A Great Start to 2015

We can all be very proud of the start to 2015. The behaviour and effort of all students has been very pleasing. I would like to congratulate our kindergarten and Yr3 students who have quickly settled into their classroom routines. Special mention must be made of all our Stage3 students who have started the year with great maturity and leadership.

Welcome Frankie

This week we would like to welcome Frankie and parents Naomi and Glenn to Kindergarten.

Small School Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 11th February 2015

All notes for the swimming carnival should have been returned today. If you have not done so, please return tomorrow.

Weekly Assembly

Assemblies will be conducted on every second Tuesday afternoon from 12.45 to 1.15. Our first assembly will be conducted tomorrow. All welcome.

Canteen Volunteer

Thanks to all parents who have volunteered for canteen duty this term. As of this morning we don't have anyone down for this Thursday. Remember No volunteer No Canteen.

Parent Information Meetings

As stated on the calendar on the side bar, parent information meetings will be held in Wk 4. I encourage all parents to attend these meetings. Some of the important topics to be discussed in the Upper Division meeting will be homework and Personalised Learning Plans.
**Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs)**

We will be introducing Personalised Learning Plans for all students. The initial part of our process will involve the classroom teachers interviewing children in Wks 3 and 4. The second part will be a follow-up three-way meeting (parent, teacher and student) in Wk 8. All children in Yrs 1 to 6 will participate.

Below is a broad definition of a PLP. A **personal learning plan** (or PLP) is developed by students—typically in collaboration with teachers, and parents—as a way to help them achieve short- and long-term learning goals. Personal learning plans are generally based on the belief that students will be more motivated to learn, will achieve more in school, and will feel a stronger sense of ownership over their education if they decide what they want to learn, how they are going to learn it, and why they need learn it to achieve their personal goals.

**Jolly Phonics Workshop**

On Saturday, the staff participated in an all-day professional learning course around the implementation of the Jolly Phonics program. The course was conducted by Celeste Musgrave, a committed and highly informed educator. Everybody found the experience highly worthwhile and I am sure there will be positive learning outcomes for our Early stage 1 and stage 1 students. Thank you to all our staff who gave up a Saturday to participate in the course. Thank you to Helena and Mardi for joining us and making their contributions to the day.

**Attendance**

Just a reminder regarding school absences. We need either a written note, phone call or email the day after your child is away from school by way of explanation. Please refer to your handbook on the type of explanation that is **NOT** acceptable. If you are planning any absences eg family holidays, a Certificate Of Extended leave - Holiday issue is available from the office. The department has revised all school attendance codes. As of 2015 there will be no more exemption for family holidays. This will be marked as Leave. This form must be completed before students are on leave. It would be appreciated, if you can let us know of any plans.

**Student Finance Statement**

Attached to this newsletter is your child’s outstanding school account. Payment of this account can be made by cash or direct deposit. The school does not have eftpos facilities. Included in this statement is the term 1 fees for the **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program**. This fee was introduced last year to help sustain this program. The charge is $20.00 for first child and $10.00 for any other in the family.

Can any outstanding fees from 2014 be paid as soon as possible. At Bungwahl School we always have given a lot of leeway with payment of excursions, uniforms etc. In other schools, students would not be participating or receiving uniforms without payment. This is a direction that this school does not want too go in.

**Responsible Pet Program**

On Tuesday 17 February, Lower Division students will have a visitor from the “Responsible Pet Education for Schools.” The Program uses multimedia, role play, song and story to provide primary school children with a smorgasbord of stimulating activities to teach a wide range of concepts relating to responsible pet ownership.

The Program focuses on teaching students about dog safety incorporating:
- When dogs should be left alone
- Things we should not do to dogs
- How can you tell if a dog is happy, frightened or angry
- A safe way to approach and greet a dog

What to do if approached by an unknown or aggressive dog.

**Head Lice**

We have had a reported cases of head lice. Could all parents please check their child's hair and treat as necessary. The school does sell a Hit Nitz for 6 treatment, cost $17.00.

Or if you would like to try a chemical free treatment follow the instructions below.

**Coconut and Apple Cider Vinegar.**

1. Rinse hair with Vinegar. Leave in until hair is dry. The vinegar dissolves the glue that stick the egg (nit) to the hair follicle.
2. When vinegar is dry pour coconut oil through the hair, making sure you get complete coverage. Coconut Oil dissolves the lice's outer skeletal shell.
3. Wrap hair in shower cap or hair wrap and leave it in for the day. It takes a few hours for the oil to smother and kill the lice.
4. Comb out as many eggs and lice as you can.
5. Then shampoo as normal.
Compulsory school attendance
Information for parents

Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.
What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent’s explanations for their child’s absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child’s attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convener. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies (“the parties”) to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child’s attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child’s attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

- Applications to the Children’s Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court’s powers.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student’s attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of $11,000.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:
Notes week 3 Term 1

Class Meetings

Yes I will be attending my child’s class meeting:

LD Thursday  Wednesday 18th February at 2:15
UD Friday       Thursday 19th February at 2:15

Name: ________________________  Signed: __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

P&C Membership

Please find enclosed my $2:00 P&C membership for 2014 to enable voting right at AGM in March 2014

Name: ________________________________  Signed: ____________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Canteen Volunteers

Yes I can volunteer to help out in the canteen on these days:

12th February _____________________________  19th February  Isabelle Strachan
26th  February Helena Byrne       5th March______________________________
12th March Bev Bramble       19th March ________________________________
26th March _____________________________  2nd April ________________________

Any days without volunteers CANTEEN will be closed.

Name:______________________________  Signed:_______________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

SAKGP Volunteers

If you like to volunteer to help with the SAKGP on Fridays contact Nikki on 6554 4570 or email nicole.dixon3@det.nsw.edu.au

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Monday Messenger

Last year parents had the option of receiving their Monday Messenger by email or hard copy. Please tick what option you would like to receive your newsletter this year. Please remember that all excursion permission notes are hard copied to all parents. In choosing email we are saving on ink and paper and reducing our carbon footprint.

☐ By Email    email address: ______________________________
☐ Hard Copy

Name: ________________________________

Please return this note as soon as possible
**Better Reading**

Need help with forms?

Forster Library  
Tuesdays  
2:00 – 4:00pm

Forster Neighbourhood Centre  
Thursdays  
10:00am – 12:30pm

Available during school term.

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**ABDUCTED / MISSING**

**BRONTE & ISABELLA WATTER**

**$10,000 Reward**

For information leading to the location of missing 7 year-old non-identical twins abducted from school in Townsville on 4 April 2014 and still missing.

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Abducted by non-custodial parent Catherine “Cassie” Watter (nee Doubleday) in breach of court orders.

Recently in the Brisbane North region. Current location unknown.

Call CrimeStoppers to report sightings or information about the girls or Cassie Watter.

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**PACIFIC PALMS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**2015**

Registrations now open!

Please go to:  
www.myfootballclub.com.au

Information day on Thursday 19th Feb  
@ Pacific Palms Public school from 3-4pm

Teams for ages 5 - 65, girls & boys, all available.  
REGISTRATIONS CLOSE MARCH 6TH  
so don’t miss out!

For more information, visit:  
www.pacificpalmsfootballclub.com.au  
or contact Mark Workum 0414 750844