Dear Parents/Caregivers,

THANK YOU for the overwhelming support shown and positive feedback for the Welcome BBQ held last Wednesday evening. It was exciting to see the high numbers of families attending, enjoying a sausage sandwich and catching up with teachers, friends and neighbours. At Bellingen Public School we focus on our students and just as all parents want the very best for their children, so do we. Over the past few weeks I have stressed how vital a positive partnership between home and school is. Our commitment to this partnership is to nurture, guide, inspire and challenge students – to find the joy in learning, to build their skills and understanding, and to make sense of their world.

This is captured in our school vision statement “At Bellingen Public School we will inspire students through innovative and dynamic learning experiences that will nurture and encourage compassion and creativity and equip them with the skills to shape their world.”

Last Friday a Merit Selection process was conducted to fill our vacant Assistant Principal position. A decision has been made and an announcement of the successful applicant will be made in the next newsletter.

RESPECT is the Core Value we are focussing on as a school this fortnight. In classrooms, evidence of this value includes:

- accepting the right of others to hold different views to your own
- listening to others without interrupting
- obeying school rules
- acknowledging the strengths and abilities of students
- affirming cultural diversity within the school community.

If your child received a Values Award for Participation (last fortnight’s focus value) did you ask your child when they received their award ~ How were they showing that value? How do you think that made others feel? Opening up and talking about it with them at home is so important.

Have a great week.

Elizabeth Mulligan, Rel Principal
DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Bellingen students who represented at the Nambucca/Bellingen District PSSA Swimming Carnival.

OPERA HOUSE CHOIR

59 students sang for me over 3 weeks in an audition process, to take part in the 2016 Choir. I found this a delightful experience with so many enthusiastic young singers sharing their talent with me. My process was to listen to each child’s voice, taking into account their vocal range, voice projection and trueness of pitch.

We have been allocated a choir of 30 students only, to take part in the Choral Festival and it is simply awful to turn away any singers. It came down to an accumulated mark to choose the choir and all students with 9, 9.5 and 10 out of 10 made it.

Our first rehearsal will be tomorrow afternoon after recess, to bell time. Children will hear the songs to learn over the year. A note will follow this week explaining all about the excursion and also the necessity of each student’s commitment to practice and their attendance at both choir rehearsals and performances, during the year.

Each student will be challenged by the exciting repertoire and learn many new musical skills. I strongly believe that their lives will be enriched with such a wonderful opportunity. Students of Bellingen Public have taken part in this festival since 2004!

Kind Regards
Liz Scott, Music Co Ordinator

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.

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 Monday, 21 March to be drawn on Thursday 24th March.

Tickets will be sent home soon, additional books are available at the office.

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 $44 per student.

If you pay this contribution before Friday, 20th May you will go in the draw to win a fantastic family holiday for a whole week at Valla Beach Resort or 2 x $100 Horse riding vouchers.

Thank you to those parents that have already paid their voluntary contributions, they will automatically be entered into the draw.
Term 1 – Week 6  
Monday, 29 February 2016

“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

Canteen Roster - March

Tue 1 Kate Burns, Sophia Berry
Wed 2 Donal O’Suilleabhain
Thu 3 Laurie Rosa, Maree Martindale
Fri 4 Louise Lelliot, Jennifer Pont, Sue Travis
Mon 7 Kiara Dugan
Tue 8 Leonie Jennings, Emma Osland

ORANGUTAN RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to Jojo Kornhauser and Maya Wade who were winners of the Orangutan Raffle. The WWF raffle is still going $1 per ticket or 6 for $5.

Thank you
Carole McFaul

Current Notes

- Kindergarten Playground Information letter
- Rugby League Schubert 7’s
- ICAS Competition
- Stage 1 Student Packs
- Year 6 Shirts – due back Wednesday, 24 Feb (Now Overdue)

Diary Dates

March

Thur 3 Rugby League Schubert 7’s, Connell Pk
Wed 9th North Coast Swimming Trials, Kempsey
Thur 10 Hockey Gala Day
Fri 18 Commonwealth Bank Account opening 8.30am
Fri 25 Good Friday
Mon 28 Easter Monday

Feeding your children to a better education,
Eddy Vardabasso, Canteen Supervisor
April

Fri 8        Last day of Term 1
Mon 25      ANZAC Day
Tue 26      First day of Term 2

May

Tue 17      ICAS – Digital Technologies
Fri 20      Walk Safely to School Day
Tue 31      ICAS - Science

June

Mon 13      Queen’s Birthday
Mon 13      ICAS – Writing (new date will be advised)
Wed 15      ICAS - Spelling

July

Fri 22      School Photos

August

Tue 2       ICAS – English
Tue 9       Choral Cluster Rehearsal, Sawtell PS 10-2
Tue 16      ICAS Mathematics

MAJESTIC CINEMA

Nambucca Majestic Cinema is having a $6 day for children. The film we will be playing is Alvin and the Chipmunks: “The Road Chip” It will be playing at 4.20 on Saturday 27 February, and 11am on Sunday.
There will also, be a Girls Night Out on 10 March at 6.30pm for 7pm.
The movie playing is “How to Be Single”. Our door prize is worth over $350 and we will be having some local businesses and fundraisers on the night. If you are able to pre-book and pay for more than 10 people, we will be happy to discount tickets to $9.50 each (although being a member is still cheaper!)..