Children who thrive in school tend to have one thing in common – they enjoy reading. It doesn’t really matter what your child chooses to read, the important thing for primary-school kids is to encourage them to develop the habit of reading a little each day. We have challenged our students here at Upper Sandy Creek to read for just 20 minutes per night. Initially, our kids need help to get into the routine of reading each night. After a few weeks the kids reading stamina will have increased as well as their ability to remember to read every night. Reluctant readers and children who struggle with reading and comprehension can find series books easier to enjoy, as once they’ve finished one, they’re familiar with the characters, the locations and the author’s style of writing. This makes approaching reading the second book easier and less daunting. We have been encouraging our students to choose series books to read from the library and the MARC van. The following website has a list of good series books. [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/homework-and-study/english/my-book-club/series-books-to-ignite-summer-read](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/homework-and-study/english/my-book-club/series-books-to-ignite-summer-read)

Last week our students travelled to Eskdale sports ground for the annual Valleys Cluster Cross Country. The kids were primed and ready to do their best. For once the sun was shining and the course, 3km, through pastures and along the Mitta River, complete with cows and calves and cow pats to dodge, was ready for the kids to tackle. Our kids ran in all different age groups. We had Warrick and Jack finish a very commendable third and second respectively in the 12 and 11 year old boys. Ben was our standout for the day finishing first in the 9/10 year old boys and taking home the age group medal. Well done Ben!

In three weeks time we will be having our parent teacher interviews. The day we have set aside will be Wednesday the 17th and Thursday the 18th. We will have 30min per interview. We will be running our interview between 3.30-5.00pm. Please call the school to book your times.

Just to further add to Sophie’s resume of community activities she is now selling cupcakes every Thursday. Sophie of course, also spent quite a bit of time selling raffle tickets for our recent Mothers Day raffle. Cup cakes will be 50c each. This week Sophie will be making Red Velvet cup cakes. If you would like to buy a cup cake from Sophie, please send some money along on the day. The money that Sophie raises will go towards the school’s fundraising activities. Thanks Sophie for this initiative.
BLUEARTH AND INDONESIAN

In our second session of our combined school Blueearth days, the weather held out and we were able to venture outside for some sessions. Matt Dillon, our Blueearth coach had some fantastic activities for us to all try. The kids really enjoyed the sessions and are learning some very valuable things about themselves. I was very impressed with all the kids whose goal for the day was to focus on self umpiring and participating at 100%, which they all accomplished. I cannot mention enough how lucky we are to have Matt Dillon coming on our day to deliver the Blueearth sessions. We are also equally lucky to have Carmyl Winkler running Indonesian Cultural sessions with our students. Carmyl is a fountain of knowledge and activities when it comes to Indonesia and our kids have really enjoyed and always look forward to her coming. We finished the day with Mr Birrell and Deanne running some water watch and music sessions for the kids. Again it was great to see the older kids working with the younger ones, helping them complete the tasks and having fun along the way. Thanks again to Mitta and Tallangatta Valley primary for coming along and to Deanne for her creative music lessons.