Principal’s report

This week has been full of celebrations of student achievements and the fun students have when they are learning at Stratford Primary School.

We had a full house for our Awards Night on Monday with so many families taking advantage of the warm evening and staying for the BBQ. The students had a lot of fun putting together their acts for their families and everyone celebrated with the students who received awards.

On Wednesday evening our Grade 6 students and their families enjoyed a beautiful meal at Café L’attitude in Maffra. The highlights of the evening were the student speeches, the wonderful DVD put together this year by Sue Schleifer and speeches by parents whose association with the school finishes with their last child graduating from Stratford Primary School.

The final assembly today was attended by many parents who joined with us to congratulate winners of Swimming, C.W.A, Commonwealth Bank and Green team awards. Congratulations to all students who received awards either on Monday night and/or today, well done.

After assembly the children were given their Year Book, a pictorial record of the great year it has been. Thank you to Darren Peverill for the many voluntary hours he put in to designing and arranging the printers for us, the book looks fantastic and was very excitedly received by the students and parents. If your family would like extra copies they are available for $10.00 at the school office.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year and thank you for your involvement and commitment to your child’s education at Stratford Primary School.

Zonda Lynn – Principal

Lauren Meredith - 5/6 Classroom Teacher

It has been a very busy year in 5/6. To mention all the events we have been involved in would require a book, so we might stick to a few highlights.

The student leaders were inspired at a Leadership Seminar in Melbourne, grade 6 students attended the Rotary Camp in Licola, sports carnivals, Bike Ed and RACV Energy...
Breakthrough Challenge. They all were involved in transition activities to their various secondary colleges. The grade six students also showed off their fantastic acting ability in their Hamlet Shakespeare Performance. Students also attended camp at Karoonda Park, Gelantipy. They were challenged with many new activities including horse-riding, flying fox, initiatives course, rock climbing and white water rafting. The students were extremely well behaved and attempted all the activities with enthusiasm.

At the senior level, the students are involved in many extra-curricular activities. These activities help to build resilience, team work, compassion and respect. They also create opportunities for students to experience success in non-academic areas.

In the classroom, students have been very engaged in learning about and writing Poetry. They have made books with many different types of poetry, all with their characteristic language and structures. In maths, they have learnt about fractions, decimals, multiplication and division, prime numbers, budgeting and using protractors.

The students have also been involved in numerous projects. They have learnt about Endangered Animals and environmental impacts. They have also been learning how to make animations using clay models (think Shaun the Sheep).

Although hectic at times, it has been a really great year. It has been my first year at Stratford P.S. and wow! What an introduction! Congratulations to all the students for their achievements and growth over the year. You are an amazing, interesting bunch. Good luck to the grade six students for their next educational adventures and also to the grade fives for their final primary school year.

Miss Hayes 2/3 Teacher
This year has been a very busy one. At the beginning of the year I returned from studying in Indonesia to teach grade 3/4 with Mrs Keil and Art and Indonesian to the whole school. We had a terrific Shakespeare festival and enjoyed watching the performance of Hamlet and recreating our own version in the classroom. In June with the classroom reorganisation, the grade 3’s showed great acceptance of change as we then became a grade 2/3 and the grade 2 students settled in well. The smaller class groups allowed for more individual time with the teacher and smaller groups in literacy and numeracy sessions. Throughout the year we had many visitors to our school including Senior Sargent Richard Chrisp to talk about bike safety, Flight Lieutenant _ Meredith who spoke to the children about the meaning of ANZAC day, and the CFA, where students learnt about what to do in the event of a house fire. During term 4 we also welcomed Miss Fleischer, a student teacher from the University of Tasmania, to our class, she was a tremendous help and we wish her all the best with her future teaching career.

We went on many excursions; a few highlights were the Indonesian Shadow Puppet performance, meeting Alison Lester at the Sale Art Gallery and tree planting in Sale. Grade 3/4 Camp was an exciting adventure in which students explored rock pools in the rain, danced the night away at a disco, cooked damper on the fire and discovered how happy Miss Hayes could be if you kept her awake all night. All in all it has been a fantastic year and I hope everybody has happy holidays and Selamat Hari Natal (Merry Christmas).

Miss Bradley - 1/2 Teacher
Wow, what a memorable year we have had! Throughout the year we have shared many wonderful experiences together. A highlight would have to be our excursion to Melbourne where we visited the Aquarium. We have learnt so much, not only academically, but also socially as well. We are socially aware people who look after one another, care about each other and support our peers to be the best that they can be.

I have had a wonderful year not only with my 1/2 grade, but also getting to know the whole school through our Music and Drama lessons. We have laughed together and developed confidence in performing in front of others.

I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again next year. To those of you who are leaving, I wish you all the best for whatever your future may bring!
Lyn Gamble Prep/1 Teacher
Teaching Prep-One is always a rewarding, if challenging experience, the wide eyed Preps, proud of their school clothes and new bags soon become confident with school routines. Grade ones enjoy being the big helpers in the classroom. In first term we were pleased to meet Miss B, Danielle Berkelmans, who was here on student placement in our grade. Having two teachers in the flexible learning space allowed for a diverse range of learning activities with small groups and lots of adult attention. The children have learnt to be more independent, looking after their belongings and using appropriate social skills with each other. It’s great to see them having a go at writing and using their strategies when reading. In cooking I heard, “Look Ms Gamble, I like this!” from one of our reluctant eaters, with a big smile. Although I am looking forward to teaching senior children next year I am going to miss the enthusiasm, dramas and growth that I experience with Prep Ones. Thank you to all the parents who have helped during the year.

SAKGP
What a great year we have had in the kitchen. With the enthusiasm of our kitchen volunteers, staff and children we have been able to produce delicious dishes and travel the world through food, small hands skilfully rolled out dough to make pasta, bread, pizza, biscuits. Some of our older children’s flair and imagination showcased fresh produce from our garden in the form of salads and dressings. We have discovered that our kitchen has been an outlet for some of our students hidden talents; we love to foster this culture.
I love comments such as “I love this” and “Don’t put citrus in the compost because the worms don’t like it” or “Jo, I thought this would taste bad but it’s really good”. I love that children are getting their hands dirty and realising where food comes from. Learning together with the children and volunteers is a highlight of the program. Looking forward to more fun next year.

Jo Knight (Kitchen Specialist)

Education Support Staff
Sam Robinson, Adele Rees, Deb Hooper, Vasanti Sunderland & Emily Jolly.

Another rewarding and busy year is over, this year has had us involved in many programs throughout the school and it is wonderful to see the progress made by the students. We are very lucky at Stratford to be encouraged and supported by the staff, to be able to do further training so we can assist in many areas. The students here are fantastic, eager to learn and have given us many laughs over the year, we are looking forward to next year and to continue to support our students.
AWARDS NIGHT 2013