Hi all,

Thank you all for your support while I’ve been filling in as Acting Principal, especially the ladies in the office, who have given me lots of help. It has been a fun week, although I have been missing teaching my classes. I’m sure my students miss me just as much..

Farewell to Ms Birgan

In case you missed the letter that was sent home to parents last week: Ms Birgan has decided to retire, and came to farewell staff and students on Friday afternoon. She was presented with some parting gifts and thank you cards from staff and students. I have had discussions with a number of students and community members who will miss her a lot. I would like to take this opportunity to again acknowledge the commitment she has shown to the Proston community and school, and the positive changes that have occurred in our school under her leadership. On behalf of Proston State School staff and students, I wish her all the best in her retirement, and thank her for her service.

Welcome to our new Acting Principal

Mr Ryan Pedley will soon be making the move from Karara State School to join us in Proston. He will be taking over from me on Wednesday. We look forward to him joining our team and our school community, and leading us through the exciting times ahead for Proston State School.

Year 9 Laptops

Year 9 students began using their laptops last week. Some students have even been issued with a brand new touch-screen tablet, so there has been a lot of excitement among the year 9s as they have been getting used to having a personal computer to use in class and at home. Teachers have been experimenting with new ways to integrate the use of the computers into everyday teaching, and I have seen some excellent work generated on them. The behaviour of the year 9 students has been consistently outstanding all year, so I am not surprised to see them all using this new technology in a respectful, cooperative, safe and effective way to support and extend their learning. Contracts for using these laptops were distributed last week, so some students are beginning to take theirs home to use for assignments and homework outside of school time. I am looking forward to seeing their excellent work continue, and seeing this program roll out further across the school in the coming years.

Sports Day

I had a great day on Thursday. It was great to see so many students supporting their house by being dressed in their team’s colours and participating in so many events. Although I would’ve loved to hear a few more war-cries, student behaviour on the day was excellent, and I had no behaviour referrals for the whole day.

It pains me to announce that Boyne were the winners again, with a grand total of 2095 points, leaving poor Stuart (my team!) behind, at 1815 points. Next year will be Stuart’s year; I’m sure of it!

Special mention goes to Jess Harold, who broke the 9-year-old girl’s High Jump record by 5cms, jumping a whopping 108cm. Well done, Jess!
Greetings from K Block

This fortnight’s award winners:

Heavynn Skvaridlo: Fantastic finger puppets!
Mitchell Fox: A great description and explanation of clouds in science.
Nathaniel Flick: Gold words
Ollie Thomas: Indigo words
Daniel Humphrey: A great effort in his first spelling test.
Kayleigh King: A great effort in her first spelling test.
Eliza Humphrey: Participating well in learning about three digit numbers.
Lachlan Wilson: Using correct times in his morning, afternoon and night chart for Maths.
Riley Dunlop: Great work re-assembling a jumbled report on flying foxes
Lorna Smith: Staying on task and re-assembling a jumbled report on flying foxes
Jake Harrold: Being very patient and co-operative. Jake waits for his turn quietly.
Leighton Blanch: Working consistently and diligently in all areas AND For always following the teacher’s instructions in library lessons. Well done on being a great role model!
Hayley Beasley: Always showing enthusiasm for reading in library lessons

Penny Celebration Day:
K Block student who earned 200 or more pennies in Term 2 participated in fun activities for Penny Celebration Day. Students particularly enjoyed Mrs Shelton’s scavenger hunt, painting, box collage and the obstacle course! Thank you to Miss Meg, Mrs Blanch and Mrs Barnes for helping us on the day.

Drama and Technology:
Our Arts unit this term focuses on drama. Later in the term, students will be making puppets to act out a fairy tale or traditional tale. So far this term, students have been listening to fairy tales and thinking of variations they can make to them. They have also been watching videos of various sorts of puppets to get plenty of ideas before they get to the design stage. They have experimented by making finger puppets, shadow puppets and paper bag puppets. It has been a lot of fun!

Batteries:
Recently we had an incident in K-Block where students were playing with batteries that a student removed from their shoe. Some students were already aware that batteries are very dangerous and they informed staff quickly. Staff explained to the class that batteries are not toys and that they should be handed to an adult if they come out of a toy, shoe, calculator, etc. We would like to ask parents to remind children of the dangers of swallowing batteries, magnets, etc. F Gill & S Salter
Pre-Service Teacher Report

Throughout Term 2 I was fortunate to be able to complete a section of my pre-service teaching training here at Proston State School. This was my first real teaching experience after undertaking three full years of study and I was nervously anticipating grasping the ropes of teaching.

I primarily assisted and learnt from Miss Chan with the Year 9 and 10’s in English and SOSE. I will forever remember my first teaching experiences at Proston State School as rewarding, exciting and interesting. It has also cemented my personal belief that I had chosen the right career path.

Being a past Proston student myself I often found myself comparing the school with how I remembered it and marvelling at the improvements and changes that had taken place in a relatively short amount of time. I was able to see first-hand the implementation of new technology including interactive whiteboards, class sets of iPad’s and student laptops and how it was able to improve and enhance student learning.

I was very impressed with the attitude displayed by the students, both in their classrooms and during break times. Additionally I got a much better understanding of how Proston Pennies and the School Wide Positive Behaviour system work. It is a great program that focuses on rewarding all students that do the right thing, which was often missing when I was at school when the focus was on negative behaviour.

Overall, I had a very positive experience while I was at Proston, which was due to the excellent student work-ethnic and the positive professional support I received from staff.

I look forward to seeing you all in the future!

Nicholas Blanch (Pre-Service Teacher)

Greetings from K Block

The Finishing Line

Schools are conducting their sports carnivals at the moment and there is lots of excitement before each event and for some disappointment after the event.

Chappy is past the age of competitive sports, but has some fond memories. Somewhere in his files there are the certificates he won in church sports.

One lesson he learnt then was to focus on the finishing line: to never lose sight of the finishing tape. You also need to learn to not look over your shoulder at your competitors – that is a sure way to lose pace and the race.

As we face life we need to focus on the finishing line. What do we wish to achieve.

I think the lessons I learnt when running apply to the race of life. Think about it. Cheers Chappy

INVITATION

The Teddy Bears Request
that you see them and their friends at
The Teddy Bears Picnic (in the Library)
this Thursday at lunch time

Chappy

Proston SES Social Club

Supporting Proston SES Group

Non members of SES are very welcome to join our club and enjoy getting together for fun, drinks, nibbles and great company.

We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6.30pm.

For more information please contact Vicki 0437 827 433 OR 41689 482.

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Athletics Carnival