FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week students will be involved in four significant events in our school, the local community and interstate. This week is Harmony Week, Seniors Week, The National Day Against Bullying and twelve Year 6 students will be attending a Leadership Conference in Brisbane on Friday.

All classes will be involved in Harmony Day activities across the week which will focus on celebrating Australia’s cultural diversity, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Students will also be involved in Harmony Day activities on Saturday at the Community Markets.

The National Day Against Bullying this Friday is an opportunity for the school community to stand together and focus on cybersafety (being reasonable and ethical online); a safe and supportive school community and the role bystanders play. Classes will focus on this topic over the week. This website, http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/, has excellent information and activities for parents and their children.

The School Student Leadership team will represent our school at the Bellingen Seniors Week luncheon on Wednesday. They will assist with serving lunch and chat and connect with senior members of our community.

A School Student Leadership team of 12 will also travel to Brisbane this Thursday and Friday as part of a group of 50 students from across our Community of Schools. They will attend the annual student leadership conference run by the Halogen Foundation. I am looking forward to accompanying this group. It is always a great 2 days! Mrs Sutherland will relieve as Principal in my absence.

The selection of a new teacher is progressing. An appointment should be made by the end of this term. Work has begun on the site for our additional classroom. It is hoped that this will be in place to start term 2.

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 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 were sent home last week and additional books are available at the office.

**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.**

**P & C News**

**P & C Meeting**
The P&C are holding their next meeting spectacular on Monday 23rd March at 7pm in the school library. Jugglers, fire breathers and more will be in attendance. OK, that last bit may not be true but if you’ve never been, do yourself a favour and come along and find out what we’re all about. You’ll be amazed at just how much the P&C do for the school and how much impact you can have as a parent on what goes on. See you there!

**AGM**
Our AGM was held last Monday at the school, and we took the opportunity to celebrate our achievements as a P and C for 2014. These are our office holders for 2015: Sharon Benelle (Treasurer); Anna Joy and Leonie Jennings (Joint Correspondence Secretaries); Tracey Winfer (Minutes Secretary); Woo Morris and Haylee Rose (Joint Uniform Co-ordinators); Leonie Jennings (Canteen Committee Representative). Unfortunately, for the second year running, the P and C did not elect a President or a Vice President. If you are interested in finding out about these roles, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Pullinger on 0422 188 504.

**Harmony Day at the Markets**

We are pleased to announce that our Senior String Ensemble will be performing at the Markets this Saturday, March 21.

At 11.45 on the stage at the markets, 22 string players will share their beautiful harmonious music with our community. Violins, viola, cellos and a double bass have clever maestros, taming the strings.

Please come and support us with vocal encouragement! The performance will be short and sweet and very worthwhile.

*Ms Scott*

**Peer Support**

**Week 1**
Last week commenced our Peer Support lessons. The whole school participates in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Two Peer leaders facilitate a small group of 8-10 younger students, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 groups in their classroom. We are working on a module called *Living Positively* helping us explore the concept of optimism. The module runs for 8 sessions. Our first session enables the children to get to know everyone in the group, agreeing on how they will work well together and interact cooperatively with others. They will also begin to think about what it means to be optimistic. We encourage you to talk to your children about Peer Support every week, as it will help to reinforce the concepts learned in each session.

**Week 2**
This week in Peer Support the children will share the things they enjoy in life and have an opportunity to discuss their favourite activity. This session enables children to recognise what makes them happy. Discuss with your child their favourite activity.

**Anti-bullying SRC fundraiser**

This Wednesday and Thursday the school representative council will be selling wristbands to raise awareness of the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence at our school. Bands will be $1 each and will be sold in the morning and at break times. This is in conjunction with our Harmony week activities. Funds raised will be spent by the SRC on school based activities and equipment.
NATURAL 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 are able to help us.

Great Spelling APP

I have been using this spelling APP with several students I have been working with and it has been very successful in assisting them to practice their spelling words.

- With this APP students can create custom spelling tests and quizzes. Practice the exact words they need to learn for their upcoming test.
- Detailed scores after each quiz are given so that students can see which words they got right and which ones they need to practice more.
- It’s simple to use.
- It’s free.

It’s definitely worth downloading this APP if you have an IPAD and trialing it with your child.

Rachel Pregnell, Learning and Support Teacher

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!

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.

Calling for volunteers – we need your help!

Our students really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help. The program requires a volunteer School Banking Co-ordinator to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week and the Commonwealth Bank will provide support in how to run the program. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising.

Currently, School Banking day is on Tuesday (children bring their books in on Tuesday and the processing is done on a Wednesday).

If you would like to help with School Banking please contact the office on 66551147.

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>Person(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 17</td>
<td>Raelene McMahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18</td>
<td>Sue Travis Raelene McMahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 19</td>
<td>Donal O'Suilleabhain, Laurie Rosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20</td>
<td>Penny Stark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23</td>
<td>Jo Barr, Serena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 24/3</td>
<td>Kahlia Fletcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 17</td>
<td>Raelene McMahon</td>
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Diary Dates

March

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur 19</td>
<td>WSA</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>Fri 21</td>
<td>Due date for Yr &amp; Enrolment Forms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 21</td>
<td>Senior Strings – Market performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting at 7pm in the Library</td>
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April

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<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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<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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<td>Thur 2</td>
<td>Closing Day for Voluntary Contributions raffle</td>
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<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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<td>Sat 25</td>
<td>ANZAC Day – BPS students marching</td>
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July

Tue 21 School Photos – save the date!

CANTEEN NEWS

Apparently, some people in this part of the world believed that last Saturday was “International” Pi day because the date was the 14th of March. This misconception comes from the bizarre way in which those illiterates from the USA write the date. In the US, Saturday’s date is written as 3.14 (an approximation of Pi) and our cousins across the Pacific believe that they are the centre of the universe, so their version must be accepted a “international”. Whereas, in the civilised world, Pi Day is the 22nd of July (22 over 7 is another approximation of Pi). All this means that the circular pies served as last week’s special had nothing to do with Pi Day. But wait till the 22nd of July! This week is “Harmony Week” so throughout the week there will be certain orange delicacies made available from the canteen as part of the commemoration.

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. Intermingled with the orange of harmony day, Tuesday will have a very Irish flag nature theme to it.

The special for this week will potato pie and peas. This of course and again has nothing to do with St Patrick’s Day since St Patrick had nothing to do with potatoes at all. Nor will it have anything to do will the US version of “International” Pi Day. 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

* Schuberts 7 Note
* Senior Strings Note – Market Day performance
* Year 7 enrolment forms for Year 6 –Due 20 March
* Year 6 T-Shirt order form

Community Notices

Bellingen Public School does not endorse these products or services.

Bellingen Autism Support Group

Perhaps you, someone in your family, or someone you know has been diagnosed with (or wonders about) Autism and Aspergers? We are a newly formed group of individ ua ls, families and service providers, who get together to have fun, relax, learn about, discuss and support each other around the topic of autism.

Although we are based in Bellingen, you do not have to be from Bellingen to join us.

If you are interested in learning and sharing with others then visit our facebook group, email us and maybe come a long to our monthly get togethers.

Facebook: Bellingen Autism Support Group or bellingeautism@gmail.com