Dear Parents and Care-givers

Its Week 5 already and shortly we will be at the half way mark of the term!! Yesterday saw 25 talented swimmers compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival at Maitland Pool. Congratulations to Amara, Hallie, Laila, Jacklyn, Charlotte, Jorja, Zoe, Rose, Josie, Gracee, Libby, Nathan, Ben, Jake, Oliver, Aidan, Addison, Sam, Tyler, Daniel, Harry, Edward, Hunter and Blayne who formed the Bolwarra team. Mr Taylor accompanied our students and commented on the fabulous parental support and exemplary behaviour of the team. Congratulations goes to Nathan and Amara who qualified for the Regional Carnival, along with our Senior Girls Relay Team. Well done!

Last night a Public Meeting was held to discuss the future of the Canteen. I would like to thank parents and carers for the scores of letters, emails, phone calls and discussions that have occurred over the last 10 days, with suggestions and ideas. We also had a large gathering of parents who came along to discuss options and offer their support. We now have two Canteen Co-ordinators (Meredith Searle and Kaye Hutchinson), a Roster Co-ordinator (Alison Radford), Canteen Buyers (Ali Haggarty and Elsabe Van Der Merwe) and our Canteen Secretary (Julie Sutherland). Volunteers are still an issue so the Canteen Committee will meet to determine the days that can be manned. I will send a special note home tomorrow with the details. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Next week sees a group of our Year 6 leaders venture off to join other local leaders at for a Leadership training Day run by Maitland High leaders. Ms Dimock will accompany them. Mr Allen will be away this week and next at State Cricket, Mrs Lange and Ms Blayden will attend Literacy and Numeracy Leader days and our Seasons for Growth program will commence.

This week is Road Rules Awareness Week (and no I didn’t make it up!!). This week I would like to focus on bike safety. The Department of Education and Training and NSW Centre for Road Safety recommend that children up to 10 years of age should be supervised by an adult when travelling in the road environment and cycle in a safe place off the road and away from vehicles and driveways. Children aged between 10 and 12 years of age should avoid cycling on or near busy roads. This week I will be discussing with our bike riders, road rules and safe routes to school. I will also ask them (and their parents) to sign a Bike Riders Agreement and Permission Note, so if your child is a bike rider please keep an eye out for them.

We have had a number of neighbour complaints about parking in driveways, blocking their exit and entry into their properties. Not only is it extremely inconsiderate, it is illegal. Please be mindful of our neighbours as they do a terrific job in ‘guarding’ our school over the weekends and holiday periods.

The Parents Jury: The Parents Jury is a web-based network of parents who are trying to improve the food and physical activity environments for children in Australia. The Parents Jury is currently advocating for junk food free advertising during children’s TV programs and confectionery free supermarket checkouts. Members receive regular emails with links to current articles and are
encouraged to add their opinions on issues that can effect families nutrition and activity levels. To find out more go to: [www.parenthood.org.au](http://www.parenthood.org.au)

**Homework help:** Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z)

**When lunch comes home again – uneaten:** Almost nine out of 10 Australian parents say children's resistance is a major obstacle in their efforts to provide a healthy diet, and in many cases school lunches are one of the battlegrounds. But it's a battle families can do without and there are some simple steps to help avoid it: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/when-lunch-comes-homeagain](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/when-lunch-comes-homeagain)

**Help with English:** Does your child need help with spelling or writing? Here are some resources that may help. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english)

**Maths:** Struggling to remember everything you learnt in maths? If you need a refresher course, here are some tips and tools to help you to help your child. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/mathematics](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/mathematics)

Have a safe week.

Regards
Sue Swetnam

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- 3rd March  Leadership Day - Year 6
- 11th March  Hunter AFL
- 14th March  School Cross Country
- 17th March  Talent Quest starts - Year 6 Fundraiser
- 17th March  P&C Meeting - 6pm in staffroom
- 21st March  Harmony Day
- 24th March  School Council Meeting - 6pm in staffroom
- 31st March  Point Wolstoncroft - Year 5 camp
- 7th April  Talent Quest Finals
- 9th April  State Swimming
- 10th April  State Swimming
- 11th April  Grandparents Day

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**WEBSITES**


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

- This update request was sent home to families yesterday and is due back at school no later than 3rd March 2014. This is necessary as there are changes to the way schools are now funded and it is vital that we have the most current information on our computer system.
- Parents please sign at the bottom of each page before returning the forms.
- If your child did not bring this note home, please contact the school office for a copy. One copy is required per family. Thank you.

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. 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:

Ben, Harrison, Bonnie, Chloe and Ellie.

Hospital Helpers Donating Club

If you have some toys lying around that your children no longer use, please bring them to the office. The toys will be donated to either Maitland or John Hunter hospitals for children to use while they are in hospital. Thank you!!

CLASSROOM CAPERS

KE

Once again we have had a busy and productive week in KE. We enjoyed versing our friends in the number teddy bear race and were really good at taking turns and playing fairly. Our room is filling up with really beautiful craft. This week we loved finger painting our cats and as hard as Miss Theoret tried, some of us still managed to get paint everywhere! We are continuing to make lots of new friends and really enjoy playing on the equipment and with the toys at lunchtime. Fabulous effort from everyone in KE this week!

KT

KT have been working beautifully in reading and writing groups. We are learning to write some sight words correctly and put spaces between our words in a sentence. Length is our focus in maths where we have been using the terms longer and shorter to describe and compare objects. We have measured our heights onto a height chart and compared who is taller and shorter. Our gross motor skills are improving as we enjoy a variety of activities in PE. Music with Mrs McLaren on a Tuesday and Mrs Price on a Wednesday is a big hit and enjoyed by all of KT. Keep working hard KT 😊

KW

On Mondays and Thursdays we go to the hall for our P.E. sessions. The children enjoy being placed with their friends from each of the kindergarten classes and are now confidently remembering which group they belong to. We rotate through three activities each day and this week we are practising bounce and catch, gymnastics and balance beam activities. We are also encouraging the kindergarten children to enjoy eating and playing with children from their own grade. Mathletics cards have been sent home with log-in details. This website is a valuable resource, allowing your child to work at his or her individual pace. In class we have focused on writing and ordering numerals. We play lots of maths games with ‘Buzz Off’ and ‘King of the Circle’ the current favourites. The ‘Count me in Too’ website is another fun and informative website to support learning.
1B We have started a new text called "Silly Billy" which is a story about a boy who has all sorts of worries and how he overcome some of the worries. We have also been talking about the Worry Dolls and are making our own worry dolls in class this week. We have been discussing how authors convey meaning through visual literacy and this week we read a great Dreamtime Story called 'Tiddalik'. We created some amazing artwork using the colours of the hot Australian outback to convey meaning. The children are working so well in literacy groups and we are currently learning all sorts of new activities so they are able to work independently during group work. Maths groups are going very well, we are learning to use the number line to solve addition and subtraction problems and are continuing to practise friends of 10. We have also found out that 1B’s favourite fruit is watermelon by creating and interpreting data graphs. A huge congratulations to every single student in our class this week as everyone not only did their homework but they all returned it on time. Well done...bonus dojo points all round this week.

1H In 1H this week we have been looking at the picture book 'Silly Billy' by Anthony Browne. We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring this text talking about both our worries and those experienced by Billy. I have been blown away with the children’s ability and willingness to participate in rich discussion regarding the choices made by Anthony Browne to illustrate how Billy is feeling at each phase of the book. In creative arts we have made our very own worry dolls which are on display in our classroom. We would love it if you had some time to stop by and take a look at our hard work.

1M This week we are concluding our study of the text "Let's Get a Dog" by Bob Graham. We have looked at how Bob Graham has developed characterisation in this entertaining family story. We then chose our mum or dad to do a personality profile on. If you are at school you should drop in and have a look at our paintings and descriptions. Our news topic is "Friends" and so we have also been discussing the qualities of friendship.

2C In maths 2C are learning to use the jump strategy when adding two digit numbers. Last week we looked at collecting data to create column graphs and we discovered that 2C's favourite fruit is strawberries! We have started exploring 'Clancy and Millie and the Very Fine House 'and have come up with some clever 'I wonder' statements before reading the text. ‘I wonder how they are feeling about moving?’ (Finn) ‘I wonder if it is a long, skinny house or if it is a little, short house.’ (Hayden) ‘I wonder if they lose toys on the truck.’ (Gianna) ‘I wonder if they are hiding from their mum because they don’t want to move?’ (Bonnie) Students are enjoying Year 2 PE/Sport on Mondays and Thursdays with a focus on developing fundamental movement skills. We have looked at ways students can solve disagreements at school using the High 5 strategies. Keep up the BRILLIANT effort with homework 2C.

2H Welcome to Week 5. In numeracy this week we are learning about strategies for addition and subtraction and measuring and comparing different lengths. We are enjoying reading groups with the help from our brilliant parents. We have looked at ‘Connie Confidence’ and we believe in ourselves in 2H!

2W It has been business as usual in 2W. We have been working really hard during writing this week to make our stories interesting. One thing we have been doing is learning how to use metaphors and similes!! Please come in and have a read of our writing - it is amazing. We have begun reading the second text for our unit on Relationships – ‘Clancy & Millie and the Very Fine House’. In numeracy this week we are continuing to learn different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. We are hoping that the sunshine sticks around so that we can get outside to do some measurement activities! We are so excited that our air conditioner got installed this week - a huge thank you to the P&C for arranging this and for their generosity!!
3L  What a wonderful time 3L had at the Swimming Carnival last week. I was so pleased to see so many members of a class participating in such a great day. Four of our class even got to represent Bolwarra at the Zone Carnival! Well done Hallie, Jake, Gracee and Addison. Last week we finished off our unit on addition and subtraction through the use of trading and we are about to start a great unit on data. Within this unit we will be conducting surveys and learning about one another’s interests. I apologise for homework being a day late this week, I was away on Monday due to bad health. If your child needs an extra day with this fortnight's homework I understand.

3T  We are well into our units of work and have established effective class routines, enabling work of a high standard. We have been working towards appreciating and analysing the features that good writers adopt to produce quality written texts. Our goal is to use these literary devices to enhance the quality of our writing. The past two weeks have seen class activities based around quality planning and whole class joint constructions of narrative and response text types. Students have worked hard on using learnt grammar and punctuation skills, along with carefully selecting quality vocabulary to improve the depth and cohesion of writing tasks. In maths we have continued learning a range of subtraction strategies. We have persisted in learning regrouping strategies within formal subtraction algorithms. We have looked at data and statistics and have improved our ability to read and record information from graphs and tables. Well done to all our swimmers and novelty eventers at last week's Swimming Carnival. Remember to log on to Mathletics and Studyladder as a part of your homework tasks. You will find set tasks there that I have allocated.

3-4B  3-4B really enjoyed the Swimming Carnival last week. Everyone participated well. In literacy groups we have been working hard, focusing on comprehending what we read and finding the main idea of paragraphs. We are enjoying exploring the characters from the book we are reading, ‘James and the Giant Peach’ and we have been thinking about why the author Roald Dahl gave the characters certain features. In maths we have continued to explore graphs and collecting data and we are looking forward to starting our unit of work on measurement in particular the hands on activities. We are having lots of fun in PE learning about different ball games. Keep up the super effort 3-4B, you are demonstrating excellent skills in persistence and confidence in your learning!!

4B  4B enjoyed the Swimming Carnival, what a great day! In class we have been looking at data and have been graphing some of our favourite things. We have begun to look at characterisation in texts and have been looking at how a character actions, and words can tell us about their character. In science we are looking at living and non-living things.

4RE  4RE have been busy this week learning the bridging and compensation strategies in mathematics. We have also learnt about Australia's history and started our reading groups. Mr Erickson has been very pleased to see how hard everyone has been working. Keep it up 4RE!!

5A  This week in 5A we have been working hard on drafting and publishing a recount on our recent Swimming Carnival. Students have also been working in groups to research and report on a planet from our solar system as part of our ‘Space’ unit. Students are enjoying learning new facts and information about each planet and are looking forward to using their Power Point skills to present this information to the class next week.

5PL  We have been focusing on data and graphing this week. In particular, we have created and analysed a variety of column and picture graphs using a scale/key. We have received our Maths Plus Mentals text and have completed the first unit as part of our weekly maths
group rotation. The students are also progressing well with their individualised times table challenges. It is great to see everyone’s determination to improve their scores and times each day. Keep up the great work 5PL! As all permission notes to watch PG rated films have now been handed in, we can begin watching clips from the ‘My Place’ series. We have viewed and analysed parts of the episode ‘1788 - Barangaroo’, discussing techniques that film makers use to create suspense and a sense of danger. We have also looked at first person and third person accounts of events and have put on our reporter’s hat to write a newspaper article about the ‘Mummaga’ rock in the film clip. During literacy groups, we have been focusing on action, thinking, feeling, saying and relating verbs.

5-6D Another hard working and productive week in the 5-6D classroom. This week we have been enjoying our reading group rotational activities and have started rotational groups in maths as well. We have continued to read our novel ‘Finders Keepers’ and discussed the strategy of ‘visualisation’ to help us with our comprehension of texts. In maths, we have practised subtraction of 4- and 5-digit numbers, including trading when there are zeroes involved (e.g. 50 000 - 2576). During art lessons we have sketched a directional compass (much like the inland explorers would have used) and designed star constellations.

6L Our reading groups have begun and thank you to our parents who have been assisting us. During our reading of ‘Hating Alison Ashley’, we have been investigating the difference between direct and indirect speech. We have moved on to data in mathematics, where we are transferring data from a table into graph form. Some excellent Power Point presentations have been shown that have helped us learn more about each other.

Library
The librarians have been very busy getting the windows ready for decorating in the library and doing a wonderful job! Lunch times are very busy with a lot of children making use of the library to read, draw, colour in, use the computers, play chess and lego.

Sport
**Zone Basketball Trials:** Congratulations to our students who attended the Zone Basketball Trials last Thursday. Congratulations to the following six students who were successful and will be attending Hunter trials - William, Elye, Ellis, Jorja, Josie and Mia.

**Swimming:** Well done to all our students who attended our Swimming Carnival last week. Your sportsmanship and behaviour was exemplary. Ribbons, Age Champions and winning House will be presented this Friday at Stage assembly. Remember that in Term 4 we provide two weeks of 'Swim School' in conjunction with swimming NSW assisting swimmers of all abilities.

**Zone Swimming:** Yesterday I had the pleasure of accompanying 24 Bolwarra students at the Maitland Zone Swimming Carnival held at Maitland Pool. All our students performed exceptionally well in their events and achieved many personal best times. A special congratulations to Nathan, Amara, Libby, Jacklyn and Jorja who will now go on to compete at the Hunter Carnival next week. We wish these students all the best!

**Zone Winter Trials:** Trials for the Zone teams in Soccer (boys and girls), Netball and Hockey are very soon. Boys and Girls soccer will have two school trial days on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Mrs Baxter and Mrs Turner are holding trials for the girls Netball and will provide information later this week. If you play club Hockey and would like to be considered for Zone trials, please let Mr Taylor aware of this.
Choir
The children attending the Primary Proms and Festival of Choral Music will have information sent home soon. All children in choir will be participating in the Lake Macquarie Choral Fest early next term. There will also be a Festival of Performing Arts held in the Maitland area. The choirs will be very busy learning all the eleven songs!

Music
In Stage one Mrs Price has started working on some different elements of musical expression exploring the sounds portrayed in different environments starting with the rainforest. Kinder children are continuing to explore maintaining a beat using different instruments.

Environment
Hi all, we just received an email from Battery World. Our total battery weight was 287.2kg, they are going to round this off to 300kg. Katie and Belinda are coming tomorrow to present us with a cheque for $600. Fantastic effort!! Still bring batteries in as part of our Enviro Program. Thanks so much for your ongoing support.

P&C NEWS
I would like to say a big thank you to the outgoing executives and canteen committee for all your hard work in the past year. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. This past year, with everyone’s help, the P&C raised a massive $35,000! This all went towards the installation of the two new playgrounds. Last week we paid to install air conditioners into the two new classrooms. Welcome to our new position holders and committee!
The next P&C meeting will be on Monday 17th March at 6pm in the staff room.

Thank You,
Leah Robson

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Finland, Norway and Denmark will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
PARKS WEEK
Celebrate with us at Glenrock State Conservation Area

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH 2014 – FROM 10AM – 2PM - FREE OF CHARGE

Gateway to Glenrock is a community open day that will give you a taste of many of the experiences offered in National Parks. With activities for both adults and kids, there will be something for everyone. Let a Discovery Ranger take you on a guided tour of Glenrock SCA or let the kids imaginations run wild in a WilderQuest activity. For the more adventurous, bring your mountain bike and take part in our Ranger Guided Two Wheel Track or visit the various exhibitions from National Parks and our partners. Entertainment will run throughout the day including performances from local indigenous artists. Bring your own food and drink or grab some light refreshments on site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU OR CALL 1300 PARKS (1300 727 577)

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Café Works
Food Services and Hospitality

Want to learn how to make great coffee and non alcoholic beverages? Come along and join our introductory class at Karrl Kurr TAFE Campus.

This free course covers:
- Hygiene practice in a range of service industry operations
- Preparation and serving of a range of tea and non-alcoholic beverages
- Extraction and serving of espresso coffee using commercial machines
- Providing customer service and advising customers on espresso coffee
- Straining of coffee and related preparations
- Cleaning, care and maintenance of coffee machines

Free Course

Details
This 6 week course will help you consider pathways to further training and employment

Course starts:
Monday 3 March 2014
9:30am to 12:30pm
Venue: Karrl Kurr TAFE Campus

Contact details
For further information and registrations for these courses please contact:
Kurril Kurril TAFE Campus
Schools
- 022 4335 0000
- pauley.wood@nsw.edu.au
- karrl@tafe.nsw.edu.au

“I love to help my students develop the tools they need for their career.”

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Introduction to Floristry
Environment, Horticulture and Primary Industries

Want to work in Floristry or learn more about arranging flowers? Come along and join our introductory class at Karrl Kurr TAFE Campus.

This free course covers:
- The theory and practice of caring for a wide range of flowers
- How to make stunning floral displays
- Creating arrangements for different events including weddings
- Gift wrapping techniques
- How the floristry industry operates
- How to pursue a career in flower arranging

Free Course

Details
This 10 week course will help you consider pathways to further training and employment

Course starts:
Friday 7 March 2014
9:30am to 1:30pm
Venue: Karrl Kurr TAFE Campus

Contact details
For further information and registrations for these courses please contact:
Kurril Kurril TAFE Campus
Schools
- 022 4335 0000
- pauley.wood@nsw.edu.au
- karrl@tafe.nsw.edu.au

“I love to help my students develop the tools they need for their career.”
“Exploring the Seasons of Grief”

Although we usually link grief with death, it is in reality the process by which we make a healthy adjustment to any significant change or loss in our lives.

Using the metaphor of the changing seasons, participants in this 2 day program explore the impact of change & loss on the:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Mental
- Social &
- Spiritual dimensions of their lives.

Themes explored that support participants in understanding & managing their grief & loss journey are:

- Embracing the Change
- Honouring my Story
- Living with Hope &
- Empowering through Choice

Dates: 3 and 10 April, 2014

Time: 9.30am—3.00pm

Where: Therry Centre
Corner New England Highway & King Street, East Maitland

Cost: Price includes journal, resources & morning tea each week. (BYO lunch.)

CSO/Parish Participants $30

General Participants $50

Concessions are available

Bookings are essential
Ph Mandy or Jenny: 4979 1355
E: seasonsforgrowth@mn.catholic.org.au

Seasons for Growth in the Hunter region is funded by:
Catholic Schools Office and
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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ABSENTEE NOTICE

My child ........................................ of class .......... was absent on (date) ..............................

For the following reason ..............................................................................................................

Parent signature: .......................................................................................................................