FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

PARTICIPATION is the Core Value we are focussing on as a school again this week. Those students who represented Bellingen Public School at the District Swimming Carnival last Friday actively demonstrated this value with their fantastic efforts. Congratulations. Congratulations also to the newly inducted Student Leaders and House Captains who received their badges of office at the Whole School Assembly on Friday. House Captains and Vice Captains have made a great start demonstrating their leadership at our swimming carnival. Our Student Leadership team have currently taken on an environmental challenge which they will be sharing with the whole school.

With your help Bellingen Public School will continue to be a school community in which every person feels respected, valued and is encouraged and challenged to reach their potential. Talking with your child about school and sharing in their excitement about learning is so important. Taking the opportunity to attend the Welcome and Meet the Teacher BBQ this Wednesday 24th February is one way to share in their educational journey. Thank you to those families who have returned the RSVP – the response has been fantastic. The BBQ will be available from 4:30 with the following times in classrooms ~ STAGE 1 ~ 5:00pm – 5:30pm; STAGE 2 ~ 5:30pm – 6:00pm; STAGE 3 ~ 6:00pm – 6:30pm. All stages will start off together as a group and then move to individual classrooms. A reminder that this is not an opportunity for individual interviews.

It is important that students feel happy and safe while at our school. We need to ensure that all individuals will be treated with respect regardless of our differences. Should your child express any concerns or worries about school, please contact us immediately. We will do whatever we can to ensure this is dealt with compassionately. Please help us by reinforcing these expectations at home.

Have a great week.

Elizabeth Mulligan, Rel Principal
DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the large group of swimmers and their parents who travelled down to Macksville last Friday to compete at the district swimming carnival. The students were excellent ambassadors for our school on the day, demonstrating both excellence and participation as they competed in their events. Special mention must go to our Junior boys relay team Finn Pengelly, Patrick Carey, Liam Ball and Jesse Case who placed first with a very convincing win and had everyone on their feet cheering. Thank you to our parents who sweltered in the heat cheering on and organising our students while the swimmers stayed cool in the pool. Congratulations to the following students who will compete at the Zone Swimming carnival soon. Liam Ball, Yasmin Ball, Aidan Carey, Patrick Carey, Jesse Case, Sam Case, Laeli Couper, Jacob Hawkshaw, Finn Pengelly, Luke Pengelly and Kyan Upsall.

CRICKET

Anyone who has knowledge and would like to assist with coaching the after school cricket program please contact Josh Hurley on 6655 1147 for more information.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Parents and Carers who contributed to the Woolworths Earn & Learn project.

“Clean Up Australia Day”

Recycled Sculpture Competition 2016

Bellingen Public School has entered the first ever Park Beach Plaza, Coffs Coast Waste Services, 2CSFM and The Coffs Coast Advocate ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ Recycled Sculpture Competition. The Recycled Sculpture Competition explores the creative potential of recycling school and household recycled waste items and inspiring others to see the possibility in things that may have otherwise been thrown away. The school has the chance to win a share of $10,000 in prize money, which will be spent on making our school more environmentally friendly. The theme of our sculpture is the endangered Bellinger River Snapping Turtle and it will be exhibited at Park Beach Plaza for public voting from March 8.

The entries will be judged by members of the public who enter the online people’s choice competition on Park Beach Plaza’s Advantage+ App or website at www.parkbeachplaza.com.au.

Community voting commences at 9am on Wednesday 9 March 2016 and closes at 11.59pm Thursday 31 March 2016. Please show your support. The more votes we get the better our chance of winning.

Co-ordinating Teachers,
Nicky McFarlane, Kathy Taylor & Denise Head
WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the students who were recipients of the Student of the Month award at last weeks Whole School Assembly. These students have demonstrated outstanding attitude and citizenship at school.

K Magenta  Eloisa Thomas & Maddox Ball
K Orange    Lola Loos and Kayden O’Connor-Milne
K/1 Puple   Lilly Travers & Deegan Young
1 Aqua      Maya Borsuk & Aydon Young
1 Magenta   Remy Balmain & Rhianna Stockton
1/2 Orange  Saffron Gennat & Amelia Cronan-O’Connor
2 Aqua      Olive Harpur & Oryn Divola
2 Purple    Bella Brodbeck & Rumi Kay
3 Purple    Patrick Bell & Echo Divola
3/4 Aqua    Ellie Davies & Django Stark
3/4 Orange  Callen Rose & Liam Ball
4/5 Jade    Marlo Gunning & Mitch Maher
5/6 Aqua    Koby Henwood & Emily Hart
5/6 Magenta Ruby Kohlhagen & Tembi Vockler
5/6 Orange  Abi Mayo & Jo Jo Kornhauser
5/6 Purple  Jackson Thompson & Isabella Michelsen

LIBRARY NEWS

Lucky winners of our first Orangutan raffle are Lani Sheather-Dean and Maddison Cadman. Congratulations!

Two new raffles have started, one for an orang-utan toy and one for a WWF animal adoption of your choice. See article in this newsletter for details.

A big thank you to our wonderful band of helpers.

ORANGUTAN UPDATE

Firstly a huge thank you to all who supported our orangutan charity last year. In term 4 we raised over $2200 for the Borneo Centre for Orangutan Protection through an organisation called WITH COMPASSION & SOUL.

I first came upon them when I personally sponsored an orangutan, then in the library our classes studied endangered species following World Endangered Animal Day. Students started asking me how they could help so we began fund raising at school. This charity is assisted in Australia by one lady in Adelaide, who works tirelessly to help orangutans in Indonesia that have been orphaned or injured, largely due to the spread of palm oil plantations as well as young ones rescued from the illegal trade in baby orangutans for pets.

As it is a very small organisation with few overheads, almost 100% of funds raised goes straight to the animals. This money not only helps orangutans directly but also indirectly aids other animals of the forests.

This year I will be continuing to help raise funds for this charity with the wonderful help from a fantastic and tireless band of students. Our first project is to raise money to help buy and develop a tiny island in Borneo.
which will become home for two adult orangutans, Debbie and Ambon who have been kept caged for over 20 years. Our first lucky ticket competition is well under way and has been eagerly supported. Tickets may be bought from the library for 50 cents each or 5 for $2. We will also be starting another lucky ticket competition next week for $2 a ticket or 3 for $5 with the prize being a choice of a WWF adoption.

I hope we will receive continued support from families with our fundraising projects. If you would like to help out please contact me in the school library or go to the website WITH COMPASSION & SOUL.

Thank you
Carole McFaul

STUDENT BANKING

Do you have 10 or more tokens? Come and pick up a new redemption card to see what's on offer, there are great new prizes this year. If you are not a super saver yet please come to the office and find out how you can start. Or you can open an account on Friday, 18 March when we have Laura our School Banking Specialist here to assist with opening new accounts. Remember banking day is TUESDAY.

CANTEEN NEWS

Many of our cute young connoisseurs from last year will have noticed that the bases to the canteen's pizzas are not the same as last year. This is because and notwithstanding that the pizzas are made to order, the bases for these hand made delicacies are usually purchased pre-made and ready for toppings. But the supplier of our usual bases has for some bizarre reason decided to discontinue production. The feedback on the new version of pizza bases has been positive. That is to say it has been nonexistent and as the saying goes "no news is good news", so it will be taken as positive. Still it is early days yet and minds may still need time to be made up. So keep those cards and letters coming in, or don't.

Recently our diminutive digesters of diploma data have had to endure the callous temperatures of a searing Bellingen summer. As uncomfortable as this was we can all take solace in the anticipation that summer is coming to an end.

To celebrate the last week of summer the canteen will have a tropical flavour to the weekly special. This week the special will be Polynesian fish cakes served on a bed of turmeric rice and south seas inspired salad. The special will not be available until Thursday and Friday when it will sell for $3.50 or $5.00 with a drink Feeding your children to a better education,

Eddy Vardabasso, Canteen Supervisor