Welcome to Week 6 of Term 1, 2013. Hopefully all of our Stage 3 students have recovered from their hectic but awesome trip to Sydney. We were so proud of our students as a group! Their sense of responsibility, maturity and the ability to be in the right place at the right time was a credit to them. Naturally, we discovered a few skills that needed developing in some of our students and they were always receptive to advice and willing to take on new challenges. Whilst it took some very careful planning by our Stage 3 team, the early timing of the excursion was very exciting. The weather and also the fact that we now have three and a half terms with which to make the most of our new skills and relationships were just two of the benefits of the Term 1 date. A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who were so prompt in picking up their children.

CATTLE FOR KIDS

We have a wonderful opportunity to extend our ‘Cattle for Kids’ program. The McGrath family have organised a donation of 30 calves. They have very generously offered to house the calves and provide all of the gear necessary for feeding them. All we need to do is supply the feed and organise volunteers to feed them. We will also need to have a plan for where we can send them once they are ready for the paddock. The calves will be about 20 minutes out of town and the feeding will take approximately one hour. Mel is willing to provide instruction on what is needed. What we need from our school community is for people to volunteer their time to help out on a weekly basis. Your support can be in a variety of forms. Donation of the calf formula, your time to travel out and feed the calves on a weekly basis (the supply of a car and fuel can be negotiated) or the donation of a paddock once the calves are ready. This is a wonderful fundraising opportunity that has been made possible by the generous support of one of our families. The funds raised will make a huge difference to what we can offer our students, as a school, in the next 12 to 18 months. Please consider your ability to support us with this initiative and ring me as soon as possible if you are in a position to help.

P&C

Unfortunately I was unable to attend our first P&C meeting for 2013 as I was in Sydney with our Stage 3 students. Our wonderful executive were in attendance and presented my Principal’s Report on the night. As with many things, the more I wrote the more I wanted to write. My report ended up as a tidy little snapshot of where our school had come from and where we hoped to improve. A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who were so prompt in picking up their children.

DIARY DATES

**MARCH**

Monday 4
*District Swimming Carnival
Friday 8
*Zone Swimming Carnival - Albury

Friday 8
*2-1M, KC Life Ed
Monday 11
*Stg 3, 4-3S Life Ed
Tuesday 12
*2-1S, Stg 3, 4-3C Life Ed

Wednesday 13
*2-1A, Stg 3, 4-3T Life Ed

Thursday 14
*2-1T, KL Life Ed

Friday 29 - Monday 1 April
*Easter break

**APRIL**

Monday 15 – Monday 29
*School holidays
Monday 29
*Staff development day
Tuesday 30
*Students return
LANGUAGE, LITERACY & LEARNING (L3)
Our Stage 1 teachers attended their first content-based L3 session in Albury on Thursday. By all accounts it was extremely informative and will make a real difference with our students. Stage 2 and Stage 3 are also involved in specialised Literacy training this year, as are our kindergarten and beginning teachers. It is certainly exciting for our staff and it links in strongly with our school plan. It is not enough just to have smaller classes. If we are going to improve student outcomes, we also need our teachers to be of the highest quality. To do this we need to ensure that they have the time to access the latest professional development. 2013 has certainly seen us move very strongly towards achieving these goals. For more information on the DEC’s class size initiative you can go to https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/about-us/statistics-and-research/key-statistics-and-reports/average-class-size-jun12.pdf

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Miss Strano, Mr Haley and Miss Edwards will be flat out today as we host the Finley and Districts swimming carnival. These days take a lot of organisation and our team, headed by Miss Strano, has done a superb job of coordinating the other schools. I am sure that we will have a great day.

THANK YOU
Mrs Lyons informed me that we had a quiet week right up until Friday afternoon when we had a serious incident that required some urgent action on behalf of staff and parents. I would like to thank Mrs Taig for her calmness under pressure and also the parents who came to her aid in quite a tricky situation. Our school community is wonderfully supportive in a variety of ways and on Friday this support was evident in spades! Thank you.

I will be helping out at the District carnival on Monday and on class on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I will be available most mornings and afternoons should you need my support with any issues.

Have a great week, I know I will...again!

Todd Potter
Principal

Birthday calls are announced each morning, during school terms, at 7.45am on Deniliquin Radio 1521QN and on Classic Rock 102.5 at 6.55 am and 8.25am.

Bailey Coombs 6-5E 7 March
Chelsea Gray 6-5H 7 March
Aiden Milne 6-5E 7 March
Morgan Evans 2-1S 10 March

Birthday calls are announced each morning, during school terms, at 7.45am on Deniliquin Radio 1521QN and on Classic Rock 102.5 at 6.55 am and 8.25am.

Canteen
Thursday 7 March Belinda Stevens
Friday 8 March Julie Burdon
Thursday 14 March Emma Hurlston
Friday 15 March Sharyn White

Wednesday Meal Deal
Ham and cheese toastie
Juice
Moosie $5.00

Uniforms
New order of short sleeved polo shirts has now arrived.
Glenda Rogers
Canteen Supervisor

Year 7 2014
Please return your purple Expression of Interest forms, for high school, to the office by 22nd March, 2013.

Book Club
Please have all orders and money to the office by Tuesday 12th March
Achievement Awards  
Week 5, Term 1

KC  
Niketa Graham  
Jonny King  
Mackenzie Lee

KL  
Paige Gray  
Chelsea Singleton  
Mark Graham

2-1A  
Stevie Bateman  
Destanee Miaoudis  
Talon Stevens

2-1S  
Jessica Andrews  
Grace Julian  
Mitchell Doohan

2-1T  
Caitlin Griffiths  
Harry Boyd  
Kade Buckley

4-3C  
Amiliah Miaoudis  
Jessica Andrews  
Caitlin Griffiths

4-3M  
Kohan Joseph  
Claire Ingram  

4-3S  
Jemma Coombs  
Blaire Heald  
Ruby Russell

4-3T  
Lucy Bramley  
Baylee Morton  
Jennah Maraldo

LIBRARY AWARDS

Week 4  
2-1A with 95%

Well done, 2-1A!

Dear Parents,

Life Education NSW is a not for profit community-based organisation that relies heavily on the raising of funds within the community to assist in meeting the shortfall left after receiving minimal assistance from Government funding.

The sale of Harold merchandise to the children whilst the program is visiting each school supports the fundraising activities of local committees and all proceeds support Life Education within each local area. These products help to remind children about the messages delivered to them during their Life Education session and have either a picture of Harold or the Life Education logo on them.

The educator will provide the opportunity for children to purchase these products during the school visit. Please provide the correct money in an envelope with the item written on the face of the envelope along with your child’s name and class. This allows the educator to process orders efficiently and accurately. Orders will be returned by the conclusion of the visit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product description</th>
<th>Price Incl. GST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Sticky Note Pad</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Stationery Set</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Keyring</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Hand Ball</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Wallet</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Harold Soft Toy</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB Harold Products are subject to availability

Life Education NSW thanks you for your support.

☐ I would like to donate ______________ to Life Education NSW.  
Gifts of $2.00 or over are tax deductible.

Name: ___________________________ Phone (optional): ___________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
Suburb: ___________________________ Postcode: ___________________________
Email (optional) ___________________________ Child’s Class: ___________________

Visit Life Education at www.lifedducation.org.au or www.healthyharold.org.au
For applications and more information please contact the front office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**P&C AGM**

**When:** 25th March, 2013  
**Time:** 6:30pm  
**Where:** FPS Staffroom

Everyone is welcome to come and join our P&C. We have several members leaving this year as their child moves into high school so come along and nominate yourself, or others, for executive positions.

Join up, pay a gold coin and have your vote counted. Have your say in the direction our school is taking and how money is spent to improve our school facilities.

Our first meeting with the new executive will be held at the conclusion of the AGM, at 7:30pm. Hope to see many parents, carers and interested community members there!

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**The Open Door Fitness & Wellness Studio: Timetable - Autumn 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Classes Resume March 11th, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Weeks $250 or 7 Weeks $150</td>
<td>All welcome, anytime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Weeks Seniors &amp; Students $150</td>
<td>*Separate to Membership: *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included with membership</td>
<td>*8 Weeks to Wellness Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access all fitness classes*</td>
<td>Member rate $100,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodic fitness &amp; nutrition</td>
<td>Non-member rate $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assessments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying casually per class $12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change happens now...</th>
<th>for Personal Training, Rehabilitation, Nutrition Expert, Diabetes <em>Beat It</em> Educator...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINLEY</th>
<th>Monday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5pm-5:30</td>
<td>Cross-fit/Abs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30-6:15</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15-6:45</td>
<td>*8 Weeks to wellness challenge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Venue:** Finley Primary State School  
**Contact Kat:** 0428 861 819 katroch@hotmail.com
Carers, Foster Parents & Grandparents who look after children
You are invited to a

**Information/Forum Day**

Where: Tocumwal Football Ground Function Room
When: 19th March 2013
Time: 10.00am till 2pm

The Guest Speakers are:

- **Elizabeth McCrea** - Mirabel Foundation
  Mirabel assists children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use and are now in the care of extended family (kinship care). Mirabel supports children aged 0-17 years and works at restoring a child’s sense of self-worth, belonging and hope for the future in order for them to reach their full potential as young adults.

- **Marilyn Gittens** - Community Services
  Child Protection and how FACS becomes involved in a child & family’s life. Out of Home Care and how we case manage. grandparents, who are caring for children, FACS can assist them; particularly if they have a current Court Order stating they have residency of custody of such child and Foster Care.

- **Sharon Soule** - Family Support Worker Intereach Ltd
- **Margaret Graham** - Berrigan Shire Early Childhood officer
- **David Newport** - Financial Counsellor-Upper Murray Family Care
- **Jannette Dundon** - Family Support Worker Centacare

*Light Luncheon Provided*

**RSVP:**
Registration and catering purposes by 13 March 2013
Jannette Dundon
(03) 5883 4870
0417 230 998

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**FINLEY JUNIOR BASKETBALL**

Registration day on Friday 8th March, 4:00pm at the Memorial Hall.
If we don’t get enough players, we won’t have a competition so come along and put your name down to play!

Call Norma Gowans on 5883 3254 for further information
25th Feb 2013.

My apologies for not attending tonight. I am in Sydney with the stage 3 excursion. I think I have missed about 5 P&C meetings in the last 9 years and look forward to the opportunity to share our schools goals, progress, achievements and plans with you each month.

It is difficult to deliver my report when not in person. I have attempted to provide you with a quick snap shot of the year to come. Please feel free to add questions, requests and concerns and I will address them in the next newsletter or at our next meeting. Should there be any issues that you would like addressed as a matter of urgency then please contact me through your executive and we will work through them.

2013. What will continue to be our core business.

Smaller classes and Quality teachers. This initiative is deeply embedded in the culture of our school. It is highlighted as the single most important feature of your child’s educational experience in any survey of parents and staff that we conduct. Our continued participation in the Empowering Local Schools trial (220 schools) and all other local reforms such as Every Student Every School, Local Business Management and Reform, Pilot transition on flexible staffing and Local Schools Local Decisions will enable us to employ an extra 2.8 staff this year. The cost to our school will be between $70,000.00 and $90,000.00, after the transition funding. This will be funded through a once off $45,000.00 ELS grant, (the toilet upgrade has been placed on joint funding due to expenses of $80,000.00 per block) teaching Principal saving short term relief ($30,000.00) and equity funding of $20,000.00. The initiative is made possible through our $148,000.00 pilot transition grant. Next year this program will be supported through the staffing component of our Resource Allocation Model. This model will be made available for our P&C in June this year. This is when it will be made available to me. I look forward to presenting a more in depth budgetary explanation at our next meeting.

Could I please ask that the P&C make formal comment on how important this program is to them as a parent body? The importance to you that your child receives as much individual attention as possible by the most skilled and high quality teachers available. Our current staffing mix is 4 x highly experienced teachers, 4 x 5-10 year experience teachers and 5 x 1 to 5 year experienced teachers. With high level
expertise in Literacy, Numeracy, Learning Support, leadership and music and even higher levels of enthusiasm, professionalism and creativity we are certainly in a good position to achieve our goals.

**Programs to address the individual needs of all of our students academically, socially, emotionally and physically.** We will continue with our excursions K-6. K-2 one day, stage 2 3 days and stage 3 5 days. Band, assemblies, Art club, chook shed, Student council, stage 3 leadership, representative sports, school carnival, Life Ed, athletics and swimming carnivals, whole school performance, sports choices 3-6, Learning support, Reading Recovery, Gifted and Talented, Tournament of the minds, Premier’s reading and sporting challenge, debating, public speaking, Chess club, morning building with Ken, science club and I am sure there are many more that I have forgotten.

**Communication.** Skool bag, The Website, Facebook, emails, P&C and the newsletter will continue to be the main funnels of communication for parents. Skool bag now has a “push notification” that beeps when we add new information. I still think the electronic sign will enable us to improve our communication a step further. I will present a new funding idea for this at the next meeting. Of course I am always only a phone call or email away and the willingness of our parents to make contact for a range of reasons is a wonderful aspect of our school and integral to our current and future success.

**2013. What we will do better.**

**Teacher Training.** All staff are involved in high level training in literacy focusing on comprehension and reading. This is a huge commitment by our school and represents a new higher level focus on teacher skills and quality. Other areas of training will include executive leadership and beginning teacher training. The focus is a result of research and staff feedback. A recent staff survey on my attributes as a leader as compared to the Australian Professional Standards for Principals identified a lack of focus on teacher training and my own professional development. This will be addressed.

**Communication with our stakeholders.** Whilst all parent surveys indicate a high level of satisfaction with our day to day communication, solving problems and incidents, I would like to improve my communication with a small interested parent group in regards to our budgeting and school improvement plans. We would meet once a term and would attempt to make use of the expertise in our school community. We could use the school council structures. I am very keen to develop a school support team that is able to analyse our plans and goals moving forward as an integral part of our school improvement policy.

**Parent Involvement.** We will have the opportunity to increase parent involvement opportunities throughout the year. We have already held meet and greet nights and an information night on how to help your child to read at home. We have opportunities to work with parents at our carnivals, the fete and the whole school performance this year. We will be holding a whole school cultural term once again and encouraging all parents to become involved. The Annual School Report will be submitted to our P&C and parents community next month for comment, as will our 3 year school plan. Will attempt to formalise this process in 2013. The opportunities are there and the invitation is sincere. Parental involvement will be at whatever level individuals feel comfortable.

**Literacy and Numeracy.** We are continually working to improve your child’s outcomes. This is especially important in Literacy and Numeracy. We will be implementing new high level teacher training (see above) new Learning assistance programs that will target 30 to 40 students of the highest needs, new Learning Support Team structures and a more consistent, phonics based spelling/literacy program across the school. These new goals will be supported by all of the programs listed under “Programs to address the individual needs of all of our students academically, socially, emotionally and physically”

I hope you have a great meeting. Once again I apologise for my absence and look forward to catching up next month.

Todd.