THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
"A smile is said to be the universal expression of happiness across all cultures."

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK
Staff Star of the Week – Mr Earl
I was born in London England and immigrated with my family to Armidale when I was only 19 months old. I started school at Armidale Demonstration School (now Armidale City) but my family then moved to Cape Town, South Africa. We lived there for two years and returned to Armidale when I was 7 years old. I completed my primary school at Armidale Dem School and then completed my secondary education at Armidale High School.

In 1981 I started my teacher training at the Armidale College of Advanced Education (formerly known as the Armidale Teacher’s College). After graduating I spent a few months working in Walgett as a casual teacher. In 1987 I received my first permanent appointment to Sadleir Public School which is near Liverpool in Sydney. I spent eight years there and learnt a lot. In 1995 I received a transfer to William Stimson Public School at Wetherill Park. During my 10 years there I took on the role of relieving Assistant Principal. In 2005 I applied for the Assistant Principal's position at Sandon Public School and was successful. I commenced work here at the beginning of 2006.

CALENDAR – 2015
General School Contributions are now due: $45.00 per family
Art & Craft fee $10.00 per student (maximum $30.00 per family)
Please keep making payments for the Stage 3 Lake Keepit excursion

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<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>Monday 14th September</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Council 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 15th September</td>
<td>Years K-2 Disco 2:00-3:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Years 3-6 Disco 5:30-7:00pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th September</td>
<td>Pamper night meeting 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Friday 18th September</td>
<td>K-2 Assembly 2:20pm</td>
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<td>Last day of term</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Tuesday 6th October</td>
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<td>Students return to school</td>
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<td>Monday 19th – Friday 23rd October</td>
<td>Stage 3 Major Excursion: Lake Keepit</td>
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<td>Saturday 24th October</td>
<td>Ladies Pamper Night 6:30-10:30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 30th October</td>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Friday 6th November</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stage 2 T20 cricket day</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th December</td>
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<td>Presentation Day</td>
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<td>Volunteers’ morning tea</td>
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Sandon has been a fantastic school in which to work and I have found the children, staff and community very supportive. In fact, all the schools I have worked at have helped shape me as a teacher. I have been lucky to teach every grade from Kindergarten to Year 6 and have enjoyed each stage for different reasons. I look forward to a few more years of teaching and being able to continue to shape young people not only academically, but by helping them become responsible caring individuals of the future.

**PLANNING FOR 2016**

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter we have commenced preliminary organisation for 2016. In order to assist us with this planning for next year, we would ask any family who knows that they will be moving elsewhere at the end of the year, to please notify the school as soon as possible so that we can take this into account. Also, if you know of any families who are enrolling students in kindergarten next year could you please ask them to contact the school? We are also planning our kindergarten orientation day for Wednesday October 21st and would like to make sure all new kindergarten students receive an invitation.

**STUDENT ABSENCES**

This term has been one of the worst I have known as far as student illness is concerned. There have been many students who have been very sick and away from school for a number of days. However, as our attendance rolls are checked each term by the Department of Education Home School Liaison Officer it is very important that all absences, both full days and partial days, are explained. If you need to take your child to a doctor it is also a good idea to get a medical certificate. Also, if children are consistently late to school, even if it is only half an hour, it can have a detrimental effect on their learning. Being late by half an hour each morning adds up to two and a half hours each week, which is quite a lot of learning time lost. Even partial absences must have an explanation that is acceptable to the Department of Education.

Please send in a note on the day your child returns to school, or ring the office, to explain any absences.

**REMEMBER**

Cans of food are not to be brought to school for safety reasons. Thank you for your support with this matter.

**SUBMIT YOUR EARN AND LEARN STICKERS NOW!**

Could all Earn and learn stickers and sticker sheets be sent in to the Sandon office before the end of term, Friday 18th September, so that we can send them away and redeem our vouchers. Thank you to everyone in the community who has supported our school during this fundraiser.

**GET READY WEEKEND!**

With summer just around the corner, now is the time to ‘Get Ready’ for bush fire season. Diggings Rural Fire Brigade will be participating in the NSW Rural Fire Service Get Ready Weekend.

Rocky River Fire Shed: Saturday 12/09/15 12 NOON to 4PM
Invergowrie Fire Shed: Sunday 13/09/15 12 NOON to 4PM

This information session is about empowering property owners to prepare themselves and their properties for the coming fire season, so they can look out not only for their properties and their families but their neighbours and communities.
**KC**

Reading and writing continue to be our big focus in KC. Over the last couple of weeks the children have enjoyed turning shared Big Books into puppet plays with Mrs Le Motte and Mrs Floyd.

I am so excited with the writing that is being done during independent writing that I would like to share some of it with you. In response to investigating a pomegranate:

*The pomegranate has juices. It looks like an apple. It tastes disgusting.* By Brayden

*The pomegranate is red. A pomegranate is smooth and nice. Inside the pomegranate there are seeds.*

By Nikola

*The pomegranate has seeds inside it. I was surprised about how many seeds there were. It tasted yuck!* By Isabella B

After a discussion about magpies:

*Magpies swoop but just the boy magpies because the girl magpies are in their nests to keep the baby magpies safe from people. Stay home if you see magpies swooping out of your window!* By Chi

*Magpies are a native, black and white Australian bird. The male magpie is the one to swoop. If the male magpies are not there, predators will eat the babies.* By Jack

Clever kids!

**KM**

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 9 weeks with KM and will be sad to leave next week. During term 3 we have conducted lots of experiments in both our PDHPE and science units. In our PDHPE unit ‘Healthy Habits’ we have been learning all about how to keep ourselves healthy and happy. For the last 3 weeks we have focused on germs. Being visual learners, KM did an experiment with bread so we could see how germs grow. For this experiment a slice of bread was passed around and touched with dirty hands, while another slice was passed around with clean hands. We observed the changes in the bread and discussed why the mould was growing on our ‘dirty hands’ bread. KM has discovered how important washing our hands is! In science we enjoyed reading ‘The Three Little Pigs’ and then constructed our own houses out of straws, sticks and Lego bricks. We had a great time being the wolf and trying to blow down our houses. After this experiment we all decided that the best material for a house was definitely the Lego bricks. What clever scientists! Mrs Thomas and I wish you all a relaxing holiday break with your families.

Thank you for a great term KM!

Carolyn Gadd and Kia Fabian

**1T**

1T has had a very exciting week this week. On Wednesday we took our learning outside in to the beautiful Spring weather and did some more awesome experiments related to our science unit ‘All Mixed Up’. We looked at different ways to separate ingredients once they had been mixed together. While we were outside experimenting, we were lucky enough to receive our new interactive board. Already we have started to use it and have created a class fairy tale using some of the new features of the board. As a class we have a lot to learn about our new interactive panel. It is going to be fun to explore the capabilities together and make our learning more interactive and fun.

The students in 1T have started to create their own narrative texts. We have been planning our stories; who the characters will be and what will happen to them. We have some great ideas and I am looking forward to seeing those ideas come to life in our stories.

Over the past couple of weeks we have had a number of students who have spoken about their favourite books, telling the class about the characters of the book along with the complication that they face and how it is resolved. Everyone has done a fantastic job sharing their books.

Brittany Lewis

Tom McLean
1/2P
The last few weeks have been extremely busy. I would like to congratulate all the students who were involved in the Stage 1 dance group at ACOS. I spent 2 days with them participating in rehearsals and concerts at Lazenby last week. It was a great experience for all those involved and also a lot of fun! Thankyou to all the parents who supported us by attending and driving their children to the concert, it was great to have you there. Thankyou also to all those who attended assembly and open classrooms last Friday. It was lovely for the children to be able to share all their hard work with you. We are finishing up our unit on Narratives as the term is almost over. Over the next week the children will all write their own narrative, starting with a plan. They will decide on the setting, characters, what the problem will be and how it will be solved in the end. I can’t wait to read them!

Jane Palfreyman

2/3D
What an exciting term it has been! The students have had so many wonderful experiences from performing in concerts, to displaying artwork, to sharing what they are learning in class with other adults. Those family members who made it for the Literacy and Numeracy Week Assembly and morning tea, thank you. The children are so proud of themselves and their family and are thrilled to share some of their school life with you. We are beginning to wrap up some of our units from this term. In science we have tried separating some mixtures that we have made. Not so easy! We have enjoyed trying though, and the experiments have consolidated the students’ understanding of what creates a mixture and what mixture really means.
In English we have been looking at a variety of grammar elements. We have learnt about conjunctions and their very important role in the structure of a sentence. Some suffixes are also very confusing, especially ‘ed’ which can make an ‘ed’, ‘d’ or ‘t’ sound, depending on the word it has been added to.
The end of this term will mark a sad day for 2/3D with Juri (Year 3) and Faisal (Year 2) returning to Saudi Arabia. They both started kindergarten at Sandon, and along with their brother Waleed in Year 6, make up a wonderful element of the community at Sandon Public School. We will miss their contributions and friendships in 2/3D and we wish them all the best as they return to their home country.
I hope you all enjoy the break from lunch boxes and getting everyone to school, and that the holidays will be an enjoyable brain break for the kids.

Darlene Erieau

3/4P
What a great excursion we had to the New England National Park last week. The weather was very kind to us and it only rained just as we boarded the buses to return home. We experienced the ancient Antarctic Beech forest. It was like stepping back into the time of the dinosaurs.
Then we were able to view the magnificent escarpment and see the coast from the lookouts. It was great then to have a walk through the snow gum forest.
This excursion reinforced the need for having National Parks and their importance in preserving landscapes and environments. Stage 2 and Purple class would like to thank Bruce Cohen for providing us with an Indigenous perspective to the importance of the area to the Aboriginal people.
Thank you also to everyone who was able to attend our Education Week Open Day assembly and class visits. I would like to thank 3/4P for a fantastic term and say to all of them, have a wonderful holiday!!

Paul Earl
Thank you to all the parents who came along to the special Education Week and Literacy and Numeracy Week assembly and visited our open classroom. When parents visited 4/5/6H, we viewed our iPad news productions on snow which were created using the application iMovie. There were many lessons learned about what makes an effective news report. For example, most groups upon viewing their production came to the realisation that the camera person needed to keep the camera still. After the viewing, parents were invited to engage with their children as they reflected upon the events and characters that have unfolded throughout our exploration of the novel Boy Overboard.

We would also like to thank all the parents who supported their children with the exciting events of ACOS. The performances looked fantastic and all the children had such a wonderful experience.

Throughout this term, we have been learning about earthquakes in our Earthquake Explorers unit. Students have been creating models using play dough to demonstrate how tectonic plates work and have been learning about the changes that occur to the Earth’s surface to cause an earthquake. At the moment, we are each researching a famous earthquake using the iPads and will be designing a creative poster to explain how the earthquake occurred.

Madeline Kemmis would like to extend a sincere thank you to Miss Madeline Kemmis who has undertaken her internship on our class. During her short stay at Sandon Miss Kemmis has made a very positive impact on the students in her care and we will miss her immensely. Congratulations on the completion of your education degree Miss Kemmis. You are about to embark on a very rewarding and exciting adventure and we look forward to following your career.

Helen Bull

What a fabulous term it has been so far. In science, we have investigated earthquakes and other natural disasters, through both research and some fantastic hands-on science experiments. The students used different coloured play dough to create the inner core, outer core, mantle and the outer crust of the earth. They created tectonic plates and simulated the different movements that occur during an earthquake. As part of small groups, the students designed and created earthquake proof towers. They were given specific requirements and we tested to find the most successful tower during a simulated earthquake. There were three towers that stood up and fulfilled all the requirements. Congratulations to those groups.

We have almost completed reading Boy Overboard. The novel continues to spark interesting conversations. I am so impressed by the high level of comprehension the students are demonstrating through their writing of emotive poems and chapter summaries, and also in their individual artworks. 5/6R enjoyed wonderful, sunny weather at Thalgarrah for our Creative Arts day. The children enjoyed working with a local artist to create some lovely nature based artworks using photographic paper, water colours, black pencils and air drying clay. It was a fabulous day of learning and fun.

I was very proud of 5/6R during our video conference with the education faculty at UNE, and whilst skyping Nauru. The students were extremely well behaved, listened well and asked very thoughtful questions. Well Done! It was interesting to learn about Nauru’s day of special significance called Angam Day. We wrote postcards to some children in year 5 and 6 in Nauru and look forward to receiving their return letters.

Thank you to all the children who continue to complete and hand in homework each week. I particularly enjoyed reading your newspaper articles that were very interesting and informative.

We have been very fortunate to have some pre-service teachers in our classroom this term. We said thank you and farewell to Mrs Harris at the end of last week, and this week, we welcome Ms Cutmore to our classroom for the remainder of the term.

Renee Thomas
**Green**

As I return from my leave I would like to start by saying a big thank you to Samantha Floyd who taught Green class in my absence. The children have not stopped telling me about all of the wonderful learning they completed with Sam, and what a great time they had participating in such events as the Book Week Character Parade.

As term 3 draws to an end Green class will be completing a mini-unit based on Fruit and Vegetable Month. The theme this year is ‘Let’s Go Green!’ The focus of this unit will be on eating ‘Green for Go’ foods and ‘Being Green’ (sustainability). Throughout these lessons the students will be introduced to the traffic light poster which will help them to determine ‘everyday’ and ‘sometimes’ foods. They will also learn about the correct bins to put our different types of waste into (i.e. landfill, recycling and compost bins).

Lea Mulrooney

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**Purple**

Spring is finely here and we have been busy creating some spring masterpieces to hang in the room. We would like to welcome Brayden to Purple class. Brayden has had a fabulous few days at Sandon and has settled in to class and school routines really well.

We had a wonderful excursion to Point Lookout last Thursday. We will be studying National Parks next term so this was a great opportunity to have a look at one of our local National Parks. Thank you stage 2 for inviting us to accompany you.

The students had some fabulous descriptions of what a rainforest looks like, sounds like and smells like.

- **What does a rainforest look like – the trees look like a roof**
- **Sounds like – Wind in the trees**
- **Smells like – leaves**

Congratulations to Michael for participating in the choir performance at the Arts in Concert last week. Michael is always a fabulous representative of our school.

We enjoyed looking at different authors and finding out some information about each of our favourites. We chose a favourite book and created a new book cover which has been displayed in the hall.

This week our maths focus has been on data collection. We have been keeping a tally of the most popular fruit or vegetable for ‘Crunch and Sip’. Apples have been the most popular fruit this week. We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Lindy, Julie and Kate

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**ARMSIDALE EX SERVICES JUNIOR CRICKET REGISTRATION**

The cricket season is upon us! Armidale Ex-services junior cricket registration for the upcoming 2015/16 season is happening now. We welcome players of all skill levels and are hoping to field teams in at least the Under 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s. Cost $90. For further information phone 67720810 or 0422215056 or email peter.collins@kirinari.com.au. We are hoping to finalise player numbers by the 14 September with cricket commencing in Term 4.
END OF TERM DISCO
Next Tuesday 15th September, Sandon Public School is having a disco to raise funds to purchase much needed resources for our school.

When: Tuesday 15th September
Where: Sandon School Hall
Time: Years K-2 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Years 3-6 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Cost: $2.00
Dress: Mufti clothes
Years 3-6 are NOT to wear mufti clothes to school that day, only K-2.
Parents must pick up students from the hall – promptly at 7:00pm. They will not be permitted to wait at the front of the school.

Good Luck to the Super Sparkles netball team in their Grand Final game tomorrow!
The girls play at 12pm at Lynches Rd if anyone wants to come help cheer them on!

SHINE AWARDS
GREEN
Hermione
PURPLE
Maielle
2/3D
Shernita
Maisie
Jarelle
3/4L
Howard
John
Mya
3/4P
Ben
Ben
Tremaine
Will
Logan
4/5/6H
Emily
Tasha-lee
Clancie
Samantha
David
Paige
Thomas
5/6R
Raheem
Josiah
Waleed
Aliyah
Lizzie
Mia
Cooper

SANDON P&C UPDATE
LADIES PAMPER NIGHT MEETING NEXT
WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER AT 6:00PM

Starting on Tuesday the 6th October is the

Armidale Community Weight Loss Challenge

Our goal is to get healthy and lose weight together over 10 weeks of informative and supportive group sessions.

Tuesdays at 6pm. Cost $49 for full 10 weeks (which funds a prize pool for those who achieve the best personal results)

For details please call
Dee Ritch: 0414 892 162
Karen Browne: 0488 552 755

"Wellness. It's Time! "

Joe Latham
Waterproofing and Tiling
0417758803

Northey Plastering
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Robert Northey
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northeyplastering@hotmail.com