Presentation Night

Thursday 10 December 2015
6.00 pm in the school hall

WHAT’S ON AT BTS
Mondays – (every week)
School Banking

Monday 7 December 2015
Swimming continues for Primary

Wednesday 9 December 2015
Whole School Assembly 11.48 am

Thursday 10 December 2015
Presentation Night 6.00 pm

Monday 14 December 2015
K-4 Wellbeing excursion to Canberra

Wednesday 16 December 2015
Last day of term for students

P&C
Meet on Week 4 and Week 8 of each term in the School library at 6.30 pm. All welcome.

Congratulations
Mr Hodges
Principal
Batlow Technology School

BATLOW TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2016
Secondary – pictured left
Samantha Wilesmith
Connor Jeffrey

Primary – pictured right
Kurt Stuenkel
Georgia Pate
Rayleigh Gould

BATLOW TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL
Principal
Mr Greg Hodges
Assistant Principal
Mrs Vicki Dodd
Head Teachers
Mr Mark McDonell
Ms Amanda O’Loughlan

P&С
Meet on Week 4 and Week 8 of each term in the School library at 6.30 pm. All welcome.
Principal’s Message

It is with great excitement that I’m writing this article as the new Principal of Batlow Technology School. This will now provide the stability the school deserves. As those who have had close contact with our school since my arrival will know that we have several significant developments in the physical environment of the school underway, a greater focus on teaching and learning has occurred and there is an increased engagement with many members of the school community and wider community of Batlow. In 2016, I intend to further develop these initiatives to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. I’m looking forward to working with the students, staff and parents.

Ms O’Loughlan and Miss Smith provided the opportunity for our students to participate in a Robotics Competition last weekend. Behind the scenes, both staff and students spent many lunch times and even after-school sessions to prepare for this great event. There is a more detailed story of the competition within this copy of “Scoop”. Thank you to both teachers as on this three day excursion as they were bus drivers, cooks, 24 hour supervisors, entertainment organisers, and team coaches. Much of which occurred over Saturday and Sunday. I’m sure the students and parents truly appreciated your commitment ladies.

An opportunity for students to further their technology skills was provided on Tuesday 1 December 2015. Mrs Wainwright invited a team to deliver ‘state of the art’ 3D printing. Our students were highly engaged in the computer aided drawing (CAD) component which allowed their creative ideas flow to engineer a final item. Due to the success of the program, Mrs Wainwright has booked the same team to further provide our students skills with our new laser cutter in 2016.

You really get the sense that the year is quickly drawing to a close when the final touches to Presentation Night are underway. Mrs Dodd and her Primary staff have been co-ordinating the event for 2015. I have been given a sneak peek of the program and believe that it will be very special. This is a significant celebration of our student’s achievements for the past year and I’m anticipating strong support from our parents and family members to join with us on this occasion.

Presentation Night is this Thursday evening starting at 6.00 pm in the school hall.

On the evening, the last remaining copies of the Birralee will be on sale for $10.00. As mentioned in previous editions of “Scoop”, this year’s Birralee is an extremely high class item which captures the many aspects of your child’s school year. Every effort has been made to include as many K-12 students as possible. Our Primary Community Garden cookbook will also be available to purchase for $6.00.

The pool has been given a great work out with the Primary Swimming Program classes being made available by our Primary staff. Swimming is almost a necessity for Aussie kids as so much of our lifestyles involve contact with water at some point. This has been a fantastic opportunity for all the students to improve their water confidence.

On behalf of my staff, thank you to the school community for the support that has been so evident in shaping our school this year. I trust that you all will have a peaceful time over the Christmas break and that we can all come together again in 2016. Merry Christmas to all!

Have a great week.

Greg Hodges
Principal
Following is a media release from the Batlow Technology School P&C

*Media Release*

**Putting the “Technology” Back into Batlow Technology School**

Two recent proposals from staff members at Batlow Technology School have been wholeheartedly backed by the school’s P&C committee. The proposals, totalling just over $40,000, are the purchase and installation of a “Learning Hub” and a Laser cutter.

The “Learning Hub” will comprise a suite of 20 tablet PCs for use in the library across all years and subjects. In a technological age, a teacher’s role is moving towards facilitating learning rather than instruction and control. The tablets will allow flexible delivery, innovative ways to engage with the school curricula and accommodate individual needs of the students. The tablets will be in addition to the existing computer labs with 48 desktop PCs, 5 iPads, smartboards and the soon to be completed Trade Centre.

The Laser Cutter is an amazing piece of technology which will allow students of every age to expand their design skills, bring their creativity to life and with innovative teaching will be used to engage and challenge students across a range of subjects. Two staff members will be travelling to Lauriston Girl’s School to explore their flagship FabLab (Fabrication Laboratory) and to bring ideas back to Batlow Technology School. The FabLab@School concept is designed to encourage innovation and to actively engage students in the use of technology to solve problems.

Both proposals have been fully funded by the Batlow P&C, which is extremely optimistic about the future direction of the school, as staff enthusiastically embrace the use of technology in all subject areas. Much of the credit must go to new Principal Mr Greg Hodges who in his short time at the school has had a very positive impact on the morale of both staff and students. His “can do” attitude and boundless energy has had a positive and invigorating effect across the whole school community.

After receiving a generous bequest from the late Mr Ian Giles last year, the P&C were keen to ensure that the money was spent on projects that students across the whole school could use, and which would have long term benefits. These two proposals were unanimously supported by the members of the Batlow P&C as meeting those aims. Staff enthusiasm for these projects is infectious, and that can only mean great things for the students at the school over the coming years.

President of the Batlow P&C committee, Mr Rob Ironside said “To be able to offer such amazing educational opportunities to the students of our relatively small school is very exciting and satisfying. It would be great to see our school return to being the first choice for students from surrounding towns, not just Batlow. We are extremely happy that there is a renewed focus on technology at Batlow Technology School, and the future looks bright”
SCHOOL NEWS

HIGH FLYERS AT BATLOW TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL
Batlow Technology School has won the special school prize worth over $2250.00 in the NSW Regional School category of the 2015 Young Scientist Paper Plane Challenge. Our entry was judged to be one of the most outstanding entries in the “Regional High Flyers” division. Dylan Parker and James Norton, whose World Paper Plane Championship exploits inspired the hit Aussie movie ‘Paper Planes’, will make a special school visit at an organised time in 2016. It was Dylan and James who viewed all the videos of the Regional High Flyers category and they have selected Batlow Technology School for both our outstanding individual achievements and our overall school involvement in the challenge.

When the challenge was held back in August this year, all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 were involved. Several of our students achieved excellent individual results: Christopher Wilesmith (Year 9) threw a distance of 31.06 m and was placed first in the NSW Regional Challenge. Ryley Collins (Year 7) placed third with a throw of 22m. In the Primary section Timothy Gardner (Year 4) threw a distance of 26.68m and placed second. Congratulations to Mrs Megan Finnimore for her vision in entering Batlow Technology School in the competition and we are looking forward to the visit from Dylan Parker and James Norton in 2016.

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE TRASH TREK CHALLENGE 2015
On 28 November 2015 Ms O’Loughlan and Miss Smith took the ‘All about the Bots’ team to Wollongong to compete in the ‘First Lego League Trash Trek Challenge’ at Cedars College.

Ryley Collins, Emma Kynaston, Kate Kynaston, Carter Ironside, Kurt Stuenkel, Harmony Simpson and Brendan Larson all competed against teams from various areas in NSW. Students demonstrated positive team-work skills, resilience, responsibility and commitment to problem-solving throughout the day. Each team was required to compete in the following areas: Core Values Presentation, Robot Challenge, Robot Design Presentation and Research Presentation.

The competition was tough, this was the first year for Batlow Technology to participate in ‘First Lego League’ and there were teams who were experienced in the field of robotics and who had also competed in previous years. ‘All about the Bots’ were faced with unexpected challenges throughout the day that they overcame using resilience. The team did not win in any of the categories, they accepted this with gracious professionalism and the skills and lessons in problem-solving that they were involved with, meant more to the team then winning.

Congratulations to ‘All about the Bots’ in competing in the ‘Trash Trek Challenge’ and representing the school with such tenacity!
YEARS 7/8 SCIENCE
This semester, the students have been learning about the earth and its planets, also renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Students have been busy, making models of the earth and the surrounding planets, volcanoes and also had to complete an Assessment Task on Renewable Resources. The class created wonderful volcanoes which we then erupted as a class on the top oval, they also created models of the Snowy Hydro System, Wind Turbines and Solar Energy. Well done 7/8 Science.

Mrs Wainwright

GIRLS EMPOWERMENT DAY
Girls from Year 6 to 12 were involved in a day of motivation, empowerment and team-building on Friday 4 December 2015. The aim of this day was to inspire our young girls to achieve their goals, develop confidence and build and maintain positive relationships.

As Michelle Obama famously stated:

“As women we must stand up for ourselves, we must stand up for each other. We must stand up for justice for all”.
BIRRALEE SCHOOL MAGAZINE AND COMMUNITY GARDEN RECIPE BOOK

The 2015 School Magazine and the Community Garden Recipe Book are now ready for sale.

Copies can be purchased from the office. $10.00 for the magazine and $6.00 for the recipe book.

Copies of both Birralee and the recipe book will be available for purchase on Presentation Evening.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH FIRST RECONCILIATION

Any parishioners of St Mary’s Catholic Church who wish to have children enrolled in the 2016 First Reconciliation preparation are asked to contact Sr Carmel on 6946 2049 for further information.

TUMUT SHIRE COUNCIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Creative Writing Workshop – 7 to 10 years – Wednesday 6 January and Thursday 14 January 2016
Creative Writing Workshop – 11 to 14 years – Tuesday 5 January and Wednesday 13 January 2016
Art to Recycling Workshop – 7 to 10 years – Tuesday 19 January 2016 – 10.00 am to 11.30 am
Art to Recycling Workshop – 11 to 14 years – Tuesday 19 January 2016 – 10.00 am to 11.30 am
Grow Green Workshop – 7 to 14 years - Thursday 7 January and Thursday 21 January 2016

Cost for all the above activities is $5.00 per person and more information can be obtained from the Tumut Library 6941 2541 or go to www.tumut.nsw.gov.au

FREE KIDS HOCKEY CLINIC

Friday 26 February 2016, 9.00 am – 12 noon, Olympic Park Hockey Centre in Sydney
To register visit HOCKEYNSW.COM.AU
First 100 to register will receive a starter pack with stick, stick bag, ball and shinpads free.
Learn with NSW Hockey State coaches and 1st grade players and coaches from Moorebank.
We are in particular need of information for any students enrolling in 2016.

Could you please assist us by filling out this form and return it to Batlow Technology School office.

The children in your family who have not yet started school:

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FUTURE ENROLMENTS FOR OTHER STUDENTS

Children in families known to you who may not have access to this form:

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Thank you for your assistance
Greg Hodges Principal