

2017, Term 4, Week 10

Principal: Denise Smoother



# Ben Lomond Public School Newsletter



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Education

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NEWSLETTER

## Calendar

### Term 4, Week 10

Friday, 15th December Lunch Rrafters

### Term 1, Week 1

Monday, 29th January SDD  
Tuesday, 30th January Students Commence Term 1

### Term 1, Week 2

### Term 1, Week 3

### Term 1, Week 4

### Term 1, Week 5

### Term 1, Week 6

# 2017



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**SNOW GUMS**  
LEARNING ALLIANCE



## Principals Report

### Principals Report Week 10 Term 4 2017

This year I wrote a paragraph for our school photograph booklet that sums up our school, I wrote:

*I am proud to be the Principal of a school such as Ben Lomond Public School that hums with an exciting sense of purpose, inspiring all who enter. Everyday there is a buzz of learning and fun at our school. We deliver high quality programs and activities that tap into the needs and strengths of all students. We live each day as a family, supporting and encouraging one another. We have programs in place to develop critical and creative thinking skills as well as Academic skills.*

There have been many highlights for the students and staff over the year, and these include hosting the small schools swimming carnival, winning the trophy for most successful school overall at Cross Country, being involved in Science Week, the Glen Innes and Guyra Shows, the Glen Innes Red Cross Christmas Tree, Finlayson Sports Day held at Chandler Public School, The Highland Fling and Harmony Day held at Black Mountain Public School the Snow Gums Science Camp held at Thalgarrah Field Studies Centre the Education Week Awards, and starting tennis as part of the Sporting Schools Program.

Ben Lomond is an integral part of the Snow Gums Learning Alliance that includes Black Mountain, Ebor, Chandler and Bald Blair. The Snow Gums Learning Alliance, of which we are a member, was acknowledged by the Secretary of the Department of Education, Mr Mark Scott last week he tweeted:

Wonderful time learning from the small school experts who make up the Snow Gums Learning Alliance. Masters of collaboration, shared practice and evidence-based innovation.

We had the opportunity to have a one hour meeting with Mark and got to show case the opportunities provided by the Alliance.

In my role as President of Armidale Primary Principal's Council I spent the day with Mark and we discussed lots about small schools. Friday was the first opportunity he had had to spend time in some small schools and to discuss with Principals of small schools the contributions we make to educating students in rural areas.

This year I was invited to attend the Secretary's Future Learning Symposium, one of 200 educators from across all educational sectors in NSW to meet and plan for the future of learning in NSW over the next ten years. It was a great opportunity to hear from world class leaders on the influence of artificial intelligence across all professions and the skills students will require to succeed into the future. It was heartening to hear that Literacy and Numeracy skills will still be very important, although rote learning will not be required, what will be necessary is a deep understanding of how to use literacy and numeracy skills to problem solve.

Also students will require deep understanding of critical and creative thinking and ethical decision making. These are skills we have been working on this year as students have engaged in looking at the most urgent problems that need solving in the world today, making their own LEGO movies, participating in the paper plane challenge and designing a new Australian flag.

All students have applied themselves to their learning this year and their reports are a reflection of the progress they have made. Each student receives enormous amounts of individual support to assist with their learning. Professor John Hattie talks about students making a year's gain for a years teaching and the majority of our students have surpassed that milestone.

In 2017 Ben Lomond Public School again used our RAM funding to employ Tanya Siddell to provide music and support to student's individually in spelling, and grammar and to employ Sally Purvis

## Principals Report - Cont

an extra half day per week to support the students individually in English and Language.

Mrs Kelly Vimpany continued to provide Library and relief from Face to face teaching. I want to thank Kelly, Sally and Tanya for the quality of the work they do with the students. All three of these teachers put the needs of students at the centre of all they do.

In the office the support from my Administration Manager, Nicole Rooke continues to be outstanding; we have had very few difficulties with the new finance and student management system that was introduced this term because of Nic's efficiency and her willingness to take on new learning.

Cassie Geddes, Julie Burey and Jon Oxenbridge are new staff to our school this year as School Learning Support Officers, cleaners and the General Assistant. Thank you to my support staff, all of you help make my job so much easier.

The thankyou's continue to the P&C who catered for this afternoon's afternoon tea and their assistance at the Billy Cart Day next week.

To Ben Lomond CWA, Guyra Lions, Armidale Regional Council, Senator Williams and Guyra Rotary clubs for their monetary donations. To Judy Floyd who drives the school bus.

The biggest THANK YOU goes to the students for your enthusiasm, hard work, laughter, and building and cleaning skills. Every day I look forward to coming to work with you.

Every student is an individual their needs are foremost in our planning they matter and they thrive here.

It's not about the number of students that are here, it about what happens for each and every student every day they are here.

### Staffing for 2018.

On Sunday 28 January 2018 I will cease to be the Principal of Ben Lomond Public School. I will be taking up a merit selected appointment as Principal of Sandon Public School, in Armidale the following day. Ms Kirsten Reim will be the Acting Principal for Term 1. Kirsten currently works at Guyra Central School and comes highly recommended. All other staffing will remain the same for Term 1. Mrs Sue Brown will recruit the permanent Principal during Term 1.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my six and a half years at Ben Lomond, I know the students will continue to reach for the stars in their learning and I wish them well for whatever the future brings.

*Denise Smother*

