play the first round of the Primary Schools knockout against Young Public. For many of these girls it is their first time playing soccer. The game will commence at Young Public School at around 9:30. We wish Miss Cant and the girls luck.

Friday will also see Jardi McAnespie and Jacob Smith travel to Cootamundra to trial for the Riverina soccer team. Both are extremely talented players and we wish them luck.

Last week our netball team represented at the local Gala Day Event. Miss Bunny noted that all girls played well and our results were as follows:
- 1 loss (16-1) against YPS Green,
- 2 draws (1-1) against St Patricks, (1-1) against Caragabal PS and
- 3 wins (1-3) against Boorowa CS Swifts, (2-4) against YPS Blue and (0-3) against Boorowa CS Thunderbirds.

Finally, we have the school athletics next Friday 15th May. Classes have been training hard during sport over the last several weeks and we are looking forward to seeing how they perform on the day.

Mr Druett
Sports Coordinator

Stewart House Envelopes

Stewart House is a school/camp environment run by the Dept. of Education. It provides camps for students needing additional support and a break from their normal home environment. It has been a wonderful support to our students throughout the years. The school cannot function without support and this is largely provided by teachers as well as donation form schools. This week envelopes will come home and we encourage you to find some spare change for this truly good cause.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

If you have not already done so could you kindly pay your Student Contribution to the front office as soon as is convenient,

1 Child $42
2 Children $54
3+ Children $66

Reminder invoices will be sent out shortly.
PBL At Young North
The school is working hard to develop our second level of PBL which is targeted at enhancing the school’s capacity to run intervention programs that will support students who require more specific intervention than that which is provided by Tier One whole school programs.
Seasons for Growth- We have had a huge response to ‘Seasons for Growth’ (a grief based support program). Mrs Eatock has commenced running two sessions each week instead of the planned one. Students have been prioritised and we have developed further groups that will occur across the remaining terms of the year.
Drum Beat- Mr Berry has this week commenced ‘Drum beat’ which is a social skills based drumming program. The Learning Support Team has targeted students who can be supported with additional social skills coaching through this energetic and engaging program.
Yoga- This week two targeted groups began twice weekly Yoga sessions. These groups are being funded by the school. The groups have been selected by the learning support team with a focus on using Yoga to help with managing anger, anxiety and emotions as well as enhanced body and muscle awareness. Success of the program (being delivered by highly qualified Donnette Watson) will be evaluated at the end of the term.
PAVE Project- The school will also be hosting the training component of our partnership with Macquarie University in Week 5. School staff will be supported in the implementation of the Cool Kids Anxiety Program which will initially be targeted at students as part of the universities research project but we also hope to expand the Cool Kids program in due course.

CONGRATULATION We have reached our next reward celebration.
Go green for ‘Responsibility’ on Thursday 21 May

Events for Your Diary
High School Linkages for Year 6- Will be held on Wednesdays this term in Weeks 6 to 10. Students will need to wear leather shoes in order to participate in certain activities. An activity selection note needs to be filled in and returned to Young North so that we can advise YHS of student preferences. A bus will be booked to transport all students attending each week.
Athletic Carnival- Planned for Friday 15th May weather permitting. All Year 3-6 students are expected to attend the carnival on the day. Year 2 students wishing to attend the carnival who turn 8 this year are also welcome. Mrs Watkin has organised for a bus to return Year 2 students to school who may only wish to enter in their 100m age race.
Variety Bash comes to Young North-Bash cars will arrive on top oval for breakfast from 7am to 9am. Community are welcome to attend and view. A helicopter will be landing on the oval and a 30m witches hat exclusion zone will be in place on the oval to ensure everyone’s safety. Further detailed note to come.
Grip Leadership Conference Wagga CSU- Leadership team members will attend the Grip Leadership conference at CSU Wagga on 26/5/15. We are needing parent support to transport team members to this event. Can you please see Mr Berry if you can on the day.
Young Town Basketball Competition- The school will be entering 2 teams (Stage 2 & Stage 3) again this year. Mr Collins will select 7 players for each team and the school will subsidise the hefty $100 sign up fee to $50 for each student. This will cover players for the season.

2015 NAPLAN
NAPLAN – Notice for Parents
The 2015 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by our year 3 and year 5 students in week 4 this term. Tests will be held on the following days:
The results of the tests will provide information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each child’s achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.
It is expected that all students will participate in the NAPLAN testing. A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed the test or were absent on a test day. Please make an appointment with the principal if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.
Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html

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<th>TUESDAY 12TH MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 14TH MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Writing</td>
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Value added score (NAPLAN growth Year 3 to 5)

Did You Know
As discussed earlier the school is receiving a range of performance data to support school decision making. We thought this was one you might like to see!

VA category for this school: Excelling
This provides an indication of the amount of growth being achieved by students at our school from Year 3 to Year 5, after adjusting for the characteristics of our school and its students. The curved line represents the growth of the average student. The measure uses an average of Reading and Numeracy NAPLAN scores for each year.

VA category for this school: Excelling
The Grandparents Workshop Free

Babies haven’t changed but our knowledge has!
Today many grandparents are providing care for their grandchildren either on a permanent basis or in a child minding capacity. Since your own baby was born, there have been many changes in how we care for women in pregnancy and birth and how parents care and nurture their new baby.

Young Community Health Centre will be running a group for new or existing grandparents designed to give grandparents the latest in health care information with regards to looking after babies and young children.

Topic will include:
Changes in pregnancy and birth
Breastfeeding
SIDS
First aid and safety in the home.

This is a free workshop!
When: Friday 29th of May 2015 between 9.30 and 2.00.
Where: CWA rooms, Lovell street, Young.

For more information or to register, phone Wendy Fisher or Catrina Richens at Young Health Service on 6382 8700.

Community Noticeboard

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Thanks for all those who donated and dressed up!! The SRC raised $245.25!!!
Term 1 has now been and gone and what a hectic start to the year it was for us. We've been focusing on writing persuasive and narrative texts with a class display in the front office recently helping to convince Mr Smerdon to choose the play equipment for the playground. Students have been reading a variety of procedures this term and they have had a great time making some origami cranes and origami hats - I can't wait to move onto poetry!

Our science unit of 'Earthquake Explorers' has come into focus this week with the recent earthquake in Nepal and created great interest with the students being able to research the tectonic plate it sits on and also compare the Richter Scale reading with the damage it has caused. We created our own Richter Scale reading using a home-made seismograph as an experiment in class.

The Year 5 students have been doing lots of individual group work in preparation for NAPLAN with Miss Rafter and Mrs Parker and they are ready to give it their best. In the coming weeks, we will continue our practice for the Athletics carnival and I look forward to seeing everyone participate throughout the day.

Photos: Origami, Seismograph, Athletics practice