Hi Everyone,

We are having a delightful first half of the term and I am extremely proud of our students for their participation in our Anzac Day ceremony last week. Our school captains did a fantastic job of leading our school to commemorate Anzac Day. A BIG thank you also goes to our school staff for ensuring all classes prepared an item and wreath, providing morning tea as well as planning the event. Thank you to our school team for the work you have done behind the scenes. We also need to thank our P&C helpers for ensuring we had plenty of sandwiches for our guests and parents. There was some very positive feedback from many members of our school community.

Wednesday was a huge day for everyone as we also held our Cross Country in the afternoon. Mr Fazakerley and Mr Carfoot did a great job in preparing the track for the day and our students had a fantastic afternoon. The day went pretty smoothly considering the level of organisation that is required for these two major school events. Be sure to check our photos from the day in this newsletter and in our office display.

This week on parade we discussed what it means to be organised for school. Over dinner one night this week you might like to discuss what being organised means and how it helps us to become better learners. Our teachers will continue to discuss this topic with students throughout the week to help them gain a better understanding of this expectation.

Thank you to the many parents who attended our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program – Parent Information session. It was great to hear your thoughts on the program and I hope that you now have a greater understanding of why we are using this program in our school. Remember your parent representatives on our school team are Mrs Barb Madden and Mrs Rebecca Dunlop. I am hoping that we can encourage a parent of a student with a disability to also be part of this team. If you are interested please let either Ms McMahon or myself know.

Our office displays are changed each fortnight. This week is the Cross Country and this display will be followed by ANZAC Day photos. To end the term we will have a display from the Rural and Year 7 classes. A range of student work and photos are presented and really worth coming to see.

This month we are going to have a few staffing changes. Mrs Cook is taking leave for four weeks from this Wednesday and will return 29 May. She will be replaced by Mr David Hutchinson during that time. I am also taking three weeks leave while my husband undergoes surgery for a bone graft on his leg. Ms Jess McMahon will act in my role for the three weeks and Ms O’Sullivan will act as our head of curriculum. Mrs Selena Salter will replace Ms O’Sullivan in year 3/4 class. A letter has been sent home to families outlining the changes to school leadership.

READING RESULTS - Each newsletter I am trying to share some of our school results with you and this time I would like to show you the steady improvements we are making with our reading in comparison to schools similar to ours. On the graph shown on the next page you can see that back in 2008 and 2009 we saw some very sad results however in more recent years we are beginning to see greater consistency in our results due to the fact we have developed a whole school approach to the teaching of reading which has been outlined in our Reading Program.

While I acknowledge we have a long way to go we are just about at the half way mark and am hoping we can continue to make this great progress for our students. 2012 saw the most consistent results across all year levels as a result of this reading program.

The School Rule for this Week is ‘Be Safe’
There are many elements to improving reading and a few simple tricks are just regular reading each night, attending school every day, turning computers and the telly off and just sharing books with your children for 30 mins of an evening. Letting our children see us read is a great way to show children how important reading is.

Recently we have had a few parents bringing their dogs onto the school grounds before and after school. I ask that you do not bring dogs onto the school grounds as many children running around can be very confusing for dogs and they may become unpredictable in their behaviour. Even the most well behaved dog can come to grief when children are concerned. Many of our students do not have dogs and do not know how to behave around dogs. I would not like to see any dog in a situation where they have bitten a child. Please keep your dogs at home.

Tuesday this week we had a brief visit from Mr Andrew Hawk our Acting/Regional Assistant Director. This was Andrew’s first visit to our school and he was very impressed with our little school, its facilities and the friendly atmosphere about the school. He also attended our Teaching Team meeting where my team of teachers were working on ways to continually improve our teaching practices. Each Tuesday afternoon we either conduct a Teaching Team meeting or a Whole Staff meeting where we share information and work towards improving our skills in order to improve our students’ success at school. We are so fortunate to have a great team who are always willing to learn and always seeking to do a better job.

Thank you for supporting us to achieve our vision: EVERY DAY EVERY STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVING IN EVERY CLASSROOM.

Warm Regards Ree

Cross Country - 2013

Wednesday 24 April students from Proston State School and Durong State School participated in our annual Cross Country Carnival. Students ran a number of distances right throughout the day with Stuart triumphing 278 points to Boyne’s 275 points to square up the carnivals to one all this year after Boyne took out the Swimming Carnival earlier in the year.

Well done students and thank you to parents for supporting the students as they strived to earn points for their houses.

Kyle Fazakerley (Coordinator)
This fortnight’s award winners:

Lorna Smith – quick and accurate transcribing. Well done!
Kayla Wills – quick and accurate transcribing. Well done!
Darren Blanch – being Respectful of our books, turning the pages carefully. Thank you!
Hayley Beasley – fantastic knowledge of the Soundwaves chant. Congratulations!
Michael Ward – improved focus on your learning. Congratulations!
Kayla Wills – lime sight words
Jade Dalton – pink, violet, aqua and purple sight words
Toby Lane – green sight words
Heavynn Skvaridlo – green sight words
Daniel Humphrey – great work with patterning. Congratulations!
Lyddia Silk – awesome counting in 3s. Well done!
Charlie Searies – fantastic bundling work. Well done!
Clay Skvaridlo – great work with patterning. Congratulations!

This term during our Health unit we will be discussing healthy food choices and talking about “sometimes food” and “everyday foods.” We are not making judgement calls on what you are eating or sending to school in your child’s lunchbox, merely discussing foods that we should eat smaller amounts of and foods that we should eat larger amounts of. We’ll also be talking about input and output, the more sometimes food we eat, the more we need to move (exercise) to make sure we don’t put on large quantities of weight. We will also be talking about how our needs for certain foods differ depending on where we are in our life cycle. For example, adults don’t require as much milk as little people as we have finished our growing. If you have any concerns with comments or conversations that are coming home, please contact us at school so we can put your mind at rest!

Our Health unit aligns with our Technology unit as at the end of the term students will be asked to interview a classmate concerning a healthy sandwich and they will then need to make this sandwich.

We have also been discussing head lice and how to help prevent them. The girls have been very diligent about keeping long hair tied back. Thank you to all those parents who checked their children after the latest head lice note went home. On that topic, the school website now has shortcuts to videos about the “Conditioner and Combing Technique” if you are not sure how to do that.

If you have any questions about head lice treatment, don’t hesitate to talk to Miss Jess in the office, Miss Gill at K-Block or Mrs Blanch at Proston Health and Beauty.

Thanks to everyone for your support at the Cross Country last week, whether as a race supporter, in the kitchen or merely purchasing tuckshop to support our school. Everyone had a great afternoon and I think there were even a few surprises! Fiona Gill and Sonia Steele

Chappy’s Corner

The Art of Remembering

Are you good at remembering? Early in our lives a lot of the remembering is about ourselves. Birthdays and Christmas feature highly, particularly the anticipation and expectation of what we might get.

Somewhere we widen our horizons with the realisation that other dates must be remembered. Dads, mums and siblings begin to feature in our thinking. As time moves on there comes the boy/girl friend, and over a period of time that may have several updates and adjustments.

In Australia we stop to think and remember on Anzac Day. Not to glorify war, but rather to honour the men and women who went to war; and to remember what it cost them to serve our nation. I commend courage; I admire survival under extreme conditions; I respect sacrifice; and I honour all who stood up and were counted when it mattered.

I do not like war, indeed I could say I hate war. But there is recognition that sometimes we have no other option that we not only defend what we value, but also defend the weak and victimised of this world.

So whilst I crave peace I remember with gratitude those who made it possible for you and I to live in peace.

That’s what I remember on Anzac Day.

Cheers Chappy

Proston Golden Spurs Campdraft P&C Bar

The P&C Association were very pleased to run the bar at the recent Golden Spurs Campdraft. It was a hugely successful weekend and just over $2000 was raised for the P&C which will be used to directly benefit the students at Proston State School. Many thanks goes to the Campdraft Committee for their support, Trader and Andrea Wilson for the use of their cold room and the many families and community members who helped out on the bar over the weekend. Your help was tremendous and greatly appreciated!

P & C Association

This edition is proudly sponsored by

Golden Spurs Hôtel — Proston
(4168 9272)
Relax and enjoy a friendly drink and meal — see Anne, John & their friendly staff.
Anzac Ceremony - 2013