Welcome: Welcome (back) to Steph Becker who will be teaching the Kinder group until the end of 2013. Steph is no stranger to the school, but please make her feel welcome in her new position.

Parent Satisfaction Survey: Thank you to those people who have already returned their Parent Satisfaction Surveys. The Committee uses the information gathered to find out what families are thinking and to ensure that everyone has their say in the running of the school. The information is used to formulate the Strategic Plan. It is very important for parents to have input, and this is a chance to ensure that your voice is heard. Please return your completed survey by 30 August.

Kinders: The Kinders will have ‘Show and Tell’ on Monday mornings. Items of interest that all children can learn from are appreciated and can often lead to great discussion and further investigation. Some great things to share from the environment are: feathers, gum nuts, sea stars, shells, skeletons, family memorabilia. Please support us by not allowing the children to bring toys or trinkets. Children don’t always need to bring something. We don’t want them to hastily grab something as they leave home. ‘Show and Tell’ is also a time when children talk about their weekend.

Reading: Learning to read can be challenging for some children. However, we have a great program in place to help ease that process. It’s called Multilit. The program consists of a daily, 3-part structured session, of which the last part is reinforced reading. The children are wonderfully cooperative, but to make this program as effective as possible, it is important that they get the chance to read in this structured way 3-4 times per week.
It takes 20 minutes for a whole session, but just 10-15 minutes per day, per student, of just reinforced reading would be fantastic and would enable the children to pass through the program swiftly, enjoying the pleasure of a good book, curled up in a quiet corner.
At the moment we have 9 children in the Multilit program, though numbers fluctuate, as do the numbers of teachers, especially so during flu season.
We would greatly appreciate volunteers willing to join us, who would be happy to sit and tutor children’s reading, following the reinforced reading guidelines. This could be as little as half an hour a week (or even a fortnight) when dropping off children in the morning. Anyone willing to help out would get a briefing on how the program works and is welcome to listen in on some reading work in progress.

Working Bee- Saturday 7 September: Just a reminder that the third and final working bee for the year will be held on Saturday 7 September (Election day!) from 9am - 2pm. All families are expected to be represented. A list of jobs will be emailed out with the Wednesday notice on 28 August.

Garden Market: The markets have continued to be well supported, thanks for all the contributions & please keep them rolling in! To enable Kinder children and their families to more easily come along to Garden Market we will be holding one market each term on a Wednesday afternoon. This term it will be on Wednesday 28 August. We look forward to seeing you all there! Check the Calendar above for the Term three Garden Market dates.
Manure Dig 2013: Wow, what a successful day on Sunday at the wool shed of John and Di Fowler, near Bothwell. Twenty plus adults shovelled, tied, carried and packed 1100 bags of manure into utes and trailers, a horse float and truck in 5 hours (included morning tea and lunch). The weather was glorious with a few isolated showers to remind us it is winter. Children of many ages enjoyed contributing and exploring the delights of the tractor, covered yards, count out pens and super smooth wooden shorn sheep slides - a lovely memory for the children to file away for the future.

We have a few items that were left behind including:
- Clear plastic container, looked like it had someone’s lunch in it.
- 2 plates with white, light blue, dark blue.
- 1 cup with faded rural pictures and words including ‘down on the farm’.
- a child’s spoon, with a little girl imprinted on it.

We will be holding a pre Fair Manure sale and hope that some of those who could not make the dig will come and ‘person’ the mound of bags to assist with the selling.

Thank you, to everyone who came on Sunday with ample equipment and abundant amounts of enthusiasm.

We do really think we have the easiest family job on offer! Lesley and Andy

National Science week 10th – 18th August 2013: National Science Week celebrates talents and achievements in science, engineering, technology and innovation. Tasmania will host another diverse National Science Week program, with a range of talks, workshops, science shows, exhibitions, tours, films, fairs & open days on offer, there is something for everyone. To get involved go to www.scienceweek.net.au

To celebrate Science week at the Cottage School we’re setting up a ‘Wonder Wall’ on the stairs in the Green Cottage between Tom and Hana’s areas and another on the stairs in the Littlies cottage. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to write their science based questions and/or answers on the wall. We’ll be relying on the scientists in our community, both young and old, to create an interactive wall of wonderings. Please put your name on any postings so that, if necessary, we can follow up or clarify any questions or answers.

Here’s how you can participate:
- have a chat with your kids about the way science has shaped and changed our world
- ask them what they’ve been focusing on in their science classes and what they’ve discovered
- encourage them to post their questions on the wall
- post a question yourself – the curlier the better- there are some great scientists in our community who may just have the answer you’re looking for...

We look forward to watching the wonderings take shape.

Cheers, Lee.

Indigenous Literacy Foundation - The Great Book Swap: Can you imagine going through life with the literacy skills of a six-year old? Sadly, this is a reality for many Indigenous Australians living in remote communities today. Being able to read is fundamental to learning and opens doors to the future. Now our school can help buy books and literacy resources for Indigenous children living in remote communities by being involved in the 2013 Great Book Swap Challenge. The Challenge is supported by The Children’s Book Council of Australia and National Literacy & Numeracy Week.

What is it? The Great Book Swap Challenge is a fundraising event in which our students swap books with one another. Participating students bring along a gold coin and a book they’ve read and enjoyed. All these pre-loved books are put together in a central location, and students then choose a ‘new’ book they would like to keep.

When is it? The Great Book Swap Challenge is being held at the Cottage School on Wednesday, September 4th. There will be more details to follow about time and location.

What you can do now:
- Discuss the reality that many indigenous children don’t have access to the resources that our students have and what it means to grow up without books and an ability to read and write. We’ll also be having these discussions at school.
- Begin discussing books that your child would like to pass on to someone else, a book that they have enjoyed and would like to see someone else take pleasure from. Please help your child to make choices that allow them to sacrifice a favourite book in order to gain a new favourite.
- Look out for the time and location in an upcoming Wednesday notice.

Any books that don’t get re-chosen will be donated to the fair. We will need some willing workers in order for this to run smoothly, please let Lee know if you’d be able to help on the day.

Cheers, Lee.
What's On: HOBART GANG SHOW 2013: – Mt Nelson Theatre, Hobart College, Olinda Grove, Mt Nelson. Performance dates and times……. Thursday 22nd – Saturday 4th August. To book this event, please go to http://trybooking.com/CYQF Online sales close 24 hours before each performance. Grace Figg and Maja Burggraaff are participating in this show. They have been rehearsing since early June and the show promises to be lots of fun.

HOBART CARTOONING PROGRAM: We are very excited to do another Cartooning Camp in Hobart in the October School holidays. Our information brochures can be downloaded from our site: www.illustrating-man.com.au The program will be held from:

Monday 7th October – Friday 11th October

Children can come & learn how to draw and gain skills in techniques, the art of cartooning & manga in a fun and unique way. No previous drawing skills are required. We are an educational Art & Cartooning company based in Sydney and have been running Cartooning Educational Programs across Australia as well as overseas for the past 31 years.

Attachments: nil