I am very pleased to inform you that our school is facing up to a problem that many schools face – bullying. It would be nice for me to inform you that there is no bullying happening at Yolla District High – but that would be naive and unrealistic. Where we have a diverse range of people sharing defined spaces there is sure to be some unpleasant and bullying behaviours. What we are doing at Yolla is setting very clear expectations that bullying is NOT accepted, and those who bully others will have consequences imposed. We are aiming to empower the by-standers and those being bullied, whilst working with the bully to identify more appropriate ways of dealing with their emotions.

We have deliberately concentrated on our grades 5 – 9 classes recently, and have shared a very powerful animation with our students which names up the pain caused by bullying. If you would like to view this animation it can be found on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8SdkAgsoM4. It is called “To this day” and it unashamedly questions the saying “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” I encourage you to watch this with your children if they are in grade 5 or above, and discuss it with them. I have included some of the follow-up thoughts expressed by our students, and will continue to include these in future newsletters.

In our younger grades we will be taking a different approach, which I will share with you in a later newsletter. I have included a definition of bullying that we are using in our discussions. You may like to discuss this with your children, and engage in conversations around these issues. It is important for our young people to know they have a support network of adults to talk to if they are being bullied, and parents are central to this network. The definition below comes from a fantastic website, also worth viewing with your children: http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/index.html

“Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons.”

A person who bullies others may:
- repeatedly tease, imitate or make fun of the same targets
- feel the need to dominate or control others
- show no compassion for someone who’s experiencing bullying
- repeatedly exclude or ignore the same target
- whisper behind their backs on a frequent basis.”

I encourage you to have a conversation with your children, and if you would like to discuss anything with us at school we are happy to make time for you. It is so powerful when our students know that home and school are working together to improve their learning and make their lives better.

Some student responses:

“I am not going to stand by and watch others be unfair or mean to someone. I will speak up if I can or get an adult to help.”

“I am going to choose my friends more carefully.”

“I hide under make-up because I get told I’m ugly, and I believe it. I get told I am stunning or beautiful but the one word, that one word ‘ugly’, brings down my self-esteem.”

“My opinion: Well my immediate reaction to that saying is it’s a load of garbage. Words can hurt I had a good friend who left one school and moved because of name calling. Name calling often starts fights and causes more suicides than any other cause.”

“The clip was good and helps me when I’m down. I think school would be much better without bullying and that it would make people’s life more enjoyable at school.”

Julie Jacobson
Principal

OLD MAGAZINES
Do you have any old magazines that you no longer need? The school is after any old fishing, motor vehicle, or other suitable magazines that are appropriate for school aged children. Any donations are appreciated and can be left at the office.

SANDPIT TOY APPEAL
The Early Childhood and Kinder sandpits are in need of some sandpit toys. If you have any toys (tonka toys, diggers, etc) that you no longer require the school would be very appreciative of them.
The Game of 31

Grade 4/5 and 7/8 have been playing the Game of 31 in maths lately. The object of the game is to use the cards 1 to 6 and take it in turns to try to be the first person to get to 31. Students found that this game of strategy depended upon getting to a magic number before their opponent if they were to outsmart them and be able to reach 31. The 7/8 students could beat the computer using a computer simulated game but only if they had the first turn. Adding the cards improved the quick maths skills of the students as well.

LAUNCHING INTO LEARNING

PROGRAMS FOR BABIES TO 4 YEAR OLDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Fridays 11am to 1pm

On 23 August we will be heading to the Child and Family Centre in Burnie. The bus will depart at 10:30am and arrive back at approximately 1:30pm. There is no cost, however there is a possibility to purchase a toastie and soup for $2.00. Please bring along a packed lunch for children. Our Pre-Kinder sessions for children starting Kinder in 2014 will be starting on Wednesday, 4 September at 1:30pm.

For more information on upcoming events please email carol.j.boyd@education.tas.gov.au

MECCANO or LEGO APPEAL

Do you have any Meccano, Lego or Lego Technic that is surplus to your needs?

The school would love any donations or are willing to pay a small price for any Meccano, Lego or Lego Technic you may be happy to part with. For more information please contact the office.

ENROLMENTS

We are now taking enrolments for 2014. If you have a child turning 5 in 2014 we would love them to be part of our school community. If you know of a local family with a school aged child, please pass on this information. We’d love to hear from them.
On Tuesday 13 August we had the pleasure of hosting a team of Whip Crackers from Tassie Outreach at our school. Please take time to read the reports from two of our Grade 3/4 students.

Simon Martin, from Tassie Outreach emailed a thank you to the school.

“Just wanted to thank you for today. All of us really enjoyed teaching the children. What a great bunch! It was so easy and enjoyable to work with them. Thanks again for having us at Yolla.”

On Tuesday 13th of August 3:45 Cocks, 4:5 Guest and 5:6 Cramp gathered in the gym to watch Simon Martin whip cracking team called Tassie outreach. They showed us special techniques and different sorts of whips. They cracked to Mary who had a little lamb, eung bells, Simon’s thunder, steam train, horse hooves and the national anthem plus lots more. After they had finished the performance of the amazing whip cracking it was our turn to crack the whip. There were 2 in each group, I couldn’t crack the whip but it was fun even though I didn’t get to crack. My favourite part was when they cracked the whip to the National anthem.

I would like to thank Tassie Outreach for the amazing whip cracking you showed us.

Thank you.

By Hannah Hardy

Within Tasmania, we will visit schools to teach children and teenagers to crack a whip and give them an Australian experience. Outside of whip cracking, we will listen and guide, no matter what you are going through in your life. Our aim is to make a difference in your life. We are FREE.

Email: help@tassieoutreach.org
Post: Po Box 690, Queiba, TAS 7310
Website: www.tassieoutreach.org
Parents and Friends Update

Fathers Day stall - Thursday, 29 August.
If you have any items to donate for the stall or are available on the day could you please let the office know.

Projects Funded: The P & F is pleased to be able to make the following contributions to our school:
- $1300 to MDT students for cutting tools and leadlighting equipment
- $1200 to the Ag students for tools
- $500 for tools for senior Applied Learning students
- $1700 towards upgrades to the yellow shed for Cattle Handling and stock work for Ag students
- $1000 for the senior Applied Learning students in the Stepping Out in Bricks programme
- $400 for the Sensory Garden

Thank you to everyone who has helped raise these funds. It’s great to be able to help our students.

Future Fundraising: Spring is a busy time with the P & F planning on fundraising at the Tulip Festival (12 Oct), TERC motorbikes (19 and 20 Oct) and Burnie 10 (20 Oct). These are major fundraisers and can be very successful for our school however we will need many hands. Please consider giving some of your time to help at these events.

Meetings: Our next meeting is Thursday 19 September at the old school house. Our meetings are always open to all, hope you can come.

For further information please ask at the office or email: yolla-parents-friends@hotmail.com

Nursing and Midwifery Taster Day

On Tuesday, 6 August Tammy Murfet and Toni-Lee Ralph attended a Nursing and Midwifery Taster Day. We viewed and participated in many different aspects of the medical field. This included experiencing pregnancy, treating an asthma patient, checking heartbeats, mental health, dressing different wounds, looking for irregularities in the ear and assisting with a tracheostomy tube. We both found this experience to be of assistance for our future. We would like to thank the organisers of the day and Sonia Hodgetts for making this opportunity available to us. By Toni-Lee Ralph and Tammy Murfet

NETBALL

Yolla 4 (grade 3/4) Netball training will be held on Thursday's starting 29 August from 3:00-3:45pm. We are still in need of players. If you would like to come along to training to have a go before registering please feel free to do so.

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

DONATIONS NEEDED
The Art Dept. would like donations of old crockery and tiles for mosaics for the Sensory Garden project. It doesn’t matter if they are broken or chipped, all appreciated.

PRIMARY STUDENTS WORK AT BURNIE ART GALLERY
Students in the primary classes and early childhood classes have been creating work for the Burnie Art Gallery’s Kaleidoscope project. The exhibition shall run from Saturday, 31 August through to Sunday, 15 September. So if you get a chance, please pop in and have a look.

Rino and Jade Dinner Dance
(licensed)
Yolla Memorial Hall
Saturday, 24 August at 7pm
$25 per person or $65 family
In aid of Myrtle Park Retirement Home
Bookings Essential
Ring Chris Warren - 0458 038 842