From the Principal’s Desk...

It is great to see the students working enthusiastically and with such commitment. Both Junior and Senior classes have settled into a working routine and have continued to produce work of such a high standard.

I have included the test dates for the National Assessment Program for students in Year 3 & 5. This will be taking place in Week 4 of Term 2. If you have any questions about the Assessment Program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

What a fantastic day we had at the Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival. The students represented the school with great pride and enthusiasm. Our students encouraged fellow students, swam and enjoyed the day thoroughly. A big thank you to all our parents who did a job timekeeping or looking after and organising some of our students.

Congratulations to our two age winners, Nicholas and Bethany and our relay team. Congratulations to Cambell, Millie, Caleb, Tom, Riley and Seamus who will also represent Kelly’s Plains Public School next Thursday at the Armidale District Carnival.

Touch Football starts this Thursday. Juniors at 4.00pm and Seniors at 4.30pm. Please come along and support our students.

I have included a page for parents’ resources in this newsletter. These resources and useful guides help parents to understand how they can be an active participant in their child/children’s schooling. There are helpful guides for mathematics, reading, writing and grammar. It is extremely important to make a link from school to home. Please take the time to have a look.

P&C Office Bearers for 2015 are:
- President - Donna
- Vice President - Richard
- Treasurer - Katrina
- Secretary - Mary
- Fundraising - Brooke & Jayne

This is an opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to our school. Your time and contribution is invaluable and the school has benefited from your input. We look forward to continuing to make Kelly’s Plains a Sharing, Caring, Learning community.

In next weeks newsletter we will confirm contact details for our P&C Office Bearers.

Andrew Watson

Star Students
Riley Allcock
Supporting fellow students
Indy
Effort & Resilience

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- WED 18: ACOS meeting - Mr Watson
- THUR 19: Mrs Weier to teach Senior class

MARCH

- MON 2: P&C Meeting 7.00pm at Bowling Club
- TUES 3: Armidale District Swimming Carnival
- SAT 14: PSSA Swimming NW Trials
- SAT 14: Autumn Festival

Kelly’s Plains Public School
- Principal: Mr Andrew Watson (Rel)
- Lower Division Teacher: Mrs Lauren Piddington
- Teacher: Mrs Jane Weier
Physie is an affordable way to learn to dance and keep fit with a touch of glamour! Fun, upbeat, pop music is the soundtrack to our sport that fuses dance styles such as jazz, ballet, hip hop, contemporary and aerobic dance which is designed for maximum variety and fun. Classes commence early February. For more information please visit our website www.armidalephysie.com or find us on facebook.

Julie Pearson
President & Associate
0409 260 878

Celebrating 50 Years

On Saturday 28 February, the Preschool will be celebrating 50 years of early childhood education.

When: Saturday 28 February
Where: At the preschool grounds or at PCYC if wet weather.
What to bring: Picnic and rug or a BBQ will be available.
No alcohol to be brought or consumed.

Sue Motley
Director/ Nominated Supervisor
Bachelor Teaching (Birth - 5 years) JP
Armidale Community Preschool Inc.
(02) 6772 2695

Sharing, Learning, Caring
(A Song for Kelly’s Plains School)

Sharing, Learning, Caring is the rule.
Kelly’s Plains is where we go to school.
Sharing fun and friendship,
Showing that we care,
Celebrating love of learning everywhere.
Kelly’s Plains is where I love to be.
Kelly’s Plains the school forever dear to me.

Sharing, Learning, Caring every day.
Try our best in all we do and say.
Growing stronger daily,
Seeking what is right,
Hoping for a future
Full of promise bright.
Kelly’s Plains is where I love to be.
Kelly’s Plains the school forever dear to me.

Sharing, Learning, Caring is for life.
Through the years of happiness and strife.
One day when we’re older,
We’ll look back and say,
“We will not forget you
Tho’ we’re far away.
Kelly’s Plains is where I love to be.
Kelly’s Plains the school forever dear to me.

Cheryl Nolan 2007

Kelly’s Plains Public School
Student Absence Note

My child .................................................. of class ......................... was absent from school on the following dates .................................................................
For the following reason .................................................................
Parent/Carer Signature: ............................................. Date: .........................
All About Me
Your task is to create a poster about yourself. It could include:

**Information**
- Your full name
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Family Members
  - (you could do a Family Tree)
  - Pets

**These Are A Few Of My Favourite Things:**
- Television Show
- App
- Holiday
- Song
- Sport
- Poem
- Book
- Place to Visit
- Author
- Hobbies
- Movie
- Food
- Quote
- Colour
- Memory
- Subject
- Animal

**What you want to be when you grow up?**

Due: Week 8
Parents' resources

The Board of Studies has produced a number of very popular and useful guides to help parents understand and be active participants in their child's schooling.

These are available from the Board of Studies Shop Online at https://bosho.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/links/shoponline.html

Helping your child learn to do mathematics: A guide for parents

This guide shows how you can help your child learn mathematics simply by involving them in everyday activities. It clearly relates each aspect of the K–6 Mathematics Syllabus to common household tasks.

The guide is designed to assist parents in teaching their child, from birth through the primary school years, about mathematical ideas in the home. It also helps parents understand what their child is learning about mathematics at primary school.

Helping your child learn to read: A guide for parents

Reading is one of the most important skills that we use every day. Parents can help their children learn to read by showing them how we use reading to make sense of the modern world.

This guide is designed to assist parents in teaching their children, from birth through the primary school years, about reading in the home. It includes a section on helping children who are having trouble learning to read and offers a range of useful hints and tips to build your child's skills and confidence.

Helping your child learn to write: A guide for parents

From drawing to scribbling to experimenting with the shapes of letters, children progress at their own speed towards writing fully formed words.

This guide outlines how simple things that you can do at home - such as providing a range of craft materials to help develop the muscles in small hands, or reading to your child every day - can help your child learn to write. The guide also helps parents to understand the types of writing that are taught at primary school. It includes a comprehensive list of commonly used grammar terms.
Helping your child with grammar: A guide for parents

This guide (available in November 2013) outlines the technical terms of grammar and how they are used in the classroom and in everyday life. It shows how to apply correct grammar in writing and outlines simple ways to help your child use the correct grammar in their speaking and writing.

The SMH Youngest Writer: WriteOn 2012

This anthology features a selection of Gold, Silver, Bronze and highly commended pieces of writing from the competition, written by NSW primary students across the text types of narrative, exposition, description and recount. The anthology is a wonderful resource for primary school teachers, parents and students.

Families can use this anthology:
- to teach and enjoy quality writing
- to compare the standard of young people’s writings
- to learn what is expected within various text types
- as a best-practice guide to help young people improve their writing skills.

Other free resources available for parents

Safetytown website – A road safety education program

This innovative website will be linked from the Board of Studies website. It is anticipated that it will be available in November 2013. The site will provide practical strategies to help families learn how to be safer pedestrians and road users.

Transition to school – A guide for parents

This booklet has been developed as a free resource for parents of preschool children who are preparing their child for Kindergarten. It answers the common questions parents ask and provides good links to useful resources.
Dear Parents,

May I introduce myself to you? I am a friend of the Eickhoff family who have joined the Kelly’s Plains school community this year, and I have recently started teaching violin to their daughter Bethany in Year 5. Mary Eickhoff approached me with the idea of starting a String Group at Kelly’s Plains, I agreed, and Mr. Watson also thinks that this could be a great opportunity for the students here.

I am not a professional violin teacher, but I do play in the First Violins of the Armidale Symphony Orchestra, and I am keen to share the pleasure of music-making with anyone who is interested.

Students who would like to join the Kelly’s Plains String Group will need to have a string instrument (violin, viola or cello). This could be their own instrument (check Grandma’s attic for a spare!), one borrowed from NECCOM, or even one provided by some Kelly’s Plains connection (ask Mr. Watson).

We will be meeting and rehearsing in the library in the second half of lunch on Wednesdays.

No prior experience is necessary – you just need to be interested and excited to play your string instrument! Tuition will be provided from beginner level.

There is no charge – this is a favour to my friends.

As the String Group becomes more confident and competent, we will be able to do some in-school performances, then maybe even put on a concert for the parents later in the year. As the group progresses still further, there will be opportunity to perform in the Armidale Eisteddfod, probably next year.

It was my pleasure this morning to visit the school, meet the teachers and play Advance Australia Fair for the children as the Australian flag was raised. I look forward to my next visit next Wednesday lunchtime to see which children are interested in this new Kelly’s Plains String Group.

Best wishes,
Beth Kenrick
Kelly’s Plains Public School