Dear Parents and Care-givers

There are only 14 more school days left of the term, in what has been a very busy and productive year. Last Monday saw our School Council meet and start collating the parent survey responses. The survey will close tomorrow so if you haven’t had a chance to have your say in the future directions for our school and your children you can go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H3S9CXY

Traffic Issues: I’m sorry to have yet another whinge about parents parking habits but I’m quite worried that one of our precious children will be seriously injured or killed by the irresponsible behaviour of a small group of parents and care-givers when dropping off and picking up their children. I have unfortunately been at a school where a young child was seriously brain damaged when hit by a car crossing the road and it’s an experience I don’t want to repeat. Yesterday for example a utility parked in the middle of ‘Drop and Kiss Zone’ and cars double parked to pick up their children, with children running between parked cars to get to their parents and even running around to the driver’s side to get into the car. Also, parents are reversing into the mouth of the Teacher’s car park to pick up children or doing three point turns into the entrance of the car park to pick up. Many parents are also letting their children out of their cars directly onto the road and in the path of on-coming cars. Neighbours have also complained about parents using their driveways to do U turns. I will be making yet another phone call to the Parking Ranger and Maitland Highway Patrol to seek assistance in stopping some of these behaviours that are threatening our children’s safety.

Congratulations: The Gold Coast Cheerleading Championships were held last weekend on the Gold Coast and I hear Bolwarra students did extremely well! Charlie B and Lara C’s team came first and are the National Champions for Mini Cheer, Cooper B and Blake P’s team came fourth in the Youth Level 2, with Teleah P’s team coming 3rd in Youth Novice Level 1. Well done!

Summer holiday fun: Book your children into one of our fun-filled camps next school holidays. Your children will be kept busy and active while learning new skills and making new friends. You’ll have peace of mind knowing your children are safe and well looked after. For details, visit Sport and Recreation website: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps/

Avoiding homework drama: Bell Shakespeare’s artistic director, John Bell, discusses Shakespeare and how to make it accessible. He says to tell your teen not to worry about the language, to concentrate on the characters, the dilemmas, and the problems they face, and find out how to identify with the protagonists in the story. Coping with Shakespeare: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/helping-kids-cope-with-shakespeare
For the love of science: Science is a method of engaging with and trying to understand the world. Professor Tim Flannery says if a child is interested in pursuing Science, encourage them to develop persistence and humility - the idea that they won't always be right. Listen to the podcast: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/science/science-tips/for-the-love-of-science

Pleasures of free play: Allowing free time for children to play on their own, making up games and activities, can help children to be comfortable in their own company, teach them how to cope with boredom and, importantly, foster their imagination. Under scheduling your child: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/benefits-of-underscheduling-your-child

Invitation: If you have been one of our wonderful volunteers this year you are invited to attend an Afternoon Tea to say thank you, on behalf of the students, for volunteering your valuable time to help us. It’s on the Thursday 11th December 2014 at 2.30pm in the Staffroom.

Have a safe week.

Regards
Sue Swetnam
Principal

[Table: IMPORTANT DATES]

- 5th Dec  Canteen Open for Lunches
- 5th Dec  Flexischools cut-off for ordering is 7.30am
- 5th Dec  Survey Monkey Closes Today
- 5th Dec  Money and Orders due for Gingerbread Houses
- 9th Dec  P&C Christmas Party Meeting - Bushrangers Bar & Brasserie in Largs at 6pm
- 11th Dec  Volunteers Thank You Afternoon Tea - 2.30pm in the Staffroom
- 12th Dec  Raffle Tickets to be Returned
- 12th Dec  Reports go Home
- 12th Dec  Gingerbread House Night between 4pm - 7.30pm in School Hall
- 15th Dec  Presentation Day - K-2 at 9.30am, Years 3-6 at 11.30am in the School Hall
- 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

[Table: WEBSITES]

School Website  www.bolwarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

P&C Website  www.bolwarrapandc.wordpress.com

Online Uniform and Lunch Orders  www.flexischools.com.au
SCHOOL FAMILY PHOTOS

There are still family photos to be picked 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. Photos will not be given to your child unless they bring in the permission slip. Parents are also welcome to collect the photos from the office.

SAMARITAN’S CHRISTMAS SCHOOL FOOD APPEAL

A big thank you from the Samaritans to everyone who donated items for the food appeal. 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 your generosity.

SPORTS HOUSE LEADERS 2015

Fraser
Captains: Sam and Charlotte
Vice Captains: Harrison and Alexandria

Ryan
Captains: Caleb and Stella
Vice Captains: Zack and Tara

Bradman
Captains: Ellis and Jada
Vice Captains: Madeline and Mia

Darcy
Captains: Clancy and Ruby
Vice Captains: Fynn and Isabella

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.
**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: Harry and Georgia.

**Library**

Borrowing has finished for the year. Please return all library books.

**Lunchtime Science Activities Run by Mr Leleu**

**CLASSROOM CAPERS**

**KT**

Christmas is alive in KT! Our class tree is up and decorated and our Christmas unit of work is well underway. We have drawn Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer and painted him ready for display on our windows. Keep your eye out for him! Our handprints were used to create a Christmas tree for display and hanging from this tree are our cute little faces on baubles. We are loving our Christmas songs and are looking forward to singing them to our families at Presentation Day. We would love donations of plastic bags please, so it is easier for us to carry all of our wonderful work home. Thank you to all of our wonderful helpers who have contributed in some way either inside or outside our classroom, you are very much appreciated! 😊

**KW**

This week KW have been practising grouping and sharing objects, using concrete materials, with a big focus on the counting on strategy. KW are very excited for Christmas and have been very busy making new Christmas artwork to decorate our room. We all enjoyed putting up the Christmas tree and are starting to write letters to Santa.

**1B**

Well, we have put our class Christmas tree up and it is beginning to feel like Christmas is coming! We are starting our Christmas art and craft this week and are beginning to decorate our room for the festive season. In between all this Christmas activity we are managing to get some Maths and Literacy done! This week in Maths we are revising place value, problem solving and mentals. This is our last week for reading groups and it has been wonderful to see how far the children in 1B have come! A huge thank you to all the parent helpers who have come and given their time this year, we could not run successful reading groups without you! This is the last week for homework and if all homework books and home readers could be returned this Friday that would be much appreciated.
1M 1M would like to say a special thank you to the volunteers who have been able to come in and help with reading groups this year. We have been able to work so much more efficiently having an extra set of hands and listening ears during our busy group time. We hope you have enjoyed sharing our learning with us. This week is our final week of formal groups as well as being the final week for borrowing home readers. Please return any books by Friday.

2W We have finally finished our Roald Dahl book ‘The Witches’. We worked together to design an invention that a mouse-human would need to make it easy for them around the home. It is amazing how many things in your home would need to be modified if you were turned into a mouse! We have also been busy preparing our interviews for the NBN news report on witches! Trust has been the focus of our Child Protection unit this week. Please check out the videos and photos on the blog from our trust building exercise!

3L This week 3L have begun to get into the Christmas spirit. We have reflected on the great year that we have had together whilst creating art works to decorate the room. In Maths, students have worked hard to consolidate their knowledge of trading and division, I have seen wonderful improvements throughout the year on these topics. 3L's research projects on a country of their choice are almost complete, it has been great to see everybody's deepening skills on the computer when collecting information from a range of sites and books. Well done 3L, only 2 weeks to go!

3-4B Wow! Week 9 already. Thank you 3-4B for your hard work. We have continued to investigate poetry, experimenting with different techniques. The students created some great sound poetry. We loved reading the book ‘This Is Not My Hat’ and then rewriting the story from the big fish’s point of view. In Maths we have had lots of fun continuing to investigate angles. We are also revising fractions this week. This week in our study of people and their beliefs we have investigated the religion of Buddhism. We have discussed the similarities and differences of this belief and other beliefs. Keep working hard 3-4B!

4B 4B are very excited to be working with 4E in reading groups this week. We are all busy learning lines for plays that we will perform for each other in Week 10. We have also been revising trading when subtracting as well as consolidating our multiplication and division skills in Maths. The next few weeks will be very busy. Thankyou for sending in notes and money for the Christmas party movie day, we have had 100% return! Yay! Can’t believe there’s only a few weeks left of the year. 😊

4E This week in 4E we are doing ‘Drama Groups’ with 4B. In Mathematics we are doing revision of other units that we learnt the over time. In Drug Ed we have been learning about what a drug is and what it does to us. In poetry we have been focusing on ‘Noun Verse’ poems and we have been coming up with really good poems. In Water Safety we are doing posters on how to be safe in a beach, local pool, backyard pool, river, lake or dam. Well Done 4E and keep up the awesome effort!!! 😊😊😊

5PL Our focus in Maths this week is Geometry. We have drawn a range of shapes, translating, reflecting and rotating them to demonstrate our understanding of orientation. Students have also drawn and constructed the nets of 3D shapes and enlarged images using a gwen scale. We have applied our knowledge of 3D shapes to sketch and shade cones, prisms and pyramids in Art. Many students have presented interesting power point presentations and projects on famous Australians throughout history. We are looking forward to viewing the remaining projects next week.
5-6D This week in 5-6D we have continued to learn more dances for the Year 6 Farewell. The students are really enjoying learning a variety of dances including ‘The Barn Dance’, ‘Strip the Willow’ and ‘The Heel and Toe Polka’. This week in PD and Health we have discussed the reasons why people smoke and looked at the effects smoking has on peoples’ health. In Maths, we have been interpreting data represented in graphs, in particular sector graphs. We have also observed examples of how graphs can be used to represent data in ways that are misleading. Congratulations to everyone who has presented to the class their homework on a famous Australian. The research and presentation skills have been very pleasing.

Library
The 2014 Librarians are very busy finishing our Christmas window displays and are doing a wonderful job. It certainly makes the Library a bright and happy place to be! A BIG thank you to the 2014 Librarians and the great job they have done.

Choir
A BIG thank you to Mrs Wendy Gibbs and Mrs Jo Loi for accompanying out Senior, Junior and Boys’ Choirs during the year. We really do appreciate the hours of practice they put in to help make our choirs sound great. Also, a HUGE thank you to all the choir students who sang and performed beautifully. I am very proud of them.

Music
Thank you to Mr Eric Loi, Mrs Wendy Gibbs (again!) and Mr Col Hatchman for the extra experiences they have given our children in guitar, piano and drumming.

P&C NEWS
We would like to say a massive thank you to one of our talented Bolwarra mums, Sarah Thompson from www.stylemegorgeous.com.au . Throughout the year Sarah has designed the flyer for our country fair, mums chats and gingerbread house nights which have all been amazing! Thank you Sarah!

IT’S P&C CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME
For our final meeting for 2014 we have decided to hold a relaxed Christmas party type meeting. Our December meeting will be at Bushrangers Bar & Brasserie in Largs at 6pm next Tuesday 9th December. Everyone is welcome to join us for this last meeting of the year and to join us for a drink or a bite to eat.

Christmas Raffle
Don’t forget to return your Christmas raffle tickets. There are amazing prizes including a massive family Christmas hamper, a bbq, family photography packages and heaps more. Tickets are $2 each and extra tickets are available at the office. All tickets must be returned by Friday 12th to ensure they are in the box ready to be drawn on Monday at the Primary Presentation Day. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Rebel Sport
Join Rebel Active and secure funding for our school. 5% of your purchases are paid back to us to improve our facilities. All you need to do:
Join Rebel Active, Rebel Sports Loyalty Program instore or online. It’s free! Identify yourself as a Rebel Active member at the checkout in store and tell them you want to support Bolwarra Public School.
Gingerbread House

Create a table centrepiece for Christmas or a beautiful gift on Friday 12th December 2014 in the school hall between 4pm and 7.30pm. $25 per kit includes gingerbread house, cake board and disposable icing bag filled with icing. Bring your own lollies to decorate your house and it will be gift wrapped for you at the end of the night. Woodstax pizza van and drinks will be available. Mr and Mrs Clause will be visiting after 6pm. Please find an order form at the end of today’s newsletter and return to the school by tomorrow.

CANTEEN NEWS

Thanks to a small group of volunteers the Canteen will be open for lunch tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered this term.

Please note that yellow Mini Calippo iceblocks are no longer available as they are no longer being made. Also, there is no lasagne available for the rest of the year.

Tomorrow FRIDAY 5th December FLEXI-SCHOOLS cut-off for ordering is 7.30am

There are 2 vacancies left on the roster for this term, next Tuesday 9th December 12.30-2.30pm and Friday 12th December 9-2.30pm. If you can help on Tuesday or can help keep the canteen open for lunch orders for the last time this year please let me know as soon as possible. The request form for volunteers for next year, Term 1 2015, have been sent home. Please return this as soon as you can so that we can begin planning for next year.

Thanks, Alison (0409 653 868)

CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 4

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>SHIFTS 9am-2.30pm</th>
<th>9am-11am</th>
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<td>FRI 5/12</td>
<td>LIZ HOLLE Jo Bradfrod Tracey Guy Alison Radford</td>
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<td>KAYE HUTCHINSON</td>
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<td>BECK CROESE</td>
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<td>ANNETTE PEEL</td>
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<td>THURS 11/12</td>
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<td>ANN COATES</td>
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<td>FRI 12/12</td>
<td>SARAH THOMPSON Anita Whitehorn Ali Haggarty</td>
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<td>KELLIE AULD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>VACANCY</td>
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WEEK 11

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<th>ANZAC BISCUITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>MON 15/12</td>
<td>CLOSED - PRESENTATION DAY</td>
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<td>TUES 16/12</td>
<td>CLOSED - CLASS PARTY DAY</td>
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# SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

## Bush Skills Adventure
- **Wednesday 14 January 2015** 9.30am – 12.30pm  For 9-12 years
- **Tuesday 20 January 2015** 9.30am – 12.30pm For 9-12 years

Have fun making a bush survival shelter, cook damper, learn knotting and other bush skills.

Cost: $20 per child  Bookings Essential  Ph: 02 4951 6466

## Wriggly Wetlanders
- **Wednesday 14 January 2015** 10.00am – 12.30pm For 5 – 8 years
- **Monday 19th January 2015** 10.00am – 12.30pm For 5 – 8 years

Enjoy a wetlands wander, then get creative with craft activities.

Cost: $20 per child  Bookings Essential  Ph: 02 4951 6466

## Bring the Family to the Hunter Wetlands Centre - a fun, environmentally friendly learning experience!

Opened every day
(Closed 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st December 2014, 1st January 2015)

**Access**
- Car/mini-bus parking available onsite. Public Transport: Train - easy 15 minute walk from Sandgate Station. Bus – 107 & 106 buses go past the Wetlands. 10 minute walk from stop at Marton St & Sandgate Rd

**Cost**
- $2 per primary-school age child (special school holiday rate). $5 general entry

**Activities**
- Watch the Magpie Geese Feeding at 10.30 am & 2.30pm
- Try dipnetting from the jetty
- Follow the trail and become a “Wetlands Explorer” - go into the weekly draw for a prize.
- Playtime at Discovery Playground
- Check out the creatures in the tanks in the Visitor Centre
- 12 noon - Tank Talk (30-45 minutes) – opportunity for children to learn about reptile behaviour and care and actually handle some of the reptiles from the tanks in the Visitor Centre.

**Facilities**
- Toilets available in Visitor Centre
- Cafe – meals, chips, icecreams, drinks
- Undercover picnic tables and shelter
- Shop – gift shop

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Hunter Wetlands Centre Off the roundabout, 1 Wetlands Pl, SHORTLAND NSW 2307
Phone 02 4951 6466  Email hwcce@wetlands.org.au  Web www.wetlands.org.au

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**2015 REGISTRATION DATES**
- Thursday 5th February, 2015 from 6.00-7.30pm
- Saturday 7th February, 2015 from 8.00-10.00am
- At Marcellin Park, Glenarvon Road, Lorn

We look forward to seeing all of our existing players and some new faces too!
**YWCA Vacation Care**

School holiday fun
for children aged 5-12 years
Games - Theme Days - Excursions - Movies - Cooking

Enquiries: 4929 2954 - yncle@bigpond.com
(Child Care Benefit Available)

**Monday, 5th January - Friday, 23rd January 2015**

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<th>Monday, 5th January</th>
<th>Tuesday, 6th January</th>
<th>Wednesday, 7th January</th>
<th>Thursday, 8th January</th>
<th>Friday, 9th January</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MOVIE</strong></td>
<td><strong>Superhero Adventure Time!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discover something new at:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midsummer Madness</strong></td>
<td><strong>Slip 'n' Slide</strong></td>
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<td><em>Big Hero</em></td>
<td><em>Superhero</em></td>
<td><em>It's a bird...</em></td>
<td><em>Get wet</em></td>
<td><em>Water Bombs</em></td>
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<td><strong>Sizzling Summer New Year Party</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adventure Time!</strong></td>
<td><strong>It's a plane...</strong></td>
<td><em>Centennial Park</em></td>
<td><em>T-shirt/swim shirt, shorts &amp; towel required</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Craft</strong></td>
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<td><strong>No it's not!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Craft</strong></td>
<td><strong>Drink &amp; snack provided</strong></td>
<td><strong>Come dressed as a Superhero</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Craft</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNDERWATER WORLD at the Y!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time for some fun in the sun with a...</strong></td>
<td><strong>Music Mania</strong></td>
<td><strong>Karaoke</strong></td>
<td><strong>Feastival</strong></td>
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<td><strong>African Drumming Performance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sea Shells</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dress in 60's clothes!</strong></td>
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<td><em>Dress to impress!</em></td>
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<th>Monday, 19th January</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COLOUR MAYHEM</strong></td>
<td><strong>MOVIE</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEWCASTLE MUSEUM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dress in</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ice Skating</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Walking tour of local &quot;Hit the Bricks&quot; street art</strong></td>
<td><strong>red, white and blue</strong></td>
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Childcare benefit/rebate available for eligible families.
Contact your nearest Centrelink office for information regarding reduced fees and CRN no. prior to returning
YWCA Vacation Care Enrolment Form.
Annual family enrolment fee—$10.00

Booking changes only available on selection of alternative day prior to day of care if vacancies available. All non-attendance is deemed as absent and fees apply. Booking cancellations not available.

**YWCA Hunter Region Inc.**
24 Dawson Street, COOKS HILL
CRN 555 010 881V
Centre operating hours
7.30am to 6.00pm
Scheduled program runs from
9.30am to 4.30pm

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**
Ph - 4929 2954
Email - yncle@bigpond.com.au
More information - www.ywcahunterregion.org.au
28 November 2014

RE: Preparation Program for Children to receive the Catholic Sacraments in 2015

Dear Parents,

This is an invitation to families who would like to prepare their children for the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2015.

We will be holding FOUR parent information sessions in early February for the eight Catholic parishes of the Chisholm Region: East Maitland; Maitland; Largs; Paterson; Morpeth; Dungog; Clarence Town; Gresford; Lochinvar; Beresfield and Rutherford. The first of which is on:

- **Tuesday 3rd February 2015**
  - 7:00pm St Pauls Church Rutherford
- **Wednesday 4th February 2015**
  - 7.00pm OLOL Church Beresfield
- **Thursday 5th February 2015**
  - 5.00pm St Mary’s Hall Dungog
- **Thursday 5th February 2015**
  - 7.00pm St Joseph’s Church East Maitland
- **Friday 6th February 2015**
  - 10.30am Corcoran Centre, Morpeth

If you wish your child to prepare for their sacraments in 2015, it is essential for you to attend the first two parent information sessions in the program. If you are unable to attend the first two information sessions, please contact the appropriate team member (after these first two information sessions have been completed in 2015, all other families seeking preparation for their children for the sacraments will need to wait until the following year). These initial information evenings will include a complete overview of our preparation process. These are parent information nights only; children are not required to attend.

After this initial introduction to the process, and if you feel as a family you are ready to commit to the process you will be invited to attend the second parent only meeting. At this meeting a more detailed explanation of the process will be given and resources needed to support you during the preparation process will be given out.

We look forward to meeting you and providing support to you and your children in this very important part of their journey in faith.

Yours sincerely,

Father Paul and the Regional Sacraments of Initiation Team

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PARISHES (established)
1835 East Maitland – 1841 Maitland – 1871 Morpeth – 1875 Dungog
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: ..........................................................................................................................
Gingerbread House
Order Form

Bring your family and friends along to enjoy making your own Gingerbread house and come celebrate Christmas with us.

Friday, 12th December
Anytime between 4.00-7.30 pm
At Bolwarra School Hall
$25.00 PER KIT

All you need to bring is your lollies to decorate and your house will be gift wrapped for you at the end of the night.

As we need to pre-order the houses you must order and pay for your kits at the school office or online via www.flexischools.com.au by Friday 5/12/14.

Ingredients: Sugar, flour, honey, milk, bicarbonate soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, butter, golden syrup - prepared by a Bakery

Yes I would like to attend the Gingerbread House night on Friday, 12/12/14.

I have enclosed payment for ______ Gingerbread House kits at a cost of $25 each.

$ ________ is enclosed (Cheques to be payable to Bolwarra Public School P & C)

Name: ___________________________ Approx. number attending ________

Note: Kits will be given out on the night.
If you are unable to attend on the night and would still like to purchase a kit or additional kits they can be ordered and collected on the 12/12/14 unless otherwise arranged.

Contact: Rebecca on 0418 437 820 for further information.