Sullivan Shield Day 1

Last Wednesday, our Rugby League team was victorious in the three games they played against Wanniassa Primary School ACT, St Greg's Primary School Cooma and Richardson Primary School ACT.

Congratulations to the boys. They now progress on to Day 2 of the competition next Wednesday.

Stage 3 Student Morning Tea

Chloe, Jay and Brielle, all 5/6C students, enjoyed morning tea, and sharing stories of their school successes, with Mrs Hawes.

Queanbeyan Choral Festival

Last Tuesday evening at Llewellyn Hall our Senior Choir performed two songs ‘Always Remember’ and ‘Down by the Riverside’. The piano accompaniment was provided by Mrs Olga Hamnet and Miss Veronica Milroy was the conductor. The performance was very polished and students were beautifully presented. Our Senior Choir students joined the massed choir to close the evening.

Athletics Carnival

The school PSSA Athletics Carnival will be held this Thursday, weather permitting. Students will walk to Wright Park ready to commence their events at 9:45am. Parents are welcome to attend the carnival to add their support and words of encouragement for the participants. The order of events is:

1. Junior - 8, 9, 10yrs 800m
   - 11yrs 800m
   - Senior - 12, 13yrs 800m
2. 8yrs 100m
   - 9yrs Shot Put
3. 9yrs 100m
   - 10yrs Long Jump
   - 12/13yrs Shot Put
4. 10yrs 100m
   - 11yrs Long Jump
5. 10yrs Shot Put
   - 11yrs
   - 12/13yrs Long Jump
6. 9yrs Long Jump
   - 11yrs Shot Put
   - 12/13yrs 100m
7. Junior - 8, 9, 10yrs 200m
   - 11yrs 200m
   - Senior - 12/13yrs 200m
8. House Relays (time permitting)
   - Junior Boys and Girls
   - Senior + 11yrs Boys and Girls
Reconciliation Week

It’s time to change it up

On Tuesday 26 May, the school community came together for an Assembly to mark National Sorry Day and the start of Reconciliation Week. Mrs Hawes and student leaders – captains, prefects and year 6 Aboriginal Students, led the Assembly.

Isaiah, from the Ngunnawal people, gave the Welcome to Country: ‘My people have been meeting on the land around Queanbeyan for thousands of years. My ancestors hosted many important ceremonies on these lands, rich with wisdom and knowledge. We welcome you to our land for the 2015 Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week assembly.’

Jasmy, school captain, explained: ‘National Reconciliation Week is about respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. The week is celebrated from 27 May until 3 June each year because these two dates are important anniversaries. May 27, 1967 is the date of the referendum that gave recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be included in the census and June 3, 1992 is the date the high Court delivered the Mabo decision, which paved the way for land rights known as native title.’

Flynn, school prefect, gave the Acknowledgement of Country: ‘We respectfully acknowledge the First People and traditional custodians of this land, the Ngunnawal Nation, their ancestors and their elders. We are committed to reconciliation among all Australians.’

Kiara and Tamia, year 6 students, read from the Story ‘Stolen Girl’. This story acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

Miss Raymond, Ms Whitehead, Mrs Christou, Miss Tierney, Miss Dalton and Mrs Watt lit the candles to mark the apology to the stolen generations. Claire, school prefect, described the importance of this ceremony through these words: ‘Lighting candles brings light to our hopes for reconciliation. It is a request for healing and peace. It is a traditional way of showing we care and it helps us reflect on our own thoughts on reconciliation.’

Amy, school prefect, talked about the many levels of Reconciliation: ‘Reconciliation is the process of learning to understand a conflict from all sides and trying to find a resolution that values the differences. Reconciliation can take place at various levels of society – at personal, family, community, national and world levels. It is important to be happy with who you are, to value
yourself so you can genuinely value others, to treat neighbours and school friends the way you would like to be treated, to heal the wounds of the past and enable all people to enjoy their rights, accept their responsibilities and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, and to live in peace with one another while respecting differences.’

Bronson, Year 6 student, presented a model for reconciliation:

- **Faith**: Believe world peace is possible.
- **Learning**: Understand the issues.
- **Action**: Act on what you learn.
- **Respect**: Respect all people.
- **Empathy**: Appreciate the feelings of others.
- **Synergy**: Discover new and better solutions.’

Mrs Hawes explained: ‘Narragunnawali is a word from the language of the Ngunnawal people. It means peace, wellbeing and coming together. Reconciliation Week is about bringing people together and celebrating our diversity as a school and as a nation.’

Year 6 Aboriginal students read out the names of every Aboriginal student and staff member and invited them to the stage. Jeremiah, school prefect, reminded us that great achievements take courage and persistence. He asked everyone to join a conversation about the value of recognition and to consider how past conversations can be turned into actions to make things happen.

Daniel, school captain explained that reconciliation is an ongoing process that leads to increased respect, reduced prejudice and strengthened relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The assembly concluded with Bella, school prefect, saying: ‘we look forward to a future of mutual respect, harmony and reconciliation – Narragunnawali.’

Students and teachers from our school participated in the community walk across the Queanbeyan Bridge to Reconciliation Place. All students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, walked together representing the school and carrying the Reconciliation Banner. ‘Building bridges, walking across bridges, building deeper understanding, building positive and strong relationships’.
On Friday the SRC organised a celebration of World Environment Day and a fundraising activity to assist the people affected by natural disasters in Nepal and Vanuatu. Students came to school wearing clothes in the colours of the flags of Nepal or Vanuatu and made a gold coin donation to help the people of these countries. Thank you to the students and teachers who dressed up on the day.

Mrs Watt visited classes and spoke to students about her teaching experience in Vanuatu. She spent 2 years in Epau, teaching a Kinder and Year 1 class. She shared stories, photos and music with the students, broadening their understanding of the lifestyle in Vanuatu. She explained how the category 5 cyclone that hit the region in March this year has affected the people.

Buddy classes from across the school came together to discuss their ideas and to eat lunch. One student, Ayuska Khaniya, sang a beautiful song, *Let’s hold on*. Ayuska’s family came to Australia from Nepal.

Students from Queanbeyan Public School, contributed generously and raised $800 which will be shared between the ‘Friends of Nepal’ and ‘Friends of Vanuatu’ charities.

Earlier in the week students in 1H and 1R classes, who have been learning about *Celebrations*, participated in a cultural activity for *Holi*. They raised $152 to support the people of Nepal.