Dear Parents and Care-givers

Week 6 has started off with Swim School, Remembrance Day, Kindergarten Orientation, Year 5 ‘Buddy’ training and our ‘Archibull’ entry travelling to Sydney for judging. We have had a number of teachers and students sick this week with seasonal illnesses and staff at training sessions whilst Executive staff are also working madly on the numbers and classes for next year. Mrs Wells has undergone her second eye operation but unfortunately has suffered some complications so will not be returning to class this term. She will be popping into the school in the last week of term to say hello and has assured me she will be fit and ready to go for the 2015 school year. Mrs Yeend has also been unwell and has been absent this week.

Parent Voice: As you would be aware we have a parent survey currently open on Survey Monkey, which is seeking input into the school’s directions for the next three years. Currently we have had 24 families (out of 306) respond https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H3S9CXY which is not a loud enough parent voice to base our decisions on. Thank you to those who have responded because they have come up with some very innovative suggestions. I am also holding a number of Focus Group meetings (one was held yesterday) over the coming weeks so if you are available from 2.15pm on Wednesday 19th November or Thursday 27th November, in the staffroom, we will be discussing some of these directions.

Christmas Boxes: Don’t forget that the Bolwarra community is once again supporting Operation Christmas Child (a project of the Samaritan’s Purse). Just as simple, kind words can bring hope and joy to children, so can the giving of a simple gift. Through the power of a simple gift you can open up a whole new life for children caught in the midst of war, famine, extreme poverty and natural disasters. We live in an extremely lucky country and if you have been fortunate to travel to countries that experience extreme poverty you would realise that we are blessed to be raising our children in Australia. Last year we had over 220 boxes donated by families and staff. If you would like a shoebox to fill you can pick one up from the office. You then choose a gender and age for the child you are preparing the box for, purchase gifts (and add a personal note or photo of your family) then send it back to school with $9 included for postage. The box comes with some suggestions for gifts etc.

Please return all boxes by Friday 21st November 2014.

Thank you to those families who have already collected boxes.
**Samaritan's Christmas School Food Appeal:** This year we will once again be participating in the East Maitland Samaritan’s Group Christmas School Food Appeal. We are asking our school community to donate food items to be made into Christmas hampers - goodies that we all enjoy at this special time such as tinned ham, custard, puddings etc. Please do not send in perishable food items, as the hampers will not go out until December. During December, the Samaritans hand the hampers out to all the families who visit them, many of whom cannot afford these extras. In addition to a hamper, families are given a basic food parcel and a gift for each family member. The families are very appreciative and have a much happier Christmas due to our generosity. If you would like to donate a Christmas food item to the Samaritan’s Christmas School Food Appeal, please place items in the boxes in the office foyer. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

**Climate Change:** Is your child learning about climate change at school? CSIRO’s scientists are learning how the earth’s climate system works through observation, measurement and modelling. Find out more: [http://www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding.aspx](http://www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding.aspx)

**Little Aussie Songsters competition:** An Australia Day competition where primary students can video their singing of our national anthem. For further details, visit: [http://www.aussievault.com.au/vault/136/detail/little-aussie-songster](http://www.aussievault.com.au/vault/136/detail/little-aussie-songster). The competition is now open and will close on **Saturday 14th February 2015**.


**Next week:** Don’t forget that next Monday is our P&C meeting, at 6pm in the Staffroom and the School Executive will be at a training day, voting will occur for our 2015 student leaders, further training will occur for our Year 5 buddies, our last Kinder Orientation is on Thursday 20th November from 9.30-11.30am (Teddy Bear’s Picnic) and Christmas Boxes are due on Friday 21st November.

Have a safe week.

Regards
Sue Swetnam

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**WEBSITES**


**P&C Website** [www.bolwarrapandc.wordpress.com](http://www.bolwarrapandc.wordpress.com)

IMPORTANT DATES

- 14th Nov  Canteen Closed for Lunch Orders
- 17th Nov  P&C Meeting - 6pm in Staffroom
- 18th Nov  Maitland Grossmann High School Parent Information - 6pm
- 19th Nov  Please Return Science Show Notes and Money - Years 3-6
- 19th Nov  Focus Group Meeting - 2.15pm in Staffroom
- 20th Nov  Kindergarten Orientation - 9.30am - 11.30am
- 21st Nov  Please return Operation Christmas Child Boxes
- 26th Nov  Combined Scripture
- 27th Nov  Focus Group Meeting - 2.15pm in Staffroom
- 11th Dec  Christmas Concert - 6pm
- 12th Dec  Reports go Home
- 15th Dec  Presentation Day
- 16th Dec  Class Party Day
- 16th Dec  Year 6 Farewell
- 17th Dec  Students Last Day for Term 4
- 18th Dec  Staff Development Day
- 19th Dec  Staff Development Day

2015
- 27th Jan  Staff return to school
- 28th Jan  Years 1 - 6 return to school
- 2nd Feb  Kindergarten start school

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Book club order forms and payment are due back at school by Wednesday 19th November 2014. The books take approximately 3-4 weeks to be delivered after the due date. This is the final book club order for this year.

PAYMENT METHODS:
Please DO NOT SEND CASH

- Cheque/Money Orders: payable to ‘Scholastic Australia’ – NOT to the school
- Credit Card: pay by PHONE or ON LINE (details on order form). Receipt number MUST be written onto order form to enable order to be processed. Please separate ‘order form’ and ‘credit card receipt details’ and place both sections into envelope
- Please write child’s name and class at the top of the order form
- On an envelope, write child’s name, class and ‘Scholastic Book Order’
- Inside envelope place order form and cheque/money order/credit card receipt
- No cash orders will be accepted

Please note that all orders placed will earn points for the school to purchase valuable resources for students.

Melinda Cooke & Kerry Hendrie
Book Club Co-ordinators

A HUGE thank you to Kerry Hendrie and Melinda Cooke for all their hard work organising Scholastic Book Club.
MAITLAND COMMUNITY CHOIR

Any Year 6 students or parents who are interested in being part of a community based choir for Maitland Carols on Saturday 13th December can contact Sheree Harvie-Thompson on 0431572223 or email harviethompsons@hvgs.nsw.edu.au. It is not a school function, it is organised through the local churches in Maitland. Parents are welcome to come and sing with their children.

YEAR K – 6 NEWS

Bolwarra Public School now has Skoolbag!
Skoolbag is the ultimate 'school-to-parent-communication' tool. This School Mobile App provides schools with an easy way to tell parents and carers everything they need to know about school news, newsletters, events calendar, cancellations, school notices, school information, school timetables, parent sick note forms, school documents and much more. No more lost paper in school bags!
Download the FREE Skoolbag App on your smartphone through the ITunes App Store or Google Play.

Science Show
Students in Years 3-6 have the opportunity to attend an Education Interactive Forensic Science Program on Thursday 27th November 2014. The students will work to investigate a range of forensic science cases and will participate in hands on activities to enhance the learning experience. Permission notes have been sent home. Please return these with money by Wednesday 19th November, so that your child can participate in this fun filled learning experience.

School Photos
Family photos are now available to pick up from the office. If you want your child to pick up the photos please fill out the tear off slip at the end of today’s newsletter.

Birthday Book Club
When it is your child’s birthday, they have the opportunity to donate a book of their choice (already purchased by the library) for the small cost of $6.00. After paying the children can come to the library and select a birthday book. The books will be presented to the children on assembly. Each book will have a special message inside saying who has donated the book. The birthday child will be the first to borrow the book.
The following children have recently joined the Bolwarra Birthday Book Club: Freya, Ethan, Elsa, Hallie, Sheridan, Sienna, Della and Oliver.

Final Reminder - End of Financial Year - School Payments
It is not long now until our financial year rollover and Mrs Rapson is madly finalising outstanding accounts, orders and payments. If you have overlooked paying accounts (such as text books, “voluntary” school contributions, excursions, choir etc) could you please pay them as soon as possible. Our Annual Financial Statement (AFS) is published each year in the Annual School Report. Thank you.
Iona Horse Sports Day
Emily and Chloe represented Bolwarra at the Iona Horse Sports Day held at Maitland Polocross Grounds last Wednesday. The girls certainly did us proud, they competed with great sportsmanship. Their age groups where large and very competitive, with Emily riding beautifully on Aladdin in the 11yrs girls and Chloe riding Cassie and competing in the 9yrs girls. Chloe brought home the following ribbons; 2nd in Pleasure Hack, 3rd in Sporting Figure of Eight and 5th in her riding class. Well done girls!

Leaders at Remembrance Day Service in Maitland

CLASSROOM CAPERS

KE KE have had another great week. In Maths we have been looking at addition from 10 and 20 which has been very impressive. The trip to the movies at the end of the term is causing lots of excitement as the children work towards their party day reward. Assessments have taken a little longer than expected to complete however, this will be the final week of individual tasks. Next week we will start our Christmas activities which is sure to stir up some more excitement as we count down to finishing off the year and being in Year 1!!

KT KT have been revising sight words and sounds this week. We are working hard on remembering our double sounds and applying that knowledge to our reading and writing. Our handwriting is improving as we continue to practise our letter formation in lined books. We are revising addition and subtraction in Maths through hands on activities and computer games. We love our time each week in the computer lab. This week we learnt how to search for the website abcya.com and save it to our favourites bar. We are clever little cookies!

KW KW this week have enjoyed their new group rotations with a special love for Tux Paint. Reading groups will continue again this week except for Wednesday (due to Kindergarten 2015 Orientation). Keep revising and practising skip counting and remember to take the challenge and try to do it backwards. We are all very excited and can’t wait to go on our end of year trip to the movies to see ‘Paddington’. Please remember to return notes and money before the 25th November. Thank you.
1B This week 1B have been focusing on number facts and quick recall of Friends of 10 and 20. We have had some good discussions about Remembrance Day and have made some amazing ‘poppy’ art! In Literacy we have been doing poetry and are creating some interesting poems about Humpty Dumpty! We have also been talking about warning signals and messages and everyone in 1B selected a person from within our school to send a positive message to. What a nice group of children we have in this class, so many nice, positive things to share with people and they came from their hearts NOT from me! We are so lucky to have Patrick and Bridget in our class who both do Nippers, they have been able to offer lots of valuable information about keeping safe at the beach and around water!

1M This week 1M have been looking at fruits that are eaten in Australia during summer. We did some taste testing and sensory examinations of strawberries - our mouths were watering! This was followed up with information gathering and descriptive writing about this popular fruit. Ask your child what they can remember about strawberries - their health benefits, medical uses and growth requirements.

2C Water safety has been our focus this week with those students who are not attending the swimming program. Students are able to identify water hazards in and around the home and have been able to suggest solutions to them. We have discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having a swimming pool, along with ‘Water Safety Rules at Home’. We have been finalising some assessment tasks this week and continue our work on Child Protection and Sun Safety.

2W Swim school has been so much fun!! We have learnt so many new skills whilst having fun in the water. This week we worked in teams to create balloon rockets and had to use our problem solving skills to make them fly 3m. The race was exciting and luckily we had filmed it all so that the Video Ref aka Mrs Wright could determine the winner! Check out the blog to see the videos. A big thank you to Adriaan and Georgia for giving up their lunches to stamp all 7200 Christmas raffle tickets!! You are both amazing!!

3L A busy week with swim school in 3L, all students involved have been very well organised and have enjoyed their lessons so far. In class students have been learning about ‘People and Their Beliefs’, in particular dreamtime stories and morals. In Maths we have been focusing on trading in subtraction along with measurement. Students created very interesting acrostic poems on water safety as part of our English writing focus on poetry. Keep up the hard work!

3-4B 3-4B have had a very busy week. We have had part of our class participating in swim school and the other part of our class remaining at school to work hard with Mrs Kirkman. Our students are loving swim school and they are displaying excellent behaviour. In Literacy we have continued to investigate informative text types, we are getting very good at taking notes and then turning these notes into excellent factual sentences. We have also commemorated Remembrance Day by looking at fiction and poetry linked to this special occasion. In Numeracy we have continued to work on concepts of measurement. Thank you to parents and children who have returned their party day permission notes and money. We are really looking forward to this!!

4B 4B students have had a busy week this week! Swim school has started and we have been enjoying the pool and meeting new people from Maitland High School who have been teaching us water safety skills. The teachers have been impressed with the students’ manners and their organisational skills when getting dressed ready to go back to school. Students who have not been going to swim school have enjoyed the opportunity to mix with some other Year 4 students in Mr Erickson and Ms Blayden’s rooms. They have been working hard on
their country research project. We shared a lovely story this week called ‘Memorial’ on Remembrance Day which told the story of a young soldier going to war and the changes in his life and community after he returned from the battlefield. Lots of things to think about with this beautiful, touching story.

4E In Maths 4E have been learning about angles. We have been learning about aboriginal beliefs in HSIE. We have begun a unit in water safety and have been learning about water hazards in the home. Well done 4E!

5PL We have continued to focus on length, perimeter and area this week in Maths. We have designed a house floor plan, taking into account specified dimensions and drawn rooms to scale. Students have also planned an imaginary trip around Australia, converting units of measurement to calculate the total distance travelled. Year 5 students completed their second buddy training session on Tuesday. Students discussed sets of scenarios, coming up with possible solutions to problems and ways to handle a variety of situations. It has been wonderful to see such a high level of maturity, enthusiasm, responsibility and thoughtfulness amongst students during the training process. Everyone is looking forward to meeting their new junior buddy during next week’s kinder orientation.

5-6D This week in Maths we have been working on measurement. We have been converting between units of measurement and problem solving written measurement problems. In PD/Health/PE we have examined the road laws for bicycle riders in NSW and in Science we have discussed the organs that make up the respiratory system and their functions. We have continued reading the book ‘My Place’ during English lessons and we have viewed short clips of the TV series to reinforce our reading through a viewed text. During Art this week we examined artworks that record and interpret Australian history. We have discussed how artists create points of view in the way the subject matter is organised and how colour and texture have been used.

6L This week in 6L we are looking closely at the book ‘Playground’ by Nadia Wheatley and designing interpretations of our own playgrounds. We are also recreating the artwork ‘Seven Sisters’ used in the book to show the significance of the night sky in guiding traditional Aboriginals through their ‘playground’. In Maths we are adding and subtracting lengths to three decimal places, determining the time of travel given kilometres per hour and we are also revising long multiplication. Congratulations to Nathan who finished first in his 12years age group at the Forster triathlon and to Jorja who won gold in the sprint and flags at the Lake Macquarie Games over the weekend. Chocolates have been sent home and some very busy people have already returned their money. More boxes are available if you are keen to sell more.

Library The children only have 2 more weeks left to borrow from our Library, until we start to bring the books back for their ‘holiday’. A HUGE thank you to Kerry Hendrie and Melinda Cooke for all their hard work organising Scholastic Book Club. They not only made sure all the order forms and books were delivered safely, they did it very quietly, with no fuss. This also allowed us to order some books for our Library. Fabulous!

Choir The Choirs are still trying to get that perfect audition to send in for next year’s Primary Proms and Festival of Choral Music and we’re running out of time! The children have worked especially hard and it is always a pleasure to be able to listen to them perform.
Due to lack of volunteers the Canteen will be CLOSED tomorrow (Friday 14th November) for lunch orders due to lack of volunteers. Thank you to the volunteers who will open the canteen tomorrow for iceblocks and snacks only.

The opening of the Canteen for lunch on a Friday within Term 4 will be subject to filling vacancies on these dates and will be determined week by week. Please check each week in the Newsletter and on Facebook for updates. We need one more volunteer for 21st November to ensure we can open. If you can assist with any Friday vacancy please let me know.

We are also in need of volunteers for snack day. With the new lunch schedule this shift is only from 12.30-2.30pm. The canteen has been very busy with children buying cool drinks and iceblocks in this hot weather. If you can help on a snack day, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday please let me know.

Please look at the roster and if you can help to fill any vacancy please contact me.

Thanks, Alison (0409 653 868)
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

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10 Year Anniversary
FAMILY PHOTOS

I give permission for ___________________________ of class ________ to pick up the family photos from the office.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________

ABSENTEE NOTICE

My child ___________________________ of class ________ was absent on (date) ___________________________

For the following reason ________________________________________________________________

Parent signature: ________________________________________________________________