A GREAT BIG THANK YOU  A great big thank you to everyone who came to the Cross Country Carnival last Friday. What a great day was had, from enjoying each other’s company to running around the track. I think everyone had some sort of fun or enjoyable experience. To top it off, we had some memorable achievements from our students. We have four students going on to compete in the Northern Rivers Cross Country later this term - Liam, Elka, Amy and Ryan. Well done. We had one overall winner who was presented with a medal - Poppy. Lastly, we had a special presentation for the small schools trophy, received on behalf of the school by Elkan. Congratulations must go to everyone as the reason we won this trophy was because of the efforts of everyone, even if you didn’t win or come in the top 4. This trophy was for everyone from the school who cheered, who ran and who encouraged each other throughout the day.

One of the most pleasing parts of the day was the support and comments received by the staff from the parents who attended. Everyone was so impressed in the manner in which students from Larnook participated. A big pat on the back to everyone and thanks Sandi for your support on the day.

WOODY HEAD  There was a survey attached to the newsletter last week. If you could take the time to complete and return that would be appreciated. We would like the next one to be even better than this year’s.

ARTSMART  A quick wrap up. Speaking to the 5 students who went, I was so pleased with the positive manner in which they returned to school, spoke about their experience and in the painting that they showed me. There are four paintings that are exhibited on the wall in the office. Come in and take a look for yourself. The other one, Aaron’s, is in the exhibition that
Jamie organises following his workshops. A big thank you must go to the P & C for helping out with the cost of this workshop. I must also thank the parents who organised all the transport for the 5 students. I know it is a pain organising but we do these things for the kids.

**SPELLING BEE** The students had their first session with Dianne. Sounds like therapy! Please encourage your child/ren to complete the homework given as this is an essential part of the program. All the students who are doing this have come forth voluntarily. I am so pleased to see so many involving themselves in this little program. This term will see a lot of fun spelling activities until the word lists come out. It will then become a bit more specific depending on age. Dianne will be coming in most Wednesday mornings and will be working with the children. Look for their homework to see what they are doing.

**GRIP** The 3, year 6 students have the opportunity to participate in The Grip leadership course. This is on next Friday. Year 6 parents are asked to complete the permission note and return to school as soon as possible.

**O.C. OPPORTUNITY** Year 4 students have the opportunity to attend the OC class in Goonellabah when they enter year 5. If you would like more information on this please contact me and I can give you more information. There is an application process but expressions of interest must be in shortly.

**MRS SPACKMAN** One aspect of the school that is taking off is our participation in the Arts, especially the Lismore Performing Arts. Mrs Spackman is away today undertaking an inservice in dance. We both wish that Sam was able to go (but she was unable due to Uni obligations), but I am sure Mrs Spackman will come away from today with a new spring in her step.

**NAPLAN** Please be aware that the NAPLAN testing schedule is looming up on all of us, particularly the year 3 and 5 students. The testing procedures begin on Tuesday 12th May and concludes on Thursday 14th May. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ask.

**A CHANGE** Next week there is a change of day. Wednesday’s timetable will become Thursday and Thursday’s will be held on Wednesday. I am away at a Principal’s meeting on the Thursday. This change is only for school organisation. The date on the paper won’t change.

**STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS:**
Week 3 Wednesday - home bake (Cam Djinn Amy Elkan to provide)
Week 4 character/ superhero dress up day $2
Week 5 mango smoothies $2
Week 6 home bake (choir kids) Wednesday
  soup lunch before assembly $3
Week 7 movie night-dinner/popcorn etc
Week 9 home bake (choir kids) Wednesday
  Athletics carnival-shop
Week 10 soup before assembly $3

**Sydney choir fundraising** These 4 students have decided to fund raise to assist with the cost of taking part. They will provide homebake to sell in weeks 3, 6 and 9. All monies raised will be divided between these students if they provide. So bring in some change to support our choir students.

**P & C** Last minute call for helpers!!! Bunnings BBQ this Sunday the 3rd of May. We are still a few people short. Please let the school know if you can help out. Shifts are: Morning - 8am to 12 noon, Afternoon - 12 noon to 4pm. A couple more people on each shift would be fantastic.
Thank you, The P&C.

**JUMBLE SALE** Goolmangar school are having a jumble sale on Saturday 16th May. The P & C are seriously thinking about organising a stall, selling all sorts of second hand goodies. If you would like to donate some things for the stall drop off at school prior to the day. Next week would be good, great even. This would give the organising committee enough time to decide whether or not they have enough for a stall and to start organising the things. This might be a great opportunity to clear THAT cupboard or space out! If you think you have heaps of things to sell, enough for your own stall, set one up. Contact Goolmangar school and organise your own. Phone no 6689 9262

**DAILY FITNESS** The daily fitness is going ahead in leaps and bounds. Everyone walks or runs or jogs their way around the course each morning, weather permitting of course. I am sure that they are benefitting from the experience. We have also entered the Premier’s Sporting Challenge again this year. More on that when we get the information. This year we have also entered the staff challenge. Let me know if you can spot the differences in the staff! I would also love to hear from you stories that the children have related to you about the antics of the staff jogging, walking or trying to do something physical. They have set me a challenge of participating in the 20m shuttle. I am building up to that one!

The staff would also like to ask if anyone has a rowing machine they wouldn’t mind lending to the school. Remember those funny little stories.

**SEA WORLD** Sea World is offering our school community a limited time ticket offer. Simply visit ThemeParks.com.au/promocode. For details see the attached flyer.

The first **Blakebrook PS and Community Bonfire Night** will be held on Friday 12th June, 5.00-9.00pm. Local craft and fresh produce stalls will be on show. Fun activities for the whole family including face painting, glow sticks, competitions, raffles and dancing around the bonfire under the stars. Blakebrook P&C will be serving a delicious BBQ all evening and a selection of homemade baked goods will be on sale. Non hot food related stall sites are available for booking $25 per site. Please email louisetate@bigpond.com for further information or to book a stall site.