Bulli Public School
Established 1869
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Term 4 Week 7 Wednesday 18 November 2015

Calendar

Week 7
Thursday 19 Nov KidzWish Party (invited students)
Friday 20 Nov Gmysports #5
Friday 20 Nov School Evaluation Day (classroom staff)

Week 8
Tuesday 24 November Last Library lesson
Wednesday 25 Nov Volunteer Morning Tea 11am
Wednesday 25 Nov Last Religious Education & Ethics
Thursday 26 Nov K-2 Social 5.30pm – 6.45pm
Friday 27 Nov Final Gmysports

Week 9
Thursday 3 Dec P&C BBQ and Cake stall 5pm
Wednesday 3 Dec High School Orientation
Friday 4 Dec Talent Show Auditions

What's overdue / due
Friday 20 Nov Volunteer Morning Tea RSVP
Tuesday 1 Dec Rise and Shine Awards (invitees only)
Thursday 3 Dec K-2 Fun Day note

Special dates for your diary

Thursday 10 December Yr 6 Farewell 6.30pm
Friday 11 December Party Day
Tuesday 15 December Talent Show 9.30am

Principal's message
At last night’s P&C meeting we farewelled two of our families from the P&C Executive who have a child in Year 6 and are leaving our school at the end of the year. Kevin Johnston has been President for the past two years and has presided over a very efficient P&C that has been involved in many events and changes. During his time as President, Kevin has ensured that the best interests of the community have been at the heart of decisions made by the P&C. The P&C’s generous financial donations to purchase equipment and subsidise student activities as well as support working bees and events such as the Welcome BBQ have all evolved under Kevin’s leadership. I would also like to thank Robyn Johnston for liaising with Cafél to organise lunch orders for our students.

Rosealeen Jardine has held the position of Treasurer for five years. In this role, Rosealeen has ensured that the P&C’s books are maintained at a professional level and has provided great insight into the inner workings of the financial side of the P&C.

On behalf of the school community, I extend a heartfelt thank you to these dedicated members of our P&C and wish them and their families all the very best for the future.

Thank you to the children who represented our school so beautifully at the opening of Woolworths Bulli yesterday afternoon. We were pleased to be invited to perform the national anthem at this event as it further consolidated our place in the local community. We thank Woolworths for their generous donation of $1000 that Charlotte and Kai accepted on our behalf.

Assemblies

Week 8
Wednesday 25 Nov 1.45pm Final Whole School Assembly
Premier’s Reading Challenge, Merits, Honours, Pennants and Banners will be presented.
Week 10
Wednesday 9 December 9.30am Presentation Assembly

You’re Invited
On Wednesday 25 November the staff would like to thank all our volunteers for 2015 by providing you with a morning tea at 11.00am in our Library. If you have volunteered in any capacity throughout the year and are able to attend, please let the office know by Friday 20 November. Please also let us know if you have special dietary requirements. We look forward to baking our special treats for you!

Where would be without our wonderful community?
Rhonda Morton

Remembrance Day Service
Awards
Pennants
Special congratulations to: Rebecca B - 2PM
This award will be presented at next week’s whole school assembly

School hats for 2016

From the commencement of 2016, the sun safe broad brimmed school hat replaces the school cap. School hats can be purchased from WB Sports, the school office or the uniform shop. The P&C will also be selling the school hats at the School Concert on Thursday 3 December.

Survey snapshots

Thank you to all the families who contributed to our self-evaluation survey. More than 50 families responded this year which is a significant increase from 2014. Ninety-two per cent of our school community (parents, students and staff) are likely or highly likely to recommend Bulli Public School to others.

From the parent/carer only section there is overwhelming support for: Parenting Ideas to continue, fortnightly meal deal days, fortnightly newsletter to be emailed and the continuation of parent workshops. PLAN reports will continue on a Semester basis and will be used for developing your child’s personal learning goals.

Other Snapshots include:

- The sense of community at Bulli Public School is our overwhelming strength. There were many positive comments about the effectiveness of our social skills program and the smaller size of the school being an advantage.
- Academic achievement is celebrated more frequently than any other achievement. Principal’s Awards, class awards, Merits, Honours, Pennants, Banners and awards presented at the Annual Presentation Assembly are all linked to academic achievement.
- The starting school age is legislated. All students in Kindergarten turned either 5 or 6 years of age this year.
- Buddies from Year 5 joined their Kindergarten 2016 partners at the last two sessions of orientation.
- Payment online: The system is provided by the Department’s bank, Westpac. Multiple payments for multiple students are made by inserting other children’s names and classes in the description boxes.
- Playground equipment: The school has been liaising with a local business to install playground equipment. Once a site/s and appropriate equipment have been determined, we will then discuss funds. A set of basic equipment is approximately $30 000, about 1/3 of our annual budget. The old equipment was removed many years ago as it did not comply with WHS guidelines. Raised sandpits will be installed in 2016.
- Our environmental initiatives this year have resulted in a one-third reduction in our electricity usage. This is in addition to our other initiatives including the use of rain water to flush toilets and solar panels on the hall roof.
- School events are placed on our Website’s school calendar once the date has been determined. The Newsletter also advertises three weeks of events, assemblies and any important events that have been scheduled.
- Parent workshops in 2015 were held during the day, immediately after school and in the evening. While the majority of parents attended during the day, we will continue to offer workshops at various times.
- Online safety and security was offered to parents twice in 2015. Once at 3.15pm in our Library and another at 6.30pm at Holy Spirit College. Both workshops were poorly attended by our school community. We will endeavour to conduct another workshop in 2016.
- The number of staff members is allocated by the Department of Education. Whenever possible, the school requests that new staff be appointed through merit selection but this is not always granted. School Principals do not have the power to ‘hire and fire’ at will.
- Funds to employ School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) to provide additional support are provided by the Department and are fixed in amount. These funds pay the wages of our SLSOs. Very simply, the amount received divided by the wage / hour equals the number of hours an SLSO can be employed.

Thank you to those families who used the survey for its intended purpose; to provide constructive comments to assist us with whole school improvement.

Car parks woes - again

Parents are reminded that unless your car displays a disabled parking permit you are not permitted to enter the car park at any time including dropping children to Breakfast Club each Monday. Further, the car park is not a pedestrian thoroughfare; please use the pathway for this purpose. These guidelines are for the safety of students and staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

Library News

This week is the last week for borrowing as the school library stocktake commences next week. All library books must be returned next week. Please help your children do a thorough search of shelves at home to find any of our school library books. I have been very impressed by the increased number of students borrowing regularly and hope this trend continues in 2016.

Leanne O’Brien
Teacher Librarian
P & C NEWS

End of Year Concert - Cake Stall
The school End of Year Concert is on Thursday 3 December and this year we will be having a cake stall to sell treats to eat on the night or take home for later. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible who are willing to make something sweet or savoury to sell at the cake stall. It could be a favourite Christmas recipe or anything from biscuits, slices to cakes or lolly bags. It’s up to you. Anything you are able to donate is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in helping in any way or would like to make items for the stall please don’t hesitate to contact us. Also if you require containers, bags or boxes let me know. We will leave containers at the school office for you to collect if you are interested in helping.

Thanks for your support
Angela Carroll
42685125 or 0414645074

Danniele Spokes
0421 330 581

CANTEEN NEWS
Frozen treat sale tomorrow & Friday
On Thursday & Friday of this week the Canteen will be selling the following items:
Apple/blackcurrant berry cups - 50c
Frozen poppers - $1.00

COMMUNITY NEWS

Some advice from Michael Grose about ‘dealing with horrifying events’
Terrorist events in Europe in recent days have reverberated around the world. Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms and onto our devices via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?
As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as terror attacks. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society?
Here are some ideas:

1. **Reassure children that they are safe.** The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. **Explain what happened.** Sounds obvious but it’s important not to simply assume that children and young people understand what’s happened. Be calm and stick to the facts, using a map to show older children where it happened.

3. **Be available.** Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

4. **Help children process what they see and hear,** particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. **Support children’s concerns for others.** They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

6. **Let them explore feelings beyond fear.** Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.

7. **Avoid keeping the television on all the time.** The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.

8. **Be aware of your own actions.** Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

**CareFlight Magic Mania – Free Tickets**
The school has been very fortunate to receive a supply of tickets to this year’s CareFlight Magic Mania to be held at Sydney Olympic Sports Centre on Saturday 19 December 2015. There are three times from which to choose: 12.30pm, 2.30pm or 4.30pm. Each ticket, available from our office, admits up to 10 people free. If you would like to attend, please call into the office to collect your ticket. Thank you to one of our kind families for sourcing these tickets for our school community.

**McKeon’s SwimSchool**

Not too late to register for Term 4 Lessons.
Book now to secure your spot & get ready for the summer season.

Unanderra – 42 727272
Townadgi – 42 851666
www.mckeonswimming.com.au

The Illawarra Folk Festival 2016 will be held over four days from Thursday 14 till Sunday 17 January at the Bulli Showground. Our school is an Illawarra Folk Festival Community Partner, and you are able to support your school and the festival when you purchase festival tickets online at http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au. Simply by entering the code BPS2016. The Folk Festival will make a $40 donation to the school for every season pass and $20 for each weekend pass purchased using this code.