Welcome Back

All staff would like to extend a warm welcome to all our students and their families, especially our new Kindergarten students who commenced their first day of their primary schooling today. I hope parents had the opportunity to spend some fun time with their children over the break. Staff are looking forward to another great year with all the students and our school community.

This year is shaping up to be an interesting one as we continue with the implementation of Local Schools Local Decisions and also the introduction of the RAM (Resources Allocation Model- funding) will come into effect.

We look forward to catching up with all our parents and caregivers as the year unfolds.

Classes for 2013

When all students return to school we expect to have 41 students on our books for 2014. The K-2 class will have 18 students and the senior class will have 23 students.

Please keep the following points in mind as the year progresses:

- Please ensure your child has a hat and sufficient food and drink at school every day. Please be mindful of the number of lunchbox items included that are considered junk food (high sugar/fat).

Xahran Smith - 24th January

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Term 1

Week 1
Frid 31 Jan  BBQ

Week 2
Frid 7 Feb  Induction Assembly
Hot Dog

Week 3
Mon 10 Feb  Small Schools Swimming
Carnival
Wed 12  Canteen
Frid 14  BBQ

Week 4
Mon 17 Feb  P & C Meeting
Wed 19  Canteen
Class Meetings
Thurs 20  District Swimming
Carnival
Frid 21  Hot Dog

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• Check your child’s bag for notes or information as often as possible and **return them by the date stated**. It makes our job of organising events that much easier.
• Please consider sharing the load as a volunteer driver when the opportunity arises.
• Volunteer to help out at your school if you are able.

**Induction Assembly**

On Friday of next week we will hold a special assembly to induct both our school captains and SRC members for 2014. The elected students will be presented with their badges and be invited to join parents and staff for a special afternoon tea to follow.

**Congratulations to Amali Gaiter who has been elected as the new K-2 SRC member to replace Cathariena.**

The assembly will commence at a special time of 2pm. Mr Ernie Bennett, Richmond Valley Mayor, and Michelle Walker have been kind enough to agree to assist with the presentation. All parents and carers are most welcome to attend.

**Car Park**

Our new car park has been delayed in its completion due to some poor weather and other unforeseen circumstances. It is expected that the asphalting will happen as soon as the base is sufficiently dry to work on. I would ask parents to **drop their children off at the bus stop gate whenever possible**, particularly if there has been rain which makes the road base very sticky with shoes. On the day of asphalting there will be no access to the car park and no available parking in the bus bay during bus pick up and drop off times. Parents are asked to keep this in mind as that day approaches. Thank you for your patience in advance.

**Best Start Assessments**

Mrs Williams will be assessing our new Kindergarten students in Literacy and Numeracy activities next Monday and Tuesday. These Best Start assessments are conducted each year in every school to determine each student’s starting point with their learning. The idea of completing the assessments as early as possible in the year is to determine each student’s understandings before any explicit teaching takes place in the classroom. Each family will receive a written report of the results (usually takes about 6 weeks) and also some suggested learning activities that can be done at home to support what is happening in the classroom.

**Small Schools Swimming**

The Southern Cross Small Schools Swimming Carnival is being organised for Monday 10 February at Ballina Pool. This carnival is organised to determine who will represent at the District Swimming Carnival to be held on Tuesday 25 February. All students who turn 8 years of age during this year and can swim 50m with confidence are eligible to attend. These students will receive a separate note today which should be returned by next Wednesday at the latest. Parents are asked to help provide transport to the carnival for our group of swimmers.

**Class Meetings**

Teaching staff have decided to trial the idea of holding a parent teacher afternoon session this year. The purpose of this session is for parents to find out information about class routines, class requirements, upcoming events and happenings in your child’s classroom. The class newsletter will be distributed during this meeting and parents may have some questions they would like to ask. The parent teacher information session is organised for Wednesday 12 February. Mrs Williams will commence her meeting at 3:00pm and Mr Curtin will commence at 3:45pm. Parents who need to bring their children along can leave them with Mrs Wythes in the Library to
participate in some quiet activities. We do not wish to have children playing unsupervised in the playground at this time.

It is understood that not all parents will be able to make this meeting due to work commitments. Parents will still receive the class newsletter the following day.

It’s important for parents to make contact with their child’s class teacher to establish lines of communication, and answer any concerns they may have, particularly if your child has a new teacher. The communication between home and school is an important component for success being achieved in our classrooms.

Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter to indicate whether you are able to attend this meeting. We would like all parents to return the note regardless of whether they intend on attending or not.

Book Packs

Items for our book packs haven’t all arrived as yet. The cost of the book pack for both classes will be finalised next week. The book pack includes text books, work books, folders, some stationery, a photocopying charge, home reading materials and a few extras. More information will be made available next week.

Crunch and Sip

We are continuing with our Crunch and Sip program in 2014. It was great to see the majority of students remember to bring their fruit and water on their very first day back. Please ensure that your child brings a fresh piece of fruit or vegetable each day and their water bottle. Parents are reminded that this break is only 10 minutes so please ensure that your child has portions cut where appropriate. Teachers don’t have access to knives in the classroom so we ask that fruits and vegetables are cut up at home.

Canteen

Mrs Patterson has informed me that the canteen will be open for business as of Wednesday of Week 3. Parents and carers (and anybody else in our school community who has some spare time) are invited to help support the operation of the canteen. A volunteer form is attached to this newsletter for helpers to nominate their availability and also to help with some home cooking. The canteen cannot operate without the support of our school community.

P & C News

Our first P&C meeting will be held on Monday 17 February at 4:30 in the library. This is the main avenue for parents to share their ideas and support for our school. It is a friendly and relaxed meeting with everyone from our school community most welcome to attend. One of the main items up for discussion at this meeting will be the Movie Night planning, which is being organised for Saturday 22 March.

Newsletter by Email

Would you like to receive a colourful bright copy of our school newsletter? We are able to send you a copy by email in an attractive PDF colour format. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter if you would like to receive an electronic copy. As parents would understand a reduction in printed copies is a saving for our school in paper and photocopying costs.

Library

Welcome to our library for 2014. Library borrowing days for this year are Wednesday for the K/1/2 class and Thursday for the 3/4/5/6 class. All students are asked to use a library bag when borrowing and returning books.

Thank you

Thanks to Helen Patterson for washing and mending all the paint shirts and chair bags in the holidays. It is great to have them fresh and clean for the start of the year, and are already in use.
PARENT - TEACHER MEETINGS

I am able / unable to attend the parent teacher session to discuss class information with:

☐ Mrs Williams (3.00 start)

☐ Mr Curtin (3.45 start)

on Wednesday 12 February. The meetings will run for about 45 minutes.

Signed ...................................................

Date ......................................................

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Help Wanted for Canteen

For the Canteen to operate efficiently parent help is required. The Canteen operates on Wednesdays.

I am available / not available to help with Canteen

Name: .......................................................... Phone: ......................................

I can cook / supply

☐ Cake x 2
☐ Piklets x 30
☐ Ingredients (flour, marg, eggs, sugar, milk, packet mix)

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Newsletter Email

I would like to receive a colour copy of the School Newsletter by email.

Name: ..........................................................

Email Address: ........................................

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