Principal’s Report

It’s good to see sick students returning to school healthy and well. Thanks to the parents who have kept their sick children home instead of sending them to school. We have had numerous staff away as well and it has proven difficult to replace them at times. Thanks to the staff for being flexible while we have had others away. The school ran smoothly with minimal disruption to classes.

Our school is having its four year review this term. The first day will be Monday 22nd August and the second day Wednesday 7th September. We have an external reviewer, two challenge partners, our Senior Education Improvement Leader, School Council President and selected staff involved in the review. The review is conducted to see what we need to improve on over the next four years. A strategic plan which outlines the school’s goals will be written in term four.

All students are currently being assessed using the ABLES assessment tool. The data will show staff student’s levels, in regards to the Victorian Curriculum. We will transition from the Hume Region Special Schools’ Curriculum to the Victorian Curriculum in 2017.

Thanks to Di for organising the Mr Huff performance. All students were fully engaged and there were lots of laughs.

Narelle will officially finish at our school on Monday 15th August. We wish her well in her new role as Business Manager at Nathalia Secondary College. Congratulations to Denise on being the successful candidate for our full time Business Manager’s position.

Enjoy your weekend.

Leah Willis 
Principal

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Student Awards

31st July
Respect: Anikia Welch
Safety: Mitchell Viney, Dean White, Jazmin Clarke, Jess Gray & Nathan Hendrie
Try Your Best: James Carey

5th August
Respect: Nicholas Harbrow, Dean White
Safety: Dylan Schmager & Mitchell Viney
Try Your Best: Seth Mumford & Ebony Lowrie

Yard Award for Respect

Bus Award for Safety
Dylan Schmager & Laurie Norgate

Bus Captain
Dylan Schmager

Uniform Award
Chris Harbrow & Paul Murray

12th August
Respect: Jazmin Clarke, Shakaya Graham & Matthew Peters
Safety: Xavier North
Try Your Best: Hollee Clark

Yard Award for Respect

Bus Award for Respect
Jazmin Clarke

Bus Captain
Jazmin Clarke

Uniform Award
Caitlyn Koopman & Stephen Martin

Hovell Room

As always we are working hard in the Hovell Room. We have covered the letters “c” and “i” and are beginning to sort words into two categories according to their initial sound. We are also learning about our bodies and some feelings we may experience when we are scared.

The highlight each day is our Olympics. The students are watching an Olympic event and then going outside to participate in our own version. Bronze, Silver and Gold medals are being awarded to the winners who proudly stand on the podium while the National Anthem plays.
Hume Room

Hume Room has had a wonderful few weeks. We thoroughly enjoyed our excursion to Circus Quirkus in Shepparton. There were lots of interesting acts and funny jokes. The kids loved it. Swimming once again has been fantastic. We are all very confident in the water now. There is a lot more movement around the pool and heads going under the water, blowing bubbles. We did miss this week’s session due to the ‘Mr Huff’ Book Week performance. This was another great show, full of laughs for the students. We all dressed up in our favourite character costumes. Midas took out best dressed for Hume room.

In literacy, we have been focusing on ‘Monkey and Me’ and the letters ‘A, E and T’. Our word wall is filling up very quickly.

Finally in PBS, we have been looking at ‘Trying our best’ and ‘Being ready to learn’. Dylan, Anikia and Hollee have taken out the classroom PBS awards over the last 3 weeks.

Mitchell Room

We are already at the half-way mark of Term 3. It has been flying along! We have been busy, with our swimming and Bike education programs, as well as researching nations competing in this year’s Olympic Games.

In our Positive Behaviour Support sessions, we have been looking at how we listen to instructions, as well as how we interact with others nicely. We have completed various activities in these sessions, which revolved around listening to multiple instructions at once, to complete set tasks. It was hard work!

Earlier in the term, the Mitchell Room, Hume Room and Hovell Room all went to Shepparton to see the Circus Quirkus performance. Everybody had a fun time, and it was a wonderful experience for all. Everybody enjoyed the stage presence of the character Guido, as he would run through the audience, and fill the stadium with laughter. He was also extremely talented moving across the tight-rope.

It has been a great term thus far, and everybody has been working hard!

From the staff and students of the Mitchell Room
Senior Rooms

ILES Literacy
All students start our Literacy sessions with a rotation of Fingergym activities that allow practice with fine motor activities such as cutting, pencil skills, manipulating small objects, and activities that are designed to strengthen shoulder, hand, and finger muscles. They also help in: organising themselves and their possessions, starting and finishing tasks, confidence to have a go, asking for help when needing it and following instructions.

After these warm-ups, the class breaks into two groups to work. The Systematic Sequential Phonics sessions are part of the Four Blocks model now and they are now halfway through the 100 lessons. Each lesson consists of focusing on one particular sound. Students will have a set of different letters which they will then make different words concentrating on the sounds of the letters and the sequence of the sounds within the words. At the end of the sessions, students work on the word wall words making sentences and rhyming words. Students work very hard and enjoy these weekly sessions- especially when they get to make their own sentences. The other group are focusing on letter identification in their writing and each writing task has a different purpose. At the moment, students are looking at the different sports in the Olympics, writing the sports and finding the corresponding letters in the newspapers. Both these sessions finish off with some students posting their work onto their pages using the See Saw app as well as continuing working online with Reading Eggs.

VCAL Literacy
We have been working solidly this term on Learning Outcome #5 Reading for Self Expression. In the last 2 weeks we have learnt how to find a positive food item review online, work out the language in the review that makes it a positive, read and then write our own reviews.
To be able to write a positive review of another person’s cooking we had to research a recipe, create a shopping list as a group, shop for ingredients then cook the food item.
We chose fresh pizzas to review and all but one group also made their dough from scratch.
Once the reviewing was completed we read our reviews from classmates and made any adjustments to the techniques and ingredients etc then the following Monday we cooked again to yet again be reviewed by a classmate. We all agreed that writing a review of a pizza for a classmate was a good enough reason to practice our cooking techniques (and eating lots of pizza)!

Moira Shire Youth Council
Today we had a Youth Council excursion to Yarrawonga.
We went to Sacred Heart College and Yarrawonga P-12.
We arrived at Sacred Heart College and had morning tea and then we got into our groups and had a tour around the school. The areas of the school we looked at were Art, Woodwork and Welding/Metalwork rooms.
We got into our groups and we had to construct a tower using spaghetti, marshmallows, bananas and snakes. We had great fun working as a team in this activity.
When we arrived at Yarrawonga P-12 we sat in the library and were welcomed by the captains of the school. Then we got into our groups again and did a tour of the school.
We looked at the sports ground, the students are currently raising money to make their play area safer and they also need to get better irrigation. We were shown the great facilities where the students get to create woodwork/metalwork. One of the students performed some music for us. We all liked looking at the recording room.
Science was another area we looked at. Nathan and Jazmin had a go at holding a ruler with a candle on it then the candle was lit. While the teacher made a bubble they touched the bubble and it burst into flames.
We had lunch, which was a BBQ. We went to the stadium and played the never ending game. This was a fun game where we had to throw the balls at each other. We headed back to the library and completed the evaluation sheet and loaded back on the bus to go back to school.

Interschool Soccer
Our second match against Wangaratta and District Specialist School was held on Sunday at the Cobram Showgrounds. We had a new look team which did a fantastic job against a more experienced side, only going down 2-1. Mitchell kicked the goal for our team and was well supported by Ebony, Jessica, Charles, Stephen and Tori.
Thanks to the families who helped support the students by giving them the opportunity to play sport on a weekend and to Angus for coaching, Leah, Wendy and Faye for managing the team. A BBQ was enjoyed by both teams after the game and we would like to thank Adam and Cobram Roar for organising this for us.
Shrine Visit
Carolyn from the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne came to talk to VCAL Literacy about the soldiers on the Western Front in WWI. We got to try on clothing and equipment and we looked at lots of pictures. We talked about how hard it was in the winter with the cold, mud and not much food. The conditions that the soldiers had to deal with were not easy. We learnt about gas masks to stop being poisoned by the gas bombs and the food that the soldiers had to eat, sometimes they killed rats to eat. It was a great morning.

Parents and Friends
Our current fundraising activity is a raffle to celebrate Fathers’ Day. Tickets were distributed on 9th August and need to be returned along with any money & unsold tickets by 26th August. We have some terrific prizes: - 1st prize is an outdoor setting valued at $350, 2nd prize is a whipper snipper and meal voucher & 3rd prize is a car cleaning kit and box of chocolates.

Scholastic Book Club order forms are attached to today’s newsletter.

Community News

Presented By: Di Kane, Moira Shire Maternal Child Health & Sharon Soule, Family Support, Intereach
Location: Cobram Maternal Health & Child Health Centre, 16 Hay Street, Cobram
Dates: 12th October until 30th November (8 weeks)
Time: 10am-12noon
Cost: Free
Who: Parents interested in securing optimal relationships with their children
How to Register: Ph 58719275 or email MCH@moira.vic.gov.au
Cobram & District Specialist School values are Respect, Safety & Try Your Best