Principal’s Message
It has certainly been nice to see the sun this week. I hope our families are getting things back to normal after the flood and storm event.

Staff News: It looks as though Mr Barnes’ vacant teaching position is going to be filled permanently sooner rather than later. I am waiting on word from staffing for final details but sadly Mrs Reilly will be finishing up at Seaham at the end of the week four (next Friday). We may need to fill the gap with one of our known casual teachers if the new teacher is not able to start at the commencement of week five. It is not an ideal situation, particularly as reports and interviews are due soon but often these staffing dilemmas are unavoidable. I will formally thank Mrs Reilly in the newsletter next week and hopefully by then I will have news on her replacement.

This term we have welcomed a new School Learning Support Officer, Mrs Kate Van Eyden to Seaham Public School. Mrs Van Eyden will be working with K/1L a few hours every Wednesday and Thursday for the remainder of the year.

Term Two: The last five weeks of term two are going to be particularly busy. We are yet to finalise our assembly dates for our special ANZAC Assembly. We also have the Balance Swimming Program and interest groups. It looks as though assemblies may be timetabled for Thursdays during this time and into term three.

Interest groups are looking exciting. We are considering including the Balance Swimming Program for Stage One as one of our groups. We also have a visiting drama teacher and the mural painting as two more exciting options.

NAPLAN: Don’t forget NAPLAN assessment for Years Three and Five is on next week. The testing will be done in the morning on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is really important that Year Three and Five students are at school during these days.

Storm/Flood Event: Please see attached with today’s newsletter correspondence that has been dropped off for our families. It would be appreciated if you could please spread the word to other community members who have been effected. The Department of Primary Industries will be back in contact with our school in the coming weeks to advise of a possible community meeting that will take place to help assist the local area. On the top of the advice attached with today’s newsletter you will notice an email address. Due to the area being declared a Natural Disaster, this group of volunteers will be available to help out with rebuilding fences and clean up. To apply for this you need to email blazeaid.dungog@gmail.com by 14 May and state your location, need and circumstances. Please see page 6.

School Canteen closed tomorrow for all lunches and snacks.

New date For Year 6 & Families for Aim High University Day
31 July 2015

Please see Page 5 for Fete News
Canteen News: **CANTEEN CLOSED TOMORROW FOR LUNCHES AND SNACKS.** The canteen has significant vacancies in their roster for this term which makes it impossible for the canteen to operate on these days. The canteen will be again closed next Friday if the vacancies cannot be filled by next Tuesday. If you can help on these days, please contact Peta Salter on 0402 276 880. We understand how difficult it is for families with their commitments, however if you or extended family or friends could spare some time either monthly, or once a term to assist on our canteen it would be greatly appreciated.

**P&C UPDATE** - The P&C team held a meeting last night 6 May and managed to work through a large agenda. It was good to catch up with other parents after the recent storm events and hear how other families had managed to get through this difficult period. For those in our school community who have suffered damage to property or the loss of animals, our thoughts are with you. Thanks also to Craig Partridge who works a very long day on P&C meeting dates! Craig is always in attendance and works with the P&C team to resolve issues and provide feedback to us every month. Some work that has been achieved over the last month despite the circumstances include:  

1. **(1)** The delivery of a framed photo to Hanson Quarry as a thank you for their generous support during the construction phase of our new sport court. Kerri McGaw once again pushed on with this project and arranged for the photo to be enlarged and signed by our students and once framed she personally delivered it to the Quarry Manager. He was incredibly appreciative of our thanks and has displayed our photo with pride. Thanks Kerri for all the time and effort you put into this.
2. **(2)** Carly Clarke has put in an amazing effort to make our Mother’s Day stall possible. I am sure all the kids will once again enjoy the opportunity to buy their mum, nan or carer a gift. The purchasing, wrapping and selling of these gifts only happens because we have parents like Carly who help make this happen. Your support is greatly appreciated Carly.  
3. **(3)** A very big thanks goes to the hard working Canteen Committee and the volunteers who continually give us their time to support parents and students who rely on this service being available at the school. In particular we would like to acknowledge the incredible effort made by Sandra Batchelor who goes way above and beyond in her support for our canteen. Without Sandra’s commitment the canteen would not have opened on a number of occasions.

While the canteen may have managed to get by on a minimal number of volunteers to-date that is not the case for the next few months. Volunteers are urgently needed for a number of days in the coming weeks and we hope some of you may have just a few hours to help out. If support cannot be found the canteen will be closed on a significant number of days in coming 6 weeks. Please contact the school office and leave your details if you are able to support the canteen in any way.  

4. **(4)** I would like to send a sincere thanks to all the amazing students at our school for their enthusiasm and participation in the Easter Hat Parade. It was obvious how much support and encouragement parents had provided to their children to get involved and have fun during this event. I would also like to thank all those parents who expressed thanks to me either in person, text or email. While the best reward is seeing the children have so much fun, it is always appreciated when people take the time to have a chat and express their thanks for the work done by the P&C team. Your support and encouragement was extremely appreciated. As always, thanks to Craig and all our teachers for the support and encouragement they provided to students. Keep a watch on the school website as photos from this event will be published soon.

**Website Updates** – Kerri McGaw and Craig Partridge have already published a number of updates on our website and more will be coming shortly. Details of the P&C Committee and the upcoming Fete are now available. A number of photos and other changes’ will be published in the coming days. As always if you would like to read through the minutes from our meetings they are also available on our school website.

The next Movie Night will be held on Friday 19 June. It has been difficult to find a date that does not clash with other events but since many students have been asking when the next movie night will be held it is great to have finally found a date! More information will be sent out in the coming weeks and ticket sales will be available shortly.

Due to enrolled children’s life threatening Anaphylactic Allergic reactions to all nuts and peanut products, we would like to encourage families not to send these products to school with their children. These include peanut butter, nutella, sesame seeds, loose nuts, muesli, nut or chocolate bars or any products containing any type of nuts. We appreciate your support in this matter.
P&C News Cont: The P&C would like to send a huge thank you to Kellie O’Hare for the fantastic mural outline she has placed on the side of the shed near our beautiful garden. Kellie gave up her time during the recent holiday break to trace the mural onto the shed. Some students involved in the interest groups will have the opportunity to help paint the mural in the coming weeks. This is a great step toward completing the long anticipated mural and it will extremely rewarding for the families who were involved in the creation of the garden to see the final stage of this amazing area completed. Thanks again to Kellie and her husband for giving up their time under very difficult circumstances. Your support to our school is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from parents about an ideas you may have about future events at our school. Regards Tanya McNaughton

Year Four Science Program: Working scientifically + University = Widens career choices. Careers through Science (CTS) is a program being offered in our school by the AIM High team from the University of Newcastle to support the “Working Scientifically” outcomes for Stage Two students. Our first session was Tuesday and was a great success. There will be another two weeks of this fantastic opportunity. This activity-based model of Carers Through Science aims to rise awareness amongst primary school students of many professional careers, and the pathways to these careers, while simultaneously building skills and further interest in working scientifically.

Year Five & Six Parent Survey: On Monday survey forms were sent out to our families in Year Five and Six. Thank you to those that have completed and returned the survey. We would like to stress that your input is invaluable. This process is confidential and we encourage families to complete the survey and put them in the money box (blue box) in the foyer. Please be assured that your honesty and participation is very much appreciated. Surveys need to be returned by tomorrow to enable the data to be collated. If you have misplaced the survey you can download a copy from our web page.

Canberra Excursion: Notes and payment schedules have been forwarded home this week to our Years 5&6 families. We encourage families to take advantage of the payment schedules which hopefully will assist with personal budgeting.

Swimming Program: Years 1 & 2 will be commencing the swimming program in week 5 of this term. The cost of this fantastic program is $70. Thank you to those that have already paid. Notes have today been sent home to all students in Years 1&2 for completion if participating. There are still places available for those that wish their child to be included in this fantastic program. It is an intensive one day per week program hosted over five weeks at Balance at Mayfield. This cost covers the bus hire and instruction. We highly recommend student’s participation

Boys Soccer: The first round of the PSSA Knockout competition will take place on 19 May against Clarence Town Public School. More details will be available shortly.

Boys Rugby League: Notes have been sent home for expression of interest for students to participate in the 2015 Senior Rugby League Team. Senior teams will be selected from students who are above ten years of age, unless there is a shortage of players. Please return these notes to Mr Partridge by tomorrow, 8 May, 2015.

Mother’s Day Stall: Our wonderful P&C has again supplied a shopping stall for our students for Mother’s Day. Thank you to Carly Clarke who coordinated the day and the parent helpers who helped make this stall possible. Special thank also to Bridie Gillon’s grandmother Susanne Hutchinson for her wonderful donations to this stall.

Canteen Closed for all lunches and snacks tomorrow!
Our school holds a fete every second year. It is always a great success thanks to the combined efforts of our school community. As well as just being good fun for the whole family, we often raise in excess of $10,000.

These funds are put straight back into enhancing your child’s school experience. This year we are hoping to raise enough money to help continue to school improve technology and beautifying the outside environment.


We are currently finalising activities/stalls with our teachers and more information will be available shortly however there are somethings we can think about now:

**SPONSORSHIP** - do you know any businesses who would like to sponsor the fete?

**BUSINESS STALLS** – do you own a business and would like to set up a stall? Please note a fee and conditions apply.

**SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE** - do you have contacts or own a business that could donate prizes? Sporting memorabilia are a great idea for the silent auction or vouchers for the raffle.

**PLANT STALL** - do you have any cuttings or plants that you can donate?

**WHITE ELEPHANT/SECOND HAND CLOTHING STALL** - all items must be in good condition/working order - *If you wouldn’t buy it then don’t donate it*. No electrical items.

**BOOK STALL** - do you have any pre-loved books that you would like to donate?

**INDIVIDUAL CLASSES** - Individual class notes will be sent home later in the year requesting items needed to run individual stalls and activities.

Further information will be provided later in the term about when to start bringing items and if you have any questions please talk to Kerri McCaw or Karen Forsyth.

Thank you for your continuing support!
Hunter Region – Storm/Flooding Event April 2015

KEY CONTACTS

A list of key contacts from the Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services are provided. These contacts can provide advice on livestock health and fodder issues arising from flood and storm impacts, and advice on pastures impacted by the flooding such as best pasture reestablishment options. The Rural Assistance Authority can provide advice on financial assistance. The Animal and Agricultural Services number may be used for emergency assistance requests (e.g. stranded livestock).

Animal and Agricultural Services 1800 814 647

Note this number is a temporary emergency service until 30 June 2015

LIVESTOCK OFFICERS

Liz O’Grady Muswellbrook 0407 139 545
Todd Andrews Armidale 0429 987 405 / 6770 1831
Brett Littler Mudgee 0427 007 398
John O’Connor Berry 0412 359 084 / 4464 6000

PASTURE OFFICERS

Neil Griffiths Tocal 0427 007 425
Tony Blatch Tocal 0427 788 984
Peter Beale Taree 0427 007 468
Amanda Britton Berry 0427 102 793

RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Freecall 1800 678 593

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLORS

Ron Lindsay Gloucester 0428 582 570 / 6558 2570
Ray Hynes Scone 0447 800 040 / 6545 3544
Andrew Ellem Taree 0448 035 143 / 6551 5879