Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the children who represented the school and participated at the Small School Swimming carnival held last week.

Monty, Hester, Bronte and Max have recorded qualifying times and will progress to the Murwillumbah District Carnival being held this Wednesday at Murwillumbah.

Congratulations Max, Bronte, Hester and Monty and all the best for a great day!

School Volunteers…….thank you

Celia, Joy-Ann and Pam will be joining us again this year to assist the teachers in helping the children improve their literacy skills. They will listen to the children read.

Many thanks!

Apology to the Stolen Generation

Saturday, 13 February marks the 8th Anniversary of the Australian Parliament’s formal apology to members of the stolen generation. The form of the apology was as follows: ‘Today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing culture in human history…….We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.’

To recognise the anniversary of the occasion and in national recognition of Indigenous Australians our flags will be flown on Friday. This is common practice at Fingal School. The teachers will also speak to the children about the stolen generations.

The Bulldogs NRL

Representative from the Bulldogs NRL came to the school last Friday. ‘The children enjoyed the visit and learning about ways to keep healthy and happy.’

Walkin’ on Water Surf Program

Our Walkin’ on Water Surf Program for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will commence this Friday at Greenmount Beach, Coolangatta.

The Walkin’ on Water program is a 6 week program and is a Safe Surfing Program. (Please see the attached Participation Declaration Form for further information.)

Dates

Friday 12, 19, 26 Feb and 4, 11, 18 March.

Leave from School

11.00am

Surf Program

11.30am to 12.30

Leave to return to school

12.35pm

Transport

Parents

Cost

$69.00 (to be paid in advance)

A Surf Groms Pack per child is included in the cost of this program.

The children will need to bring: Swimmers, Towel, Rashi, Sunscreen and a Water Bottle all in a small carry bag.

(Continued on page 2)
Intensive Swimming Program

Our Years K, 1 and 2 children are being offered an Intensive Swimming Program from Monday, 15 February running for 2 weeks commencing next week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The lessons run for 45 minutes.

Dates
15, 17, 19, 22, 24 and 26 Feb

Leave from School
11.00am

Surf Program
11.30am to 12.15pm

Leave to return to school
12.20pm

Transport
Parents

Cost
Free

Fully qualified swimming instructors will be in the water with the students in order to give them maximum tuition in learn to swim, stroke correction and squad training techniques. Swimming is a vital component of the PDHPE Syllabus. It has been proven that being able to swim competently in a relaxed style has saved lives.

We have applied for funding through the Sporting Schools Program and therefore this program is free to our students. We hope all of our children take advantage of this opportunity.

Parents will be required to assist with transport to and from the Kingscliff Swimming Pools.

The children who do not participate in the program will be combined into 1 class at school and will follow a set work program.

Please complete and return the attached consent form to the school tomorrow.

You will need to provide your child’s transport to and from the Murwillumbah Civic Centre and supervision for the appropriate days. The competition will be held on Saturday and Sunday also.

We would like parents to assist their child in choosing a suitable poem/prose for the competition. This does not have to be finalised by the 6 March but the entry form must be in. If you are having difficulties finding a suitable poem as it nears the competition, we can help with some suggestions.

Katie (Hester’s mum) will listen to the children’s poems and give some suggestions as it nears the competition date, but primarily it is parents responsibility to prepare their child for the competition.

Thank you Katie for helping the children once again this year!

Chess Tuition

Ms Belbin has once again offered to tutor our students in chess this year. Students from Years 2 to 6 are eligible to join the Chess program with Years 4/5/6 starting mid-March. (Children, please note that the classes will run into the first half of the morning recess break.)

Thank you to Ms Belbin for offering this program to the children once again this year!

Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts…….Speech and Drama

The Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts (Speech and Drama section only) will be held at Murwillumbah Civic Centre from Thursday, 16 June to Tuesday, 21 June.

If you would like your child to enter the competition please complete and return to the school the attached entry form prior to 6 March. We will only be entering children in the Speech and Drama sections so please disregard any information on the attached information sheet and form that does not relate to Speech and Drama.

The attached entry form has section /category details and entry fees. If you require further information please contact the school. Please note: Late entries cannot be accepted as they must reach the convenor by the closing date.

You will need to provide your child’s transport to and from the Murwillumbah Civic Centre and supervision for the appropriate days. The competition will be held on Saturday and Sunday also.

We would like parents to assist their child in choosing a suitable poem/prose for the competition. This does not have to be finalised by the 6 March but the entry form must be in. If you are having difficulties finding a suitable poem as it nears the competition, we can help with some suggestions.

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Thank you to Ms Belbin for offering this program to the children once again this year!

School Website

A reminder…..to check our school website for updates. You will find our weekly Newsletter on this also.

Occasionally photographs are taken of individual students or classes and may be included on our School Website. If you DO NOT wish your child’s photo to appear on the Website please notify the school.

Library on Friday

The children will be able to borrow from our School Library on Friday this year. We would like to encourage the children to borrow each week and establish good borrowing habits. We have many wonderful books in the Library and would like them to be seen by the children. Please remind your child to return their Library books each Friday.
Community Health Visit/Assessment

Judy Murray, our school nurse from Community Health will be visiting the school on Friday, 26 February.

Children will only be seen on a referral basis from parents, carers or teachers who have a major health concern with a child, e.g. vision, hearing, speech.

Forms have been sent home with children who have been nominate by either the Health Nurse for ongoing assessment or as a new enrolment or for referral by a parent or class teacher.

If you have a concern and do not receive a form, please contact the school and we will issue you with a form. Children cannot be seen by the nurse without parental consent.

Work books

Our student work book order has been placed and in some cases received. The children will receive either subject books and/or booklet/worksheets throughout the year depending on their class and level. The cost will be $30 in total.

Please reimburse the school for the cost of these work books as soon as possible.

General School Contribution

(Voluntary School Fees)

The School Fees for 2016 school year for Years Kindergarten to 6 has been set at $40 for the first child, $40 for the second and $35 for the third child.

Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School

The Department implemented a new policy in 2008 regarding student’s exemption form attendance for periods in excess of 10 days.

Parent can apply for an exemption from attendance at school or the child under the following conditions.

◆ Domestic Necessary
◆ Health of a Child

Forms are available form the school. An exemption should be applied for prior to their leave of absence. If this is not possible an application must be completed on return.

Student Canteen

In past years the P & C has outsourced the student canteen to our local Fingal trading Store. This will happen once again this year. Fingal Trading offer the children a set menu on Thursday and Friday each week at the big lunch only.

Parents enclose their child’s lunch order and money in an envelope with full details written on the front i.e.

◆ Child’s Name
◆ Grade
◆ Items ordered
◆ Total of order
◆ Total money enclosed in the envelope.

Beverley (Ashi’s Mum) has once again volunteered to deliver the lunch orders to the shop each week.

Thank you, Beverley!

Please ensure ordered are in the canteen outside the classroom by 9.00am on Thursday and Friday mornings. Lunch orders will be delivered to the school at 1.00pm. Please DO NOT drop lunch orders directly to the shop and this causes confusion with some children not receiving their lunch.

Reminders…………

Scripture Class

Mary will commence Scripture classes this week on Thursday. Classes will be held each Thursday from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. The children will be divided into 2 age appropriate groups for a 30 minute lesson each week.

If you do not wish your child to participate in Scripture, please contact the school as soon as possible.
Piano Lessons

Piano lessons with Jenny will commence this week for students continuing lessons and new students. If you would like your child to learn the piano please complete the attached form and return it to the school. Jenny will contact you to discuss your child’s lessons.

$12.00 each week to be paid to Jenny. Please put this in an envelope marked for Piano lessons.

Singing Lessons

Last year Marisa came to the school offering lessons to interested students. Marisa will come to the school again there is enough interest.

We have 1 child who is travelling each week for lessons with Marisa but if the numbers increase Marisa will come to the school.

Please see attached Marisa’s contact details for further information.

Term Dates and Staff Development Days

The last day of Term 1 is Friday, 8 April for students and staff.

Staff Development Days – The first day of term for Terms 2, and 3 and last 2 days of Term 4. Students do not attend school on Staff Development Days.
**Walkin' on Water Consent Form**

I give my consent for my child _________________ to participate in the Walkin' on Water Program, commencing Friday, 12 February and concluding on 18 March 2016.

I understand I am to organise transport for my child to and from the venue at Greenmount Beach, Coolangatta, and that the full cost of the program, ($69) must be paid to the school prior to commencing the program.

I understand that the program will be conducted on the beach and in the ocean to a depth of approximately 1 metre and that supervision will be by Miss Kirk and the Walkin' on Water coaches.

♦ My child will be travelling with ________________________ to and from Coolangatta.

Signed __________________________
Parent/Carer

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**Intensive Swimming Program**

I give my consent for my child _________________ to participate in the Intensive Swimming Lessons, commencing Monday 15 February and concluding on 26 February 2016.

I understand I am to organise transport for my child to and from the venue at Kingscliff Swimming Pools.

I understand that supervision will be by Miss Brewer and or Mrs Marshall and the swimming coaches.

♦ My child will be travelling with ________________________ to and from Coolangatta.

Signed __________________________
Parent/Carer

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**P & C Meeting**

Our first P & C Meeting for the years will be Wednesday, 17 February at 1.30pm.
Everyone is welcome to attend our P & C meetings. There is a yearly $1.00 membership fee.

**Items for P & C Agenda**

Name _________________________________

I would like the following item/s included on the Agenda for the P & C Meeting to be held on ________________________ at the school.

Agenda item/s _________________________________________________________
(Please submit Monday morning prior to Wednesday's P & C Meeting)

Signed _____________________________ Date ________________
URGENT .............Organised Excursion Out of School

We endeavour to book a bus for most of our out of school excursions throughout the year but sometimes this is not possible due to the cost. This is mainly when we are doing an intensive program such as the surfing lessons starting this Friday and Swimming next Monday.

Departmental Policy insisted that we acquire the following documentation in relation to excursions:

- Parental Consent Form
- Special Water Activity Form
- Where parents are involved in transporting students other than their own - a photocopy is required of the following documents.
  - A current Drivers License is held.
  - The vehicle is registered and fitted with approved seat belts.

To make it easier for those parents who will be offering their services in driving students to and from venues at any future time, the school would like you to fill in the attached form and we can then keep this on file from this point in time.

Vehicle and Policy Details

Name of Parent/Caregiver ________________________________
Details of Private Motor Vehicle ________________________________
Make/Year/Model ________________________________
Registration Number ________________________________
Seating Capacity with approved Seat Belts ________________________________

Do you have comprehensive insurance? Yes/No
If yes please complete details below.

Comprehensive Insurance Policy
Company ________________________________
Number ________________________________
Signature of Parent/ Caregiver ________________________________
Date ________________________________

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Piano Lessons

Child’s Name ________________________________

Do you have a piano or keyboard to practice on? YES/NO

Have you had piano lessons before? YES/NO

If so, for how long and to what level? ________________________________

Please print name of parent/carer ________________________________

Telephone number ________________________________

I would like my child to learn Piano. YES/NO

or

I would like more information. YES/NO

Information required: ________________________________