FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Carers,

Two outstanding examples of students work are included in this week’s newsletter. Writing by James Ruming and artwork by Jade Harris, both from 5/6M. As I move around the school, in and out of classrooms, I consistently observe students who are highly engaged in quality teaching and learning activities. For example last week I sat with a reading group in 1/2 O as they directed their own learning and gave feedback to each other about their reading; supervised 2P as they demonstrated cooperation and resilience in practicing the fundamental movement skill of kicking; observed respectful and responsible behaviour in 3/4A during an interruption to their morning routine and listened as Kindergarten Magenta students read their guided reader to Miss Cowan in reading groups. It is a pleasure seeing our students enjoying and engaged in their learning.

Last week the P&C held their Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately the positions of President and Vice President were not filled. Our P&C is a hardworking and supportive group. Please consider how you can assist them in their endeavours. There will be a day meeting of P&C on Friday March 20th in the school library for those who can not attend evening meetings.

Staff have had to have many ‘toilet talks’ with the student body over the last couple of weeks. There are a small number of students who think it is appropriate to stuff whole toilet rolls down toilets or throw this paper around, leaving a mess for our cleaner, June, or General Assistant Anthony, to clean up. I am positive this would not be acceptable in these student’s homes. It is certainly not acceptable at school. Your assistance in discussing this disrespectful behaviour with your child would be appreciated.

Our annual Easter Raffle and Hat Parade are fast approaching. Donations of Easter goodies can be left at the front office. Start creating those hats at home for the parade on Thursday 2nd April.

Enjoy a great week.

Elizabeth Mulligan, Rel Principal

EASTER HAT PARADE - TAKING IT TO THE STREETS!

Our Easter Hat parade will be held on Thursday 2nd April.

Students are asked to create their hats at home and bring them to school on the day.

We will once again be taking the parade into the community and walking down William St and back up the main street to display our hats! More details closer to the day.

EASTER RAFFLE

We are once again holding our HUGE Easter Raffle.

Families are asked to donate ALL THINGS EASTER.

These donations will be made into lots of prizes and could include chocolate (of course!), Easter books, cuddly Easter toys, Easter craft items etc.

Donations can be left at the school office. Raffle books (sold or unsold) and money due back Wednesday 1st April. Tickets will be sent home this week.
OUR NEWSLETTER HAS CHANGED
- Last week our newsletter became electronic/email only.
- Please check your email, the school website, the SKOOLBAG app,
- the windows of the main school office OR your child’s classroom for each week’s newsletter.
- A very limited number of paper copies will be printed.
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL DETAILS WITH THE FRONT OFFICE TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER EACH WEEK.

MONSTER RAFFLE
The Bellingen Public Monster Raffle to raise money for shade sails over the playground was drawn last Monday.
Big congratulations to all our prize winners! Over 54 prizes drawn in all, with lots of happy faces coming out of the school office all week long. The great news is we raised enough to get the sails which were ordered last week.
Big thanks goes to the Bellingen Lions Club who generously paid for, and installed, the steel supports on the weekend.
Jon Wilson Canvas and Shade have said the sails could be in place as early as next week! This is a fantastic outcome for our school. Well done, everybody!

Jade Miller, first prize winner, with her bounty

Regional Swimming Championship

Last Wednesday was the North Coast Regional Swimming Championships held in Lismore. Yasmin Ball and Luke Pengelly represented the Mid North Coast Zone, both competing in the 50m freestyle. Both Yasmin and Luke swam strongly with Luke swimming a personal best whilst Yasmin finished 5th in the final, also swimming her personal best. Congratulations to both Yasmin and Luke.
Eleanor Ball (Parent)

NATURE PLAYGROUND
Our Nature Playground needs your help! If you are able to give some time through the week to help maintain the Nature Playground we would love to hear from you!
This area is utilised every day but over summer the weeds have grown and the rocks have moved (!) and the whole area is looking a little tired. Please let the office know if you able to help us.

MID NORTH COAST AFL TRIALS
Tyler Danzey, Baily Sipple, Jacob Hawkshaw, Sam Case and Kyan Upsall attended the MNC AFL trials las Friday
The standard of all the children who tried out was very high. Only 21 were selected to participate in the North Coast Trials.

Bailey Sipple was selected in the team to compete in Yamba at the end of March.
Well done to all the boys who participated on the day.
Tanya Upsall (Parent)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR SEUSS
Class One Aqua thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Dr Seuss’s birthday this week by reading many of his stories and completing a range of Literacy, Numeracy and Visual Arts activities about them.
This Cat-in-the-Hat was created by Stirling in 1A.
Mrs McFarlane, 1 Aqua Teacher

GARDEN CLUB
Our Garden Club is looking for kind donations of seedlings for the vegetable patch, as the Plant Fair is coming up on Saturday, 14th March. If anyone feels they can afford to donate a punnet to the school we would be very appreciative. Thank you from the Garden Club

FIGHT OF DEATH by James Ruming 5/6 M
I don’t know who I am, but I know my name and the peril I now face. A figure stands in front of me sword raised, preparing to strike. I grip the weighty steel sword in my hand; I bring it up to stop his blow. The clang of the blades echo through the desolate landscape of darkness. He pushes hard on his sword and so do I. “Estarion” he says in a voice that freezes my blood. “You cannot win, so join me
Term 1 - Week 7  Monday, 9 March 2015

in my quest for power.” “Never!” I yell. I whirl around and strike him in the torso and he falls to his knees.” Fear” He whispers in his terrible voice, “that is what you feel.” A thought turns in my mind to join him, the figure stands up and reaches out a hand in welcome, I feel my arm extend. He flicks his arm and black tentacles of lightning burst from his palm. The pain burns every muscle in my body, but I resist. I yell in agony and raise my hand blue fire leaps forth from my fingertips I yell and then I stop. A black cloak crumples to the cracked ground. I have defeated Death, the greatest foe of any living creature. I see the amber rays peep over the horizon.

Tools for Learning Chooks

One of our lovely View Club tutors, Beth Howard, has kindly knitted three weighted chooks for our students to use in the classroom. These weighted chooks support our Tools 4Learning program, providing specific students with the deep pressure they need to help them focus on work.

A chook has been given to each of the kindergarten classes. All three classes were very excited with their new addition to their classroom. One class has already named their chook “Gertie”.

A big thank -you to Beth for our very loved chooks.

Rachel Pregnell, Learning and Support Teacher

Conclusive results of studies for many years suggest that learning a musical instrument assists children’s ability to learn in all areas.

Melodies and patterns of notes stored in the brain wires it up for taking in and remembering information in both mathematics and literacy.

There are also the intrinsic benefits which are harder to measure yet so beneficial to life like, persistence, resilience, self esteem and socialisation.

Please help your child succeed with learning their instrument of choice, by encouraging playing at home. There is no skill in life obtained without repetition and you can expect to hear the pieces your child is working on being played over and over!

Parental encouragement is the key to success. Children will find it difficult to always be excited about practice, so get those innovative encouragement games, incentive charts etc.going to establish regular practice.

Every day for a short burst is best. Six days, marvellous. Five days, good. Less than five will not see any advancement in skill development and children will progress too slowly to enjoy their pursuit of learning!

Please ask your teacher for ideas to make practice at home fun.

Teachers have asked me to pass on the need to call or text them if your child is ill or unable to attend lessons for any reason. With 24hrs notice teachers can rearrange students to try to find a new time but we can’t do anything without notice.

Fond regards, Elizabeth Scott

VOLUNTEERS AT BPS

Do you volunteer or are you thinking about volunteering at school. All volunteers need to complete a Volunteers Application form and provide a Working With Children Check (WWCC) number. Just call into the office and collect an application form.

BOOK CLUB

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 2 is due back at school on Wednesday 11 March. Remember orders can be done online now using the LOOP system. If you use this system please send in the completed order forms to expedite distributing orders when they arrive.

Thank you

Carole McFaul, Librarian

SAFETY AND SECURITY

If you notice ANYTHING amiss on our school grounds (intruders, fire, break in etc.) please call 131 444. This is a 24/7 service. Please help to keep Bellingen PS safe!

STUDENT BANKING

We have great new prizes this year so don’t forget student banking is Tuesday. If you have a Youth Saver account you can start banking for some great reward items.

Remember banking day is Tuesday.

Sandra Ruming, School Banking Co-ordinator
This information is from “Embrace the Future” an excellent Australian website for children. http://www.embracethefuture.org.au

Teaching optimism to children

Provide encouragement
Help children to develop persistence and optimism in the face of setbacks by providing encouragement and support along the way. Children do not always have the persistence they need in order to succeed ‘built-in’. However, if they are consistently provided with encouragement and support from adults, they will eventually internalise this support and develop the capacity to persevere on their own.

Role model optimistic thinking
Children learn from observing others. If you express optimism, perseverance, and resilience in the face of day-to-day obstacles, your children will learn by example. If you notice that you tend towards pessimism, start working on your own thinking. It will pay off for your children!

Use stories that promote persistence and optimism
Children learn through stories. When children are confronted with a difficult situation in their lives, you can tell stories from your own life that emphasise how you got through a hard time or succeeded despite an initial failure. Books and films which have an optimistic message can also be helpful.
Voluntary School Contributions

What are Voluntary School Contributions? Parents in Public Schools are encouraged to pay voluntary contributions which help us to cover costs which are necessary to run our school. These fees help us to pay for paper, exercise books, pencils and general resources needed to ensure the excellent standard of education we provide at Bellingen Public School is sustainable.

Your contribution is crucial - if each family made this contribution it could mean as much as $12,000. Families with 3 or more children attending our school need only pay for the first 2 children. Invoices will be posted out soon.

Our Voluntary School Contribution is only $43 per student.

If you pay this contribution before Thursday, 2 April you will go in the draw to win a fantastic family holiday for a whole week at Valla Beach Resort.

Thank you to those parents that have already paid their voluntary contributions, they will automatically be entered into the draw.

Canteen Roster - March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Helper(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 10</td>
<td>Emma Osland, Kahlia Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11</td>
<td>Leonie Jennings, Raelene McMahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>Donal O’Suilleabhain, Elizabeth Joyce, Sharon B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13</td>
<td>Raelene McMahon, Dan Pullinger, Julie Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16</td>
<td>Raelene McMahon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 17</td>
<td>Raelene McMahon</td>
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Diary Dates

March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11</td>
<td>Book club Issue 2 orders due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 19</td>
<td>WSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 19</td>
<td>Brisbane Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20</td>
<td>Brisbane Leadership</td>
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April

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1</td>
<td>Easter Raffle Draw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 2</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 2</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 2</td>
<td>Closing Day for Voluntary Contributions raffle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 3</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 20</td>
<td>Term 2 SDD day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 25</td>
<td>ANZAC Day – BPS students marching</td>
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</table>

July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 21</td>
<td>School Photos – save the date!</td>
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</tbody>
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CANTEEN NEWS

While referring to the canteen helper’s roster, it is with not some small concern that I noticed that this week had the second Friday the 13th for the year. Since we survived the last one without running foul of black cats, ladders and broken mirrors it may be a big ask to do it again a mere four weeks later. But of course none of us are so superstitious as to let this kind of thing worry us. So there is nothing to be concerned about. Fingers crossed!

Next Tuesday will be St Patrick’s Day. In deference to this auspicious celebration there will be many menu items taking on and emerald hue for the day. Since our canteen is clearly non political it must be stated that the pigmentation of these items is in no way meant to endorse any environmentally concerned political party in the forthcoming state election. The special for this week will be potato pie and peas. This of course has nothing to do with St Patrick’s Day since St Patrick had nothing to do with potatoes at all. This as usual will be available on Thursday and Friday only and sell for $3.50 or $5.00 with a drink.

Feeding your children to a better education,

Eddy Vardabasso
Canteen Supervisor

Current Notes

* Ethics Note
* Year 7 enrolment forms for Year 6 – Due 20 Mar
* Year 6 T-Shirt order form

Community Notices

Bellingen Public School does not endorse these products or services.

BELLINGEN VALLEY RSL DAY CLUB SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Bellingen Valley Day Club, a weekly social outlet for members of our community, is seeking volunteers. The group meets on Mondays from 9am to 2pm in the Seniors Citizens Centre in Bellingen. Volunteers help with preparing morning tea and lunch. There is no cooking involved. If you can assist please contact Gina Troy on 66551756 or gtroy22@bigpond.com

Bedwetting

A DVD based program, Bedwetting cured, has been developed by Dr Mark Condon, and Physiotherapist, Margaret O’Donovan. It outlines a successful program for parents to implement at home with their children.

For more information and a free Bedwetting Fact Sheet please visit the website:

www.bedwettinginstitute.com.au
or phone 1300 135 796 – 12pm to 6pm