

Primary entry #3: Branxton Public School



The Branxton Buzz



Students being watched closely by coach Mindy.
Picture: Will Coates and Jessica Roser

Pupils learn it's all about the balance

By BRITNEY EHLERS

GYMNASTICS is a great way to develop balance and movement skills.

At Branxton Public School the students have been able to enjoy developing their skills under the watchful eye of trained instructors and with all the specialised equipment.

Coaches Mindy, Paul and Basia from Sport for Life have taught everyone stretching techniques and how to shape our bodies like a pencil, tall soldier and a star.

They bring all the equipment like air boards, mini-trampolines, giant mats, bars and boxes.

The program begins with easier lessons teaching rolling and bear walking and leads onto harder things like making an L-shape on the bars and jumping from the high box.

With each activity the coaches make sure that everyone is performing the moves safely, watching them closely and making adjustments if necessary.

At Branxton Public School the students love having the opportunity to be a part of these programs and have lots of fun participating in them.

With the rise of childhood obesity rates, these programs can only help to keep the kids at Branxton fit and healthy.

By JAMES STRINGER

BRANXTON Public School is officially on its way to becoming a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) school.

The process began in 2014 with all the Rutherford Local Management group of schools becoming involved.

"PBL strengthens the process of consistently rewarding positive behaviour on a more regular basis", said principal Mr Ouvrier.

PBL is all about explicitly teaching students the correct way to behave and then creating an environment that encourages appropriate behaviours in all settings.

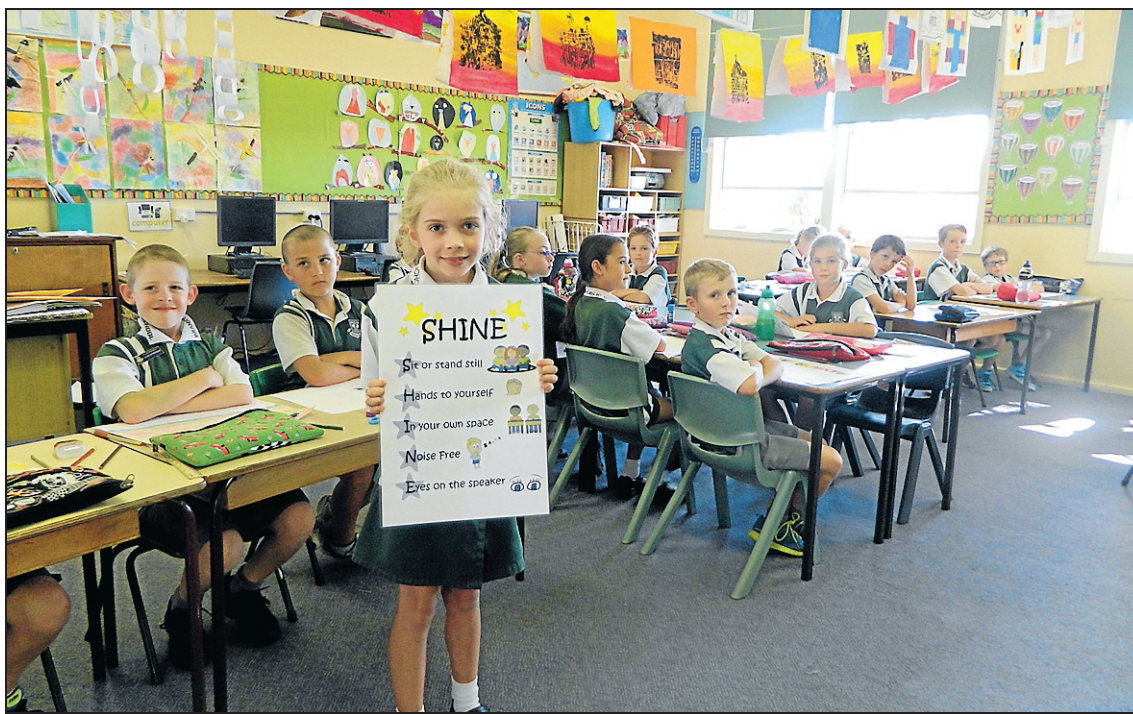
At Branxton Public School the students, staff and community have worked together to choose our core expectations.

These are Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best. These are the expectations for students, staff and the community in all settings.

Assistant principal Robyne Noble believes that since beginning the process students are far more aware of the expectations and how to fulfil them.

"Strategies used to promote the expected behaviours like role-playing and using consistent language throughout the school are helping the students learn", said Mrs Noble.

As a Stage 3 teacher, Mrs Noble



Students are all learning to SHINE in the classroom.

Picture: Ryan Lang and Britney Ehlers

also believes it will make the transition from primary to high school easier as PBL is embedded in both settings.

One of the ideas that has been implemented across the whole school is the SHINE poster.

There is a SHINE poster in every classroom, reminding students to Sit or Stand still, Hands and feet to ourselves, In your own space, Noise free and Eyes on the speaker.

The whole school is SHINEing: in classrooms, assemblies, the lib-

rary and while moving around the school. Even the parents are starting to SHINE at assemblies.

Branxton Public has always been a great place to be but now it is an even better place to learn and be the best students can be.



Briannah with Matt and Sharon from Hunter Valley Snails and the first collection. Picture: Jazmin Webber

Snails crawl their way to our plate

By BRIANNAH WITEK and JAZMIN WEBBER

SNAIL dishes are now becoming very popular in many Australian restaurants. Students of Branxton Public School have been collecting snails from their gardens to raise money for their sensory trail as part of an environmental studies program.

Hunter Valley Snails, based in wine country, are in

partnership with several schools in the area, to help with fundraising.

Every fortnight, the students bring in snails which Matt and Sharon Friere collect. For every snail, the school receives a donation.

Garden snails, or *Helix Aspersa* as the variety is called, have been part of the European diet since Roman times. They are most often eaten as appetisers with gar-

lic but can also be eaten as a main course.

There is a lot of preparation that involves cleaning the snail before it gets cooked and served. Snails are very popular in many of countries around the world and becoming increasingly popular in Australia.

Something that could be considered a pest in the garden can now be a delicious meal.

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