FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Congratulations to 3P, 4/5J and 5/6O. They have entered their amazing sculpture of a Bellingen River Snapping Turtle into the Park Beach Plaza Recycled Sculpture Competition. The learning embedded into this project has brought about a deeper understanding of the plight of this endangered local native species, linked the students to local expert knowledge and complemented the environmental education program being taught across the school at present. It is a timely display as the Office of Environment and Heritage working in partnership with Taronga Zoo, Western Sydney University and the Department of Primary Industries are carrying out turtle surveys in the Bellinger River this week. The sculpture is on display outside Big W at Park Beach Plaza. Details of how you can vote for Bellingen Public’s sculpture and help win the competition (which in turn will publicise the Snapping Turtle’s plight) are in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Mr Dylan Harry who was the successful candidate in the recent Merit Selection process for the position of Assistant Principal. Mr Harry is currently teaching at Alstonville PS. He will commence working at Bellingen PS from the start of Term 2, teaching 3P and leading the Stage 2 team. My thanks to the members of the selection panel, Dan Pullinger, Rachel Pregnell, Deb Grenenger and Maureen McCarthy for their diligence and support through this process.

Our Student Leadership Team plus ten other Year 6 students will travel to Brisbane next Sunday ready to attend the Halogen Student Leadership Conference on Monday. This annual trip provides an opportunity to hear fantastic speakers at the conference and meet with likeminded Year 6 students from across our Community of Schools. I am excited to be accompanying this group once again this year. As we focus on RESPECT this week I ask that you discuss with your children that this respect extends to our next door neighbours; properties they pass on the way to school; the driver, students and members of the public who may be on their bus; shopkeepers and the natural environment at school. While they are wearing their uniform they are representing Bellingen Public School and should be demonstrating our Core Values.

Have a great week.

Elizabeth Mulligan, Rel Principal

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SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Wearing a uniform is a badge of pride, creates an identity for our school and is an important part of being a school student at Bellingen Public School.
- Uniforms show that you are part of an organisation. Wearing it says we’re all in this together. Also, if you wear your uniform with pride, you are being respectful.
- Uniforms create a sense of belonging and create an identity for the school in the community.

BELLINGEN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR THE AGREED UNIFORM EVERY DAY. This does not include denim shorts, board shorts or caps.

Thank you to the majority of families who support their children by sending them in uniform every day.
**P & C AGM AND GENERAL MEETING**

The P & C will hold their AGM tonight at 7pm in the School Library followed by a general meeting. All parents and carers are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing new faces.

**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**.

**GARDEN NEWS**

Hello to all of the passionate gardener’s in our school community, please don’t forget to buy an extra punnet of seedling at the ‘Spring Plant Fair’ this coming Saturday.

Thanks go out to the lovely mum who saves seeds and shared some gourd, nasturtium, coriander and dill seeds which are slowly sprouting ready to plant out in the following weeks.

So, by Term 2 our wonderful Eddy and his team in the canteen will be able to pick fresh herbs and vegetables to add into your lunch orders.

Please drop seedlings into the office and thank you for supporting healthy munching and happy students.

*Miss Viv*

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**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.

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**BOOKCLUB**

Scholastic book club Issue 2 is being distributed this week and is due back at school Wednesday next week, 16 March. Thank You

Carole McFaul
“Clean Up Australia Day”
Recycled Sculpture Competition 2016

“Snappy”, our recycled Bellinger River Snapping Turtle is now on display at Park Beach Plaza.
Community voting commences at 9am on Wednesday 9 March 2016 and closes at 11.59pm Thursday 31 March 2016.
Customers can vote by downloading the Park Beach Plaza Advantage + App and follow the link on the App to cast their vote. The App is free and can be downloaded from either the iTunes store or Google Play.

All customers that register a vote will go into the draw to win $1,000 Plaza dollars (in the form of 2x $500 Park Beach Plaza Gift Cards). The more times you vote the more entries you will get in the draw. The winner will be drawn at random on Friday 1st April.

On Friday 1st April, votes will be tallied and the winning schools notified. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive a share of $10,000 cash. 2CSFM will also broadcast their breakfast show live from the winning school on Wednesday 6 April 2016.

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. It is also our opportunity as a community, to show our support in the helping the critically endangered Bellinger River Snapping Turtle.
Please show your support. The more votes we get the better our chance of winning.
Co-ordinating Teachers,
Nicky McFarlane, Kathy Taylor & Denise Head

UNIFORM NEWS
The uniform shop currently has two second hand senior jackets in very good condition, sizes 14 & 16 and size 10 skorts. The uniform shop is open on Monday and Friday mornings from 8.40 to 9.30. If you would like to help out they are always looking for volunteers to assist just leave your name at the office.

EASTER RAFLE
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, 23 March to be drawn on Thursday 24th March.

Tickets were sent home last week if you missed out or would like additional books they are available at the office.

CANTEEN NEWS
I am feeling very confident that the new pizza bases are acceptable to our young connoisseurs as the feedback, by the same standard, has continued to be as positive as it was last week.

Apparently this coming Monday, the 14th, is a public holiday in Greece. It is Orthodox Ash Monday. Who’d o’ thought? Well the unfortunate Greeks have been going through some tough times, economically, lately so by way of moral support the canteen will have as its special a typically Greek delicacy in the run up to one of their public holidays
This week’s special will be dolmas and fetta, served with crusty bread and an appropriately green 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
Canteen Roster - March

Tue 8  Leonie Jennings, Emma Osland
Wed 9  Donal O'Sullivan, Kylie Dieckmann
Thu 10 Sharon Bennelle, Elizabeth Joyce
Fri 11 Louise Lelliott, Jennifer Pont
Mon 14 Jackie Vassallo
Tue 15 Lilliana Dicks, Emma Osland

Current Notes

- Brian Taber Shield Cricket
- Stage 3 Math Textbook note
- Tell Them From Me – student survey
- ICAS Competition
- Stage 1 Student Packs
- Year 6 Shirts (overdue)

Diary Dates

March

Wed 9th  North Coast Swimming Trials, Kempsey
Wed 9th  Leadership – “Meet and Greet
Wed 9th  Brian Taber Shield Cricket, Connell Pk
Thu 10  Hockey Gala Day, Coffs Harbour
Sun 13th  Brisbane Leadership Conference
Mon 14th  Brisbane Leadership Conference
Fri 18  Commonwealth Bank Account opening 8.30am
Mon 21  Harmony Day
Wed 23  Last day for Easter Raffle tickets
Thur 24  Easter Raffle drawn
Fri 25  Good Friday
Mon 28  Easter Monday

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

Community Notices - Bellingen Public School does not endorse these products or services.