Principal’s message

What a fantastic swimming carnival we had last Friday! We had an increase in swimmers this year with many children taking to the water for their first carnival. Other children competed in every event possible, earning points for their house and the admiration of their team. Our house leaders were magnificent in leading the cheering and chants and this certainly inspired the swimmers. Thank you, Corey and Jon for assisting with time-keeping; Mrs Wedeman for point scoring; Mrs Saddi for starting and monitoring each race; Mrs van Kessel for recording the times and place-getters; Mrs Pfister for time-keeping, and; Mr Cochrane for organising an outstanding carnival. Thank you also to the families who supported our swimmers and the children for their excellent behaviour. Congratulations, Ross for winning the first carnival of the year! Best wishes to our district swimming team at the carnival on 26 February at Corrimal Pool.

Our commitment to student wellbeing and leadership was clearly demonstrated this week with three major initiatives. Our Kindergarten and Year 5 buddies enjoyed special time together, exploring the school and getting to know each other better. This program will be ongoing throughout the year to ensure relationships are strengthened.

Our Peer Support program also commenced. The purpose of the program in the first instance, is to provide our Year 5 and 6 students with additional leadership skills including active listening, flexibility and redirecting. Over two days, Mr Cochrane and Mrs Saddi worked with these students throughout the school to move into small groups and work through a range of fun activities and seminars and workshops. The next phase of our Peer Support program is for all students throughout the school to move into small groups and work through a range of fun activities with the aim of building a support network for each other.

On Thursday and Friday our students from Years 1-6 will participate in UpStanders, a continuation of last year’s program. UpStanders provides skills to stand up to a bully and to stand up for someone who is being bullied. This program, like our Peer Support program, is aimed at developing skills for life.

Community wellbeing comes to the fore next week with two events. Our first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 16 February at 7pm in the staffroom (please come to the rear door). The second is our Welcome BBQ on Thursday evening commencing at 5.30pm. The P&C will send home information regarding this event in the near future.

Enjoy your week! Rhonda Morton
**Awards Pennants**  
Special congratulations to:  
Charlotte M – 3/4vK  
Tinika V – 3/4vK

**Banner**  
We are very proud to congratulate our latest Banner recipient:  
Charlotte M – 3/4vK

These awards will be presented at next week’s whole school assembly

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**K/1HT excitement!**  
K/1HT were treated to a life cycle in action this week with a butterfly drying its wings after emerging from its chrysalis while another caterpillar was preparing to pupate. Science is alive and well (and so are the special visitors)!

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**Have you installed our Skoolbag App?**  
Our school now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our community. To install it, search for Bulli Public School in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. For Windows users, search for Skoolbag in the Windows Store, install the app then find your school. Please note it must be a Windows 8.1 or 10 device. The App is free and will be used for a variety of purposes including accessing the newsletters and alerts. It can also be used to inform the school of absences.

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**Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts Audition Packages**  
The Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts audition package for students entering Year 7 in 2017 is available from our office. Interested students may audition for dance, drama, music and/or visual arts. Completed “Audition Applications for Year 6 into Year 7 Enrolment 2017” must be returned to Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts (Attention: Lynne Kerr) by Friday 4 March, 2016.

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**What’s happening in ... 6C?**  
5/6C has been as busy as a swarm of bees for the last fortnight.  
We’ve had House Meetings and House Captain elections followed by our Swimming Carnival which started an hour late because the bus forgot us.  
The House Captains had to work hard to organise cheers and relay squads for the carnival to run smoothly.  
We’ve started our Literature Study. Watership Down is our novel and we are reading it as a PDF on computers as well as watching bits of the movie as we progress.  
The novel has a lot of specific vocabulary so we’ve a lot of thinking ahead of us.  
We’ve been warned that the story ranges from joyous to very, very sad.  
Our foyer display is based around a visual arts lesson that was part maths, part colour theory, part logic and quite complicated.  
Today we are in our second set of Peer Leadership Training exercises. Soon we’ll be leading groups of K-4 students in ways to manage bullying, develop resilience and work collaboratively.  
It’s going to be a a lot of hard work this term for sure.  
HOPEFULLY it’ll be fun as well.

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**Friendly Kids Friendly Classrooms**  
The social skill for home discussion this fortnight is ...  

**Listening and asking good questions**  
**Interesting people show interest in others**

**Dos**  
Look at the person who is talking and occasionally nod or say ‘uh huh’.  
Stand or sit still while you’re listening.  
Pay attention and think about what is being said.  
When the other person stops speaking, show that you have really been listening by asking a good question based on what they’ve said.

**Don’ts**  
Don’t look at the ground or at other things around you.  
Don’t fidget.  
Don’t let your mind wander.  
Don’t concentrate on what you want to say next. If you do, you won’t listen properly to the person speaking.  
Don’t ask questions that change the topic unless the topic has been going on for a long time and you think you have both run out of things to say.
Year 7 Enrichment Class 2017
Bulli High School supports and encourages all students to achieve personal best in all areas of school life including academic performance, sport, creative & performing arts and to be good community citizens.
As part of our commitment to student achievement and engagement Bulli High School will be creating a 2017 class for Year 7 students with high academic ability, and who demonstrate commitment and motivation.
An Enrichment Placement Test will be held in the Bulli High School hall at 9.30am on Thursday 3rd March 2016.
Application forms and information are available from the Bulli HS office and website, and from local public schools.
Application forms need to be completed and returned to Bulli High School by Thursday 25th February.

Illawarra Sports High School Open Night
On Monday 15 February students who are interested in attending Illawarra Sports High School are invited to an Open Night from 6pm. For more information go to: www.illawarrasports-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

P & C NEWS
School Banking
School banking day is WEDNESDAY.
Every year the School Banking program launches a new savings theme and new exclusive School Banking reward items. This year’s program is themed the Outback Savers and School Banking is taking students on a wild adventure through the Canyon of Savings, where they’ll learn to master smart savings habits.
There are 8 new reward items for 2016 from the Outback Savers range:
• Flying Snake Tail
• Mud Splat Handball
• Backtrack Eraser Pen
• Bush Fly Fan
• Wildlife Writer Set
• Outback Pat Bag Tag
• Jump and Skip Rope
• Wriggly Glow Worm
Win a wildlife family adventure holiday to Australia Zoo!
Students will also have the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin. Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will be automatically entered into the draw.
If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.
School banking coordinator, Nikki W

COMMUNITY NEWS
Bulli Junior Soccer Club are looking for players for our U/11 girls team. They play in a Sunday competition (girls turning 9-11 this year are eligible).
We also require additional players in our U/10 mixed age group.
If you are interested please see our website for further information www.bullijuniorsoccer.com or email bjscsecretary@gmail.com.