FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week Year 4 travel to Cascade Environmental Education Centre for their annual camp. To have such a critical resource, literally on our doorstep is fantastic for our students. I am sure each of them will make the most of all the activities on offer! Mrs Taylor, Mrs Mellalieu and Ms Bugden will accompany the two camps along with parent helpers and teachers aid support.

Last Thursday I attended the Primary Principals Conference in Coffs Harbour. The conference program was informative and inspirational. Gold Medallist Alisa Camplin spoke about choices that are within our power to make to achieve our goals and dreams. This is a message I am keen to share with our students. Amanda Gore explored joy, happiness, gratitude, enthusiasm and laughter. She encouraged us to focus on what’s going well and to be grateful. Such a simple message really, which gets lost in the hurly burly of everyday events. She also made a point which aligns beautifully with our School Plan focus on Critical Thinking. Our students success in the future goes beyond being able to read and write – it will be about their ability to learn, unlearn and relearn concepts and skills – in other words their ability to be adaptable.

Thank you to those of you who ensure that your child is wearing their school uniform every day. Our uniform unites the student body and is worn proudly. A gentle reminder that caps, multi coloured clothing items and hoodies are NOT part of our uniform.

All students approached our lockdown drill very sensibly last Tuesday. Staff will review the procedures this week and make any needed changes that will improve this Work Health and Safety requirement.

Have a great week.
Elizabeth Mulligan, Principal

DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Wednesday 29th July more than 60 students travelled to Urunga to take part in the District Athletics Carnival. Our school was well represented on the day with many of our students gaining entry to the Mid North Coast Carnival in a large number of events. Students had a fabulous day and showed great sportsmanship and effort in all that they took part in. We even had 3 students win age champions on the day, Junior boys - **Kyan Upsall, Ethan Ladi & Oliver Hutchings** - Senior boys champion - well done to these students.

Jnr Boys Relay team, Sam Fisher, Kyan Upsall, James Ruming and Josh Upsall.

Good luck to the following students who qualified and will participate at the Mid North Coast Carnival this Friday:

**Josh Upsall**
**Kyan Upsall**
**Peter Conroy**
**Christopher Bull**
**Ethan Ladi**
**Lucas White**
**Fern Berry**
**Jamica McCauley**
**Abi Mayo**
**Laeli Couper**
**Lily Pengelly**
**Eden Rees**

Sam Fisher
James Ruming
Hunter Cruikshank
Oliver Hutchings
Baily Sipple
Cooper Houchen
Edie Burgess
Indiana Brodbeck
Emmaline Bowes
Georgia Pregnell
Jessica Sanders
Ruby Matthews

Canteen Roster - August

| Tue 11 | Leonie Jennings |
| Wed 12 | Raelene, Donal O’, Maree Martindale |
| Thu 13 | Sharon Benelle |
| Fri 14 | Leanne Harding, Jullie Young, Sue Travis |
| Mon 17 | Jackie Vassallo, Leonie Jennings |
| Tue 18 | Leonie Jennings |
5 Ways to Help Kids Think Critically

The Foundation for Critical Thinking developed a short series of 5 "Intellectual Standards," ways of helping primary aged children learn to think better. Teach these standards to your kids, and then interact with them in ways that reinforce the five standards.

- Invite them to BE CLEAR by asking for explanations and examples when they don’t understand something. Let children know it is okay to be confused and ask questions.
- Urge kids to BE ACCURATE, to check to see if something is true by researching the facts.
- Encourage children to BE RELEVANT by discussing other topics that are pertinent to the discussion or problem at hand. Help them stay on track by linking related and meaningful information to the question they are trying to answer or the topic they are learning about.
- Support your child’s ability to BE LOGICAL. Help her see how things fit together. Question how she came to her conclusions and whether her assumptions are correct.
- Set expectations that your child BE FAIR. Promote empathy in his thinking processes. Make sure he considers others when drawing conclusions.

http://www.rootsofaction.com/critical-thinking-ways-to-improve-your-childs-mind-this-summer/

UNIFORM SHOP

The P & C Uniform shop currently has on special Girls Long Pants $10 and old style Surf Hats $5. Why not buy and extra hat as a spare. Order forms can be picked up from the office or go directly to the Uniform shop which is open Mondays and Fridays from 8.40 until 9.30.

Please remember to all items must be labelled. We currently have 62 unlabelled uniform items and 22 non-uniform. We cannot give it back if it does not have a name.

MOVE TO LEARN

Move to Learn has started again. This program gives the students in Years 1 and 2 a well-earned 'brain break' on Tuesday mornings and me the opportunity to get to know these classes and their skills in fine and gross motor activities. Parent helpers are more than welcome if you would like to join next term.

Elizabeth Mulligan

CANTEEN NEWS

This week sees many of our year four scholars broadening their minds through the Cascades educational experience. Be assured that they will still enjoy the experience even though they will be denied the opportunity of eating the delicious and nutritious delights of the Bellingen Public school canteen while on this excursion. Yes they will miss out on cheddies, freshly cooked muffins or raisin toast for breakfast but this should not detract from the enjoyment. Some will, sadly, miss out on this week’s special, which will be empanadas. You win a few, you lose a few. The special as usual will be available on Thursday and Friday only and at a cost of $3.50 or $5.00 with a drink.

Feeding your children to a better education,

Eddy Vardabasso, Canteen Supervisor
**EXCURSION BUDGETING**

Excursions can be paid off weekly, fortnightly/monthly or as it suits your family budget. Below are some of the major excursion costs and the number of weeks till final payment must be received.

**Lake Keepit Excursion**, August 31 – Sept 4 @ $310 – 2 school weeks approx $155/week

**Canberra Excursion**, Nov 9 – 13 @ $530 – 9 school weeks approx $59/week.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Parents, we are trialling a new Boolclub this month, called Redgum Bookclub.

* A message from Redgum:-

Redgum Book Club proudly supports Australian authors, illustrators and publishers to keep our Australian children’s book industry strong, while offering a wide range of engaging, literary books and fun, educational products - without distracting novelty fillers. Our books are written with love and true passion, and are thoughtfully chosen by experts to expand budding literary repertoires and ignite hungry imaginations.

Students will have brought home the brochure last week. Orders are due back at school on Thursday 12 August. Online orders are preferred, alternatively send the order to school with the cash.

For more information please see the attached flyer.

Thank you

Carole McFaul, Librarian

**Skoolbag**

We are pleased to announce that Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc). This makes the app even more accessible then before to your parent and student community, with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.

To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up “Skoolbag” in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.

Please note: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

It would be beneficial to pass this information onto your School community.

If you have any questions please email support@skoolbag.com.au

**Diary Dates**

**August**

Mon 10-Wed 12 Cascade Camp 1
Wed 12-Fri 14 Cascade Camp 2
Fri 14 Zone Athletics Carnival
Tue 11 ICAS Mathematics
Thurs 20 Musical Rehearsal
Fri 21 Musical Matinee and Evening Performance
Mon 31 Lake Keepit excursion

**September**

Fri 4 Lake Keepit excursion
Thur 10 School Disco

**November**

Mon 9 – Fri 13 Canberra Excursion – Yr 6
Sat 21 & Sun 22 – Family Portrait Fundraiser

**CURRENT NOTES**

* Year 5 Lake Keep It Medical note

**Community Notices**

Bellingen Public School does not endorse these products or services.

**URUNGA FOOTBALL CLUB**

**SIX-A-SIDE SOCCER**

2015 SUMMER TWILIGHT SERIES

Registrations open now – go to www.urungafootball.com or facebook Urunga SIX-A-SIDE

Competitions starting 8th October:

**Juniors** – 8 & 9’s, 10’s & 11’s, 12 to 14’s

**Seniors**: Mens, Womens A & B Grade,
Mixed social

All Welcome – great family fun

Enquiries call: Dixie Erlandsen 65695687

**BELLINGEN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**MUSIC-BY-YOUTH PROJECT**

String workshops for local school students are a regular feature of the Bellingen Music Festival as a part of the Festival Music-by-Youth Project. The workshop last year with the Acacia Quartet held in our School Hall was hugely successful but was mainly for high school students. This year the Acacia Quartet will conduct a separate strings workshop at our school just for our string students and string students from St Mary’s Primary School.

The workshop will be on Friday September 18th from 1.10 – 3.10 in our School Hall. Parents of students participating are invited to attend and observe.

To find out more about the full and exciting program for the 2015 Bellingen Music Festival, visit www.bellingenmusicfestival.com.au or email info@bellingenmusicfestival.com.au