Dear Parents and Care-givers,

This will be the last newsletter for the year and my last newsletter of my career!
I started school at 4, have been in and around schools for most of my life and I have enjoyed every last minute of it! From the high school English and History classes I taught, to teaching in the western suburbs of Sydney when I changed to primary teaching, to my move to Newcastle and the various schools in which I have taught. I have worked in a full-time, part-time (when my children were little) and in a casual capacity.

Then I had a number of consultancy positions before moving into principal positions, first at Carrington, then Plattsburg and finally Bolwarra. In thinking back and reflecting on how I’ve come to this point in my life I’d like to thank my parents. From my mother, I learnt the power of education to transform lives and the gift of family and unconditional love. From my father, I learnt a strong work ethic and the definition of integrity and dignity. I’d also like to acknowledge those who have inspired, influenced, prepared and supported me along the way.

Now it’s time for a change of leadership at Bolwarra. I have had the privilege of being your principal for the last seven years, years that have been filled with the most wonderful and enriching memories possible (and possibly some I will choose to forget!!). We are blessed at Bolwarra to have dedicated, compassionate teachers who work extremely hard to provide the best possible education for your children and hard-working support staff. We saw at last night’s concert how special our teachers are. There are not many schools where an entire staff would perform for their children and their families. We are blessed to have such beautiful children and their families who make coming to Bolwarra every day a privilege. Thank you for nurturing this precious commodity!

There will be also a number of staff changes happening. It is with sadness that we see the beautiful Mrs Wells retire after a long and fulfilling career, Mrs Baxter who has been recognised for her excellent classroom teaching skills and seconded to Woodberry to help other teachers become better practitioners and Mrs Caffery is going to Morpeth to continue her next stage of her educational journey. Your going will leave a void but we are eternally grateful that we had the pleasure of knowing you, and thank you for your dedication, hard work, care and compassion.

I entered a profession dedicated to assisting young people achieve their potential, to finding their best selves. As I leave it I am taking many of you with me. You will live on in my memories and I’ll always remember the things we have achieved together. I’ve been asked what I’m going to do now? I am going to read books that have been waiting on my ‘must read’ list for years, I’m going to travel to places I have wanted to go, I will garden, learn new skills, go back to studying, play with
my grandchildren, enjoy being around friends and spend time with my husband and soul mate of 41 years. In short I plan to live!

My educational journey has been varied and enriching, not bad for a child born into poverty and told she wouldn’t amount to much by some teachers.

Have a safe Christmas spent with family.

Thank you.

Regards
Sue Swetnam

IMPORTANT DATES

2015

- 10th Dec Reports home
- 10th Dec K-2 Party Day in the Hall
- 10th Dec Junior and Senior Choir to sing at McDonalds, Rutherford
- 11th Dec Presentation Day- 9.30am (K-2), 11.30am (3-6)
- 14th Dec Bike Ed – 9.10 – 11.15am
- 15th Dec Stage 2 Party Day – Snoopy: The Peanuts Movie
- 15th Dec Stage 3 Party Day - Ten Pin Bowling
- 15th Dec Year 6 Farewell – 5.45pm
- 16th Dec Last Day of Term
  Year 6 ‘Ringing of the Bell’ – 2.30pm

2016

- 27th Jan Staff return to school
- 28th Jan Years 1 to 6 return to school
- 1st Feb Kinder start school
- 23rd Feb Zone Swimming

NOTES IN CIRCULATION

Term 1 2016 Canteen Roster
Year 6 Farewell – note for Year 6
Stage 3 Ten Pin Bowling – please return by Friday, 11th December

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 Facebook Address www.facebook.com/BolwarraPublicSchool
**OFFICE NEWS**

**Parent Online Payments (POP)** is coming to Bolwarra Public School from 28th January 2016. For basic information, see at the end of this newsletter. More detailed information is available on the school website and a hard copy will be available at the office.

The **OPAL Card** is replacing bus passes from Term 1 2016. Many students with a current bus pass won’t need to reapply, as a new pass will be issued automatically. However, you will need to complete an application form if:
- Applying for a bus pass for the first time
- Enrolling in Kindergarten
- Progressing from Year 2 to Year 3
- Progressing from Year 6 to Year 7
- Changing name, school and/or address
- Requesting a new additional pass as a result of a shared parental responsibility situation

For further information, see the fact sheet at the end of the newsletter.

**YEAR K – 6 NEWS**

**Bolwarra Public School now has Skoolbag!**

Skoolbag is a great ‘school-to-parent-communication’ 

**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: Amelia

**Library**

Thank you to all students and staff who have so promptly returned their books. As we move into the last week of the school year, if you haven’t already done so, could you please return any outstanding loans as soon as possible?

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to everyone who participated in 2015 Premiers Reading Challenge. Gold and Platinum certificates will be handed out at our Presentation Assembly.

**Congratulations, Callan**

Last day of nationals!! The NSW u/10 boys shot put team came 3rd....so Cal got to stand on the podium!! Very exciting!!
Congratulations Riley
During the September school holidays, Riley was invited to a national trial in Queensland for the West Ham United Football Academy, which is based in London. As a result of his trial, he has now been invited to the Academy to be a part of their Elite Player Trip and spend a couple of weeks in March, training in London. Only 2 boys from Newcastle were selected. Congratulations, Riley, this is an amazing experience for a ten year old.

Presentation Day 2015
This Friday 11th December will be our school Presentation Day. The Presentation assemblies will be held in the school hall and the times will be as follows:
K-2 Presentation Assembly - 9:30am
Years 3-6 – 11.30am

Our Junior and Senior Choirs
Some children from our junior and senior choirs have performed at Rutherford McDonalds today 10th December. This is also a fundraiser for Bolwarra PS P&C.

Afternoon tea for Mrs Swetnam with entertainment by our Boys Choir.
Our boys’ choir entertained Mrs Swetnam, staff and the school community at the afternoon tea for Mrs Swetnam yesterday. Mrs Swetnam was very moved by the performance.

More Afternoon Tea and Christmas Concert Photos
Bolwarra Staff Concert Item
Stage 2 Great Aussie Bush Camp
A few more photos from last week’s Stage 2 camp.

Bolwarra Public School's Vegetable Garden
Yummo! 2C devoured some of the produce from our vegetable garden today - the cucumber was exceptionally crunchy! Fresh is certainly best!!
Bike Education – Stage 3
Stage 3 Bike Education last day will be this coming Monday 14\textsuperscript{th} December. Sessions will run from 9.10-10.10am (Session 1) and from 10.15 – 11.15am (Session 2). Students may bring along their own bike and helmet for each session, however bikes and helmets will be provided by the instructor if required. If you have any questions regarding Bike Education, please speak to the Stage 3 teachers.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day / Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Thursday, 10\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Monday, 14\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
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P&C NEWS

Christmas Raffle
Have you returned your raffle tickets yet? We have some amazing prizes this year with many thanks going to those that have donated prizes as well as the wonderful people that have Bolwarra Public School recorded when they shop at Rebel Sport allowing us to earn valuable points to purchase some terrific prizes the children will love! Just a few of theses prizes are on show in the office and there are many more tickets available for those eager to buy more.

Mangoes have arrived!!
Thank you to all our wonderful school community who supported this fundraising effort.

Ginger Bread House Evening

CANTEEN NEWS

2015 Presentation Day, the canteen will be \textbf{CLOSED} but drinks and ice blocks will be available. Please check BPS Facebook page for further 2015 canteen closures.
The Term 1, 2016 roster was sent home recently. Thank you to the wonderful people who volunteered their valuable time to support our school. Can you spare a few hours to help with the P&C’s major fundraiser for the school?
# TERM 4 CANTEEN ROSTER

## TERM FOUR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SHIFTS 9.00-2.30</th>
<th>9.00-11.00</th>
<th>11.00-2.30</th>
<th>12.30-2.30</th>
<th>ANZAC BISCUITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI 11/12</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED-PRESENTATION DAY</td>
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<td>JANIJN FULLER</td>
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<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>LISA MASTERSO N JAYDE MOORE</td>
<td>LISA CONNOLLY</td>
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<td>MON 14/12</td>
<td></td>
<td>JAYDE MOORE VACANCY</td>
<td>KELLI AULD</td>
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<td>TUE 15/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 16/12</td>
<td>CLOSED – LAST DAY OF TERM</td>
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## 2016 TERM ONE

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<td>VACANCY VACANCY</td>
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<td>REBECCA CROESE TIFFANY KIEM</td>
<td>REBECCA CROESE</td>
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<td>TUE 2/2</td>
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<td>LINDA GIBBS NARELLE MILLING</td>
<td>JANIJN FULLER</td>
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<td>THURS 4/2</td>
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<td>KELLI AULD</td>
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<td>FRI 5/2</td>
<td>VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY</td>
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<td>WEEK 2</td>
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<td>ANITA WHITEHORN ESTHER JONES</td>
<td>ANITA WHITEHORN</td>
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<td>Mon 8/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>AMANDA EDWARDS JESSICA PERRY</td>
<td>SHANNON GRECH</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 9/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>LISA MASTERSO N MIA FRASER (FROM 1PM)</td>
<td>JEN FREEMAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURS 11/2</td>
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<td>ALISON MARSHALL</td>
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<td>FRI 12/2</td>
<td>TONY CANT TEAM</td>
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## COMMUNITITY NOTICES

![Maitland Real Estate Agents](image)  
![ETurf](image)
Furneys Stock Feeds, producers of quality animal and poultry feeds for over 100 years.
Let our experienced team at Furneys assist and advise you on the best feeds, vitamins and supplements to satisfy your animal’s daily intake requirements.
From feeding your special domestic pet/s, your prize show horse/s or stud cattle and poultry, we have suitable products to satisfy ALL.

FURNEYS RURAL
78 RACECOURSE ROAD
RUTHERFORD NSW 2320
Ph: 4932 4455, Fax: 4932 9911.

Valley Tree Works
Over 20 years experience

RELIABLE QUALIFIED ARBORIST FREE QUOTES FULLY INSURED BLOCK CLEARING CHIPPING FIREWOOD

MULCH TREE REMOVAL STUMP GRINDING TREE PRUNING SHAPING STORM DAMAGE

RING CHAD FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE ON
PH: 0409910499
EMAIL: valley.tree.works@hotmail.com
WEB SITE: www.valleytreeworks.com
You can also find us at

Maitland Anglican Parish presents
“Christmas Crèche”
Thursday 3rd, 10th & 17th December 2015
From 6-8pm
at
St Mary’s Parish Hall, 68 Church St, Maitland.

Conveniently located opposite Pender Place – just drive in, sign the kids into our Christmas program, then go and finish your late night Christmas shopping!

CRAFT - GAMES - MUSIC - SUPPER

For ages ‘preschool’ to 12 years.
Bookings essential.
Call Joanne – 0427 865 106
ABSENTEE NOTICE

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

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

Parent signature: ..................................................................................................................................................
Did you know that you can make payments to your child’s school online?

We have launched a new online payment portal linked to your school’s website to make it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

What expenses can be paid online?

- Voluntary School Contributions
- Subject Contributions
- Excursions
- Sport
- Creative and Practical Arts
- Sales to Students
- Other

When?

This payment method will go live on 28th January 2016.

How?

Log onto School site at bolwarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. Click on “Make a Payment” and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.
**Fact sheet:** The School Opal card

**Who’s eligible?**
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

**Who needs to apply?**
Most students or parents won’t need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student’s school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016. However, a new application is required if:

- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student’s personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

**How to apply**
1. **Step 1** Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.
2. **Step 2** Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.
3. **Step 3** The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant’s email address is required.

**If the student doesn't qualify for free travel**
They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

**Find out more**
For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.