A Word from our PRINCIPAL

As term two draws to an end it is time to reflect on the positive things that our students have done this term. It is wonderful to see so many students on our Bronze Medal level of rewards. Our rewards system was designed to encourage our students to be Safe, Respectful Learners and it is certainly working.

Our students have been on many excursions this term including Rock Climbing, The Maritime Museum, Don Bosco and the movies just to name a few. Each time our students go on excursions they represent our school with pride. It is wonderful to see so many of our students showing off their exceptional behaviour in public.

Our Community Room has been well used this term with a range of exciting programs being offered to our students and their families. If you have any ideas for programs you would like to see in our community room please contact Kisane. We truly believe that the community room is for you our community and we would like to provide you with the programs or courses you are interested in attending.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of Nilands greatest teachers, Mrs Jessica Richards was successful in gaining a teaching position close to her family and friends. Mrs Richards has gained a position at Eden Public School and will commence her new role in term three. She will be truly missed by all our students, staff and broader community. Your dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm will be missed by all. We wish you all the very best in your new role.

If you are looking for holiday ideas Don Bosco is open to the public at various times during the school holidays. They are located at 10 Mamre Road St Marys. Call them to check their opening times on 96330450.

You could also try your local PCYC, local library, skate parks, the Regatta Centre at Penrith as well as the Nepean River for a picnic and a walk.

The holidays are always a special time for parents to spend with their children. Try to make them a positive experience for you and your children.

Have a happy and safe holiday. Wishing you all a safe return for term 3.

Your in Partnership
Renee Culgan

A word from our ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Another exciting term is coming to a close and it will be an eventful last week. We have our Niland World Cup tournament in the Community Room with the final to be decided on Thursday.

Thursday is also our NAIDOC Day at Niland and we have a day filled with activities and some special guests joining us. When this newsletter goes out both of these events would have taken place and we will be able to report on the results in our next newsletter.

A special mention to all of our students who have participated in assembly this term and in particular Ms Piper’s class. Assembly is getting better and better each week and to have a whole class up hosting & presenting an assembly is a fantastic achievement, all students involved should be very proud of their achievements. It is also great to see so many students spending their points with Mr Finch, the ideas for rewards are becoming more and more entertaining each week, keep up the great work!

Mr Finch, Mr Prasad and Mr Gardner.
Well Term 2 has been another busy time here at Niland School, supporting the needs of our students and their families. We are very fortunate to have such services as Mission Australia & Bridging the Gap who come along each week to facilitate programs to the students. Some programs they have delivered are Managing the Bull, Resilience Doughnut and Rage. These programs are running parallel weekly on a Tuesday & Wednesday until the end of year.

All of these programs are tailored to be age appropriate and to support each child build strategies on how to deal with change in their lives, build resilience when it is required and how to manage their emotions if life is not going in their favour.

We are seeing fantastic results! Each student in our school will participate in at least two programs before the end of year.

Mission Australia also has been kind enough to treat our “Girls Group” to a very special excursion next week. They will visit Tranquility Beauty at Emu Plains for a Paraffin Hand Treatment and then onto Café 2773 at Blaxland for lunch. I am certain each and every girl will make us proud with exceptional behaviour and next Niland Newsletter we will have fantastic pictures to share with you all. This is one excursion I am sure even the teachers would like to be a part of!!

Annual Special ED Conference

April 28th & 29th we had the opportunity to spend two days at Novotel Parramatta. There was approximately 400 representatives from other schools and services, showcasing our fantastic Every Student Every School (ESES) Project.

An option for utilising our ESES funding was for iPad and curriculum assistance but here at Niland, Mrs Culgan was very unique using the funding to support our students with a Community Based Project which supported our student and families holistically.

I am sure many of you have been involved over the past 18months and will continue to be supported.

It was to our surprise that many other schools were unaware of what fantastic services are available to support their school environment. We are hoping after sharing our knowledge and contacts, that many more families will be supported also.

Well done to Mrs Culgan for such a brilliant program, we can only hope it continues to support our community and families for many years to come.
Room Richards & Clark

Term 2 has been very busy for the students of Class 2. We have welcomed Brayden into our class who has proved to be a very hard worker. Class 2 have particularly enjoyed learning about Dinosaurs this term. We have been busy writing reports on dinosaurs, making our own fossils and even making a Stop Motion movie using the iPad to demonstrate the difference between herbivores and carnivores. Our current project is to build a dinosaur sensory garden just outside our classroom.

Gordon and Raymond used their five senses to write a delicious poem about M&Ms.

M&Ms look round.
M&Ms feel tiny.
M&Ms smell sweet.
M&Ms sound crunchy.
M&Ms taste funny.

Room Higgs

The students in room four have been out and about this term. We have been putting into practice all the cool stuff we have learnt in class and going out in the community. Earlier in the term the students in room four took Mr Gardner on a class excursion to the IMAX movie theatre and the Powerhouse Museum. We got to show off how much we have learnt in class about space and the universe. Kasey says that his favourite part of the day was the movie because he liked when the 3D things jumped out of the screen. But Dallas and Dorian really liked the Powerhouse Museum because they got to help make a real rocket and pretend to be NASA engineers. Jeremy and Brennan however just enjoyed the day out with their friends and thought it was funny seeing Miss Higgs get sick in the anti-gravity chamber. We had a really good time as a class and learnt some great things. I can't wait to see what we get up to with our Australia unit next term.

Room Katta

Most of our students have improved a lot. Their regular attendance is great. Most of the time Daniel and Timothy are on step 5. They enjoy their Friday excursion. They all participate in their reading program.

Their money skills have improved a lot after playing Monopoly during their free time.

Mr Katta.

Student Representative Council

The SRC have recently surveyed the students at Niland School to ask where they would like to make improvements to our school. Some of the ideas were great and we have taken them to the executive staff. We eagerly await their response, so we can move on new ideas and improvements.

Kirra - Lee, Jaid & Rebecca
Maritime Museum Excursion

HMAS Vampire

Students at Niland attended an excursion to the Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour Sydney. Students visited HMAS Vampire which is Australia’s largest museum ship. We were lucky that it was a warm day in Sydney and it was pleasant to walk around. Students learnt about the history of some of the ships in the Second World War and how Australian soldiers fought secretly against the Japanese soldiers in New Guinea north of Australia.

Bailey, Rebecca, Ray and Destiny on the rear of the HMAS Vampire.

Students on the ship had a competition of who could find the potato peeler on the ship. Everyone was looking for the peeler but it was Ray Austin that found it on the outside of the ship on the deck!

This is what a potato peeler looks like on a ship.

Mr Jahn

Room Piper

So we come to the end of another busy term. We’ve had loads of fun and have learnt a lot along the way. Shopping and cooking have continued to be a highlight for Class 7, seeing the social, life and culinary skills of all involved improve each week. Some of our favourite dishes have included satay chicken, mini pizzas and homemade chicken nuggets. We took a short break from work training at the House with No Steps this term and instead worked on our resilience skills with the lovely ladies from Mission Australia. Everyone who attended participated fully and were a credit both to themselves and to Niland. We even managed to fit in a little travel training with a trip on the local bus to Westfields Mt Druitt. Again, the boys who attended did themselves and Niland proud!

Room Winkelmolen

Another term has flown past and we are all anxiously awaiting our reports. All students have been working hard and have made progress in all KLA’s and behaviour. James did some beautiful design work on Minecraft, Charles started to do more work on a laptop increasing his computer skills. Tre and Tye have worked hard on English and Maths skill while in class. Most students have produced some informative drawings on rain forests. We have had a good time learning this semester and plan on doing the same next semester. Have a great holiday and see you next term.

Mr Winkelmolen and Mrs Daley.
PREMIER SPORTING CHALLENGE

PSC has been fantastic this term. It has been great to see so many of our senior students actively participating and setting a great example for the younger students.

A big congratulations is due to our senior girls who actively participate every week and are always willing to help the teams from other schools without enough players and who also encourage the younger students.

This group of students should be proud of their efforts in PSC this term.

Currently Niland School is a strong contender to take home both the best and fairest and the overall champions trophies for this semester.

Massive congratulations to all students that have participated throughout the term.

L. Higgs

PBLS

This term the students have been treated to a few new activities for the PBL excursions. We have been rock climbing, to Don Bosco, aqua golf and even out to lunch. The students should be commended on their excellent behaviour whilst out and about and for the respect they have shown towards staff and the community. As well as this the whole school has been helping to make new PBL signs that show off our school rules, it’s great to see the students taking such an active role in this process.

Have a look around next time you’re here to see if you can spot any familiar faces in the new posters. Permission notes will be coming home soon for next terms excursion so stay tuned for new activities and please return the notes as soon as possible.

ROOM ZORZO

All female students attended a RAGE program presented by Mission Australia this term. The program enhanced the students’ ability to recognise and deal with anger in a more effective manner.

All students participated and enjoyed the program, learning how to link this knowledge to everyday life. We are very proud of each other’s effort.

June 16 was National Day of the African Child. Room 1 acknowledged and celebrated this day, learning about the inequality of education in Africa. It was harsh to compare schools in Australia to those in Africa. We discovered 41% of the children are educated, whilst more than half work instead, as education is too expensive. Classes have around 84 students, 13 students share 1 book and most schools have no water or toilets. Schools can be too dangerous to attend due to lack of security. Can you imagine? We realised how lucky we are.

Ms. Zorzo

Three of our senior girls have been attending regular, independent work experience and TAFE, where they are blooming. Some courses include hospitality and retail management, as well as zoo work. Next term should be exciting, as Ms Kennedy has worked hard to secure work training for some of our class at Masters, Flower Power and McDonalds. We are proud of the progress our senior girls are making and fortunate to have Ms Kennedy’s support.

Room 1 are still enjoying creating artworks on canvass and working with Room 2 to create a mural outside our rooms. Read Room 2 for more information.

Our class have been enjoying using new learning tools to make English and Maths fun. We enjoy working indoors and outside, and are taking advantage or the fantastic resources we have at our school. We are still cooking each Thursday to raise funds for our end of year Senior Dinner. The VIP stall was a hit, where the senior students gathered more funds to contribute towards their cause.

Each Tuesday, all senior students gather in Room 1 to learn about preparing for the workforce. All students are engaged and learning useful things about acquiring work once they have finished school.
10 Quick Tips for Instant Stress Relief

1. Sit or lie down, close your eyes, and take 10 deep breaths.
2. Stretch for 5 minutes. Pay extra attention to your shoulders, neck and hamstrings.
3. Walk around the block a few times.
4. Buy or pick some fresh flowers and put them somewhere you’ll see them most often.
5. Sit quietly and focus on your breath for 5-10 minutes. Light a candle if you have one.
6. Listen to relaxing music for 5-10 minutes and take some deep gentle breaths.
7. Watch a funny cat video on youtube.
8. Call, text or email a friend to set up a coffee date.
9. Read a book or magazine for 10 minutes.
10. Take a bath or shower with your favourite products. If you don’t have any bath products you’re excited about, make or buy some. Try epsom salts with lavender oil for a relaxing, inexpensive soak.

It’s fantastic to see these students achieve their levels and receive the gifts they are working so hard for. Keep up the great work!
Term 2 saw class 3 being interrupted and out of their usual classroom due to the carpet being drenched by a storm. Students had to go into another classroom and have coped with the change extremely well. Students have been active around the school being involved in PSC challenge and rewards on a Friday afternoon. Max has been fantastic at playing soccer and dodge ball for school sport, Chloe and Shamron have been playing together and sharing stories within the classroom.

Jai, Jayden and Tye have been very busy playing Minecraft keeping their minds thinking about how to build more and more cities. Overall class 3 have achieved a lot this term keep up the hard work guys.

Mr. D Seddon

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