Dear Parents and Care-givers,

Week 4: Welcome and what a busy week this week has been!!

Our finalists ventured to different schools this week to participate in the Zone Public Speaking Competition. To date we have both our Early Stage 1 students (Logan and Harriet) and Georgia (Stage 2) selected for the Regional Finals with Stage 3 and Stage 1 students participating today and tomorrow at Wirreanda and Tenambit PS’s. Well done to all finalists!

We have also had our Girls Cricket, Girls Soccer and Girls Basketball teams compete at Tarro, Telerah and Singleton and our Boys Cricket will compete on Friday.

Our Spelling Bee Finalists have been selected for the Zone Competition, so congratulations to the students selected.

This week is Local Government Week and our Captains and Vice-Captains had the pleasure of attending the Lord’s Mayors Breakfast on Wednesday. We also celebrated NAIDOC Week on Wednesday and our children rotated through cultural groups that included dance, story-telling, music, drama, art and craft activities. A huge thank you to Maitland High School’s Aboriginal dance group that visited our school to perform for our children.

Tell Them From Me’ Surveys:

:STUDENTS - I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school. A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students from years 4-6 today. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by next Friday, 14th August. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

:PARENTS - The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’
perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements. The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary; however, your responses are very much appreciated. More information about the survey is available at: [http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents](http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents)

**Pedestrian Safety:** Children need assistance dealing with the traffic environment until at least the age of 10, as they are not equipped physically or developmentally to make the crucial decisions to keep them safe. Like learning to drive a car, children need practise and experience to walk in the traffic environment. Alongside the benefits of learning road safety, it is great chance to spend time with your family and good exercise!! Children are vulnerable road users. Anywhere where there is a potential for moving vehicles is a potentially dangerous traffic situation for children. This includes residential areas, car-parks, at traffic lights, along footpaths, pedestrian and other crossings, driveways, quiet streets, and busy streets. Although children may think they can handle crossing a road by themselves, remember that children:-

- are easily distracted and focus on only one aspect of what is happening
- are smaller and harder for drivers to see
- are less predictable than other pedestrians
- cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles
- cannot accurately predict the direction sounds are coming from
- are unable to cope with sudden changes in traffic conditions
- do not understand abstract ideas - such as road safety
- are unable to identify safe places to cross the road
- tend to act inconsistently in and around traffic

Many children below the age of 10 years do not have the capability or judgment to handle many pedestrian situations. Children need to be accompanied and closely supervised by a parent or adult carer to keep them safe. Parents and caregivers have a key role in educating their children about road safety. Children learn about road safety largely by experience. Parents and adult carers have opportunities in day-to-day routines to discuss road safety with children on the way to the newsagent, local shop or going to school. Whenever crossing roads, it is an idea to talk about when and why it is safe to cross the road with your children so they can gain a good understanding of road safety issues.

**Next Week:** Don’t forget the Cyberbullying Workshops for students from Stage 2 and 3 (12-2pm) and for parents next Monday at 6pm in the 6D Block, Year 6 ventures off to chilly Canberra on Tuesday morning, the Zone Public Speaking Finals are at Grahamstown PS on Wednesday and Mr Allen returns from his overseas adventures on Friday.

Thank you.

Regards
Sue Swetnam
IMPORTANT DATES

2015

- **3rd Aug** Stockland Star voting begins
- **7th Aug** Boys’ Cricket at Seaham
  Stage 1 Public Speaking Heats, Tenambit PS
  K-2 Athletics Carnival
- **10th Aug** Cybersmart Information Session - Parents 6pm in Year 6 rooms
- **11-14th Aug** Year 6 Canberra Excursion
- **13th Aug** Public Speaking Final, Grahamstown
- **18th Aug** Stage 2 Science Video Conference
  P&C Meeting
- **22nd Aug** P&C Comedy Night – save the date
- **24/25th Aug** LMG Debating Day
- **28th Aug** Book Week Parade
  Regional Athletics
- **31st Aug** Science & Engineering Challenge – MHS
- **2nd Sept** Hunter Boys Cricket Trials
- **4th Sept** Trash and Treasure
- **7-11th Sept** Year 5 Point Wolstoncroft Excursion
- **13th Oct** 2016 Kinder Parent Information Night

NOTES IN CIRCULATION

Uniform Survey
Hunter Inter-Schools Public Speaking Competition 2015
Point Wolstoncroft Year 5 Camp update
Boys’ State Cricket
Girls’ State Cricket
Year 4, 5 and 6 ‘Tell Them from Me’ Survey
P & C Comedy Night
Request for Canteen Volunteer Workers
Year 6 Video Conference
Canteen Healthy Lunch

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

2016 Kinder Enrolment
We are now taking enrolments for Kinder 2016. If you, or your friends, have children who will be starting school in 2016, please either phone the school or call into the office with details.
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: Mats

Book Fair News
There is no doubt that Bolwarra School has a lot of book worms! We had a fantastic day with hundreds of books sold at our book fair last week. Our library and teachers are very excited to receive some wonderful new books. A huge thank you to the very generous families who donated books on the day. Many families have ordered books and we should receive them shortly to be sent home with kids.
Special thanks to Merena McLaren, Dianne Cook, Amanda Barber, Elsabe Van Der Merwe, Amanda Rodrick, Alison Radford and Beck Croese who gave their day to make the fair a huge success.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) for 2015 closes on 21st August. To be eligible for a certificate, students must have their books entered on the PRC website by this date. The students in Years 3-6, log on to the website using their DET Portal logon and enter the books they have read. All students in K-2 complete the Challenge at school, and teachers enter the information.
Karen Lange

Premier’s Spelling Bee
Congratulations to our super spellers who will be representing Bolwarra at the Premier’s Spelling Bee at Tenambit on the 9th September. Stage 3 representatives are Myra and Luke.J, and Stage 2 representatives are Chloe.H and Abbie T. Good luck in the competition.
Karen Lange

Walkathon
Riley received a certificate for having raised the most individual amount of money with Addison and Bailee were happy to receive the certificate on behalf of 4T, who raised the most money as a class.
Stockland Star

Stockland Star voting began on MONDAY, the 3rd of AUGUST!

Students from 5WL, 2B and 4H have been using their artistic talents to create this year’s BEAUTIFUL Stockland Star! Our Star is based on the Kids Shed, displaying water, corrugated iron, flowers, leaves, branches, dirt, grass, fencing and feathers. To vote for our star, head to the service desk at Greenhills Shopping Centre to register and for every $10 spent, you get one vote. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise money for our school when simply buying your groceries. First Prize is $3000 for our school.

Happy voting and thank you!

Zone Athletics

What a fantastic day we had at the Zone Athletics Carnival at Woodberry Oval ton Friday! What a talented bunch of athletes we have at Bolwarra! I was one proud teacher today. Many kids walked away with Zone champion titles, with lots more representing our school beautifully in the finals! We will have a fantastic team of students off to the Regional Carnival on Friday, 28th August. Team wise, congratulations to the Junior and Senior Girls relay teams who are the zone champions, with their 1st place results in the finals, as well as the Senior Boys’ relay team which came 2nd in their final. It was a busy but exciting day. I’d also like to say thank you to Mrs Belinda Turner and Troy and Lana Hill for their help on the day. Thank you also to the parents who transported and supported our athletes. We have the best school community.

Mrs Baxter

Infant Athletics Carnival

The Infants Athletic Carnival will be now be held tomorrow, Friday 7th August on the bottom oval, weather permitting. It will begin at 10.30am and conclude at 1.30pm. Parents and family members are welcome to attend and bring a picnic lunch to share with their children.
Just a few photos from our Education Week Assembly

Girls’ Cricket
Congratulations to our Girls’ Cricket Team on another fantastic win on Monday against Woodberry PS. Facing harsh, windy conditions, the girls played an excellent game. The girls showed great sportsmanship and excellent team work. They were great representatives of BPS. Thank you to Mr Latter for umpiring and parents for transporting girls to and from the game.

Our girls are now through to Round 4 of the Knockout and will play Singleton PS at a date to be confirmed.

Boys’ Cricket
The boys’ cricket team will next play tomorrow, 7th August at Seaham.

Boys’ Touch Football
Congratulations to the Boys Touch Football team who played Morpeth Public School on Tuesday. The boys won convincingly 5-0. We are now looking forward to playing Wallsend South PS in the next round. The date is yet to be decided, but will be in Week 6 after our Canberra excursion! Well done boys! 😊😊😊

Girls Soccer
Bolwarra girls were victorious in their soccer game against Singleton PS yesterday in ghastly winds and with tough assertive competition. The band of supporters helped to cheer them onto a 2 goals to 1 win. An almighty effort - well done girls!
NAIDOC Week

Students celebrated NAIDOC Week, in conjunction with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day yesterday, Wednesday 5th August. Students were involved in a rotation of activities, within their stage groups, between lunch 1 and lunch 2. The Indigenous Dance Group from Maitland High School came and assisted on the day, showcasing a range of cultural dances and traditional games.

P&C NEWS

Our next meeting will be in the School staffroom on Tuesday 18th August.

Saturday 22nd August – Comedy Night
Tickets are on sale at the school office NOW!
Save the date and book the babysitter!
It’s time for a night out and our major fundraiser.
Come and join us for a laugh and enjoy all you can eat pizza.
Tables of 8 can be booked or individual seats with payment to the school office. There is a bar available (no BYO) and lots of great entertainment along with raffles and lucky door prize. We would appreciate if any bottles of alcohol could be donated. These must be bought into the office by adults for collection by the team organising the comedy night. Don’t miss out on a great adult only night and support our major fundraiser. **Please see the advertisement for full details at the end of the newsletter.**

**Uniform Shop News**
As the hall is currently having storm damage repaired, the uniform shop is closed although we a **happily taking orders via flexischool or orders placed in the office.** If both of these options are unsuitable please do not hesitate to contact Alison on 0409 653 868 or Lana on 0408 366 710.

**Uniform Change Survey**
**Guess what's in the box?**
The Solberg Family won the box full of goodies in the draw from the return of the uniform survey forms. Congratulations!!
Alison and Lana
Uniform Shop Co-ordinators

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**CANTEEN NEWS**

**FLEXISCHOOLS UPDATE:** If you have any queries regarding this process please phone Flexischools directly on 1300 361 769.

**Help!!** Canteen is in need of some volunteers to make Anzac biscuits at any time, please. Just deliver to the office.

**TERM 3 CANTEEN ROSTER**

Thank you to all the volunteers who have come forward this week to offer some of their precious time to help keep our canteen open. We really appreciate your help.

Our canteen is a major fundraiser for our school and we function solely on our friends and families giving up their time to volunteer. Please take 5 minutes to look through the roster and if you can help in the canteen or by making Anzacs please contact Tiffany on 0429402848 so we the canteen can remain open.

**TERM THREE**

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

MAITLAND REAL ESTATE AGENTS
Troy White
02 49 300 8418
admin@maitlandrealestateagents.com.au
www.maitlandrealestateagents.com.au

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COMMUNITY NOTICES
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
Maitland TAFE Pathways Programs are running a Certificate 2 - Skills for Work and Training Course, starting 18th August. Enrolments are now being taken. Students may be eligible for a concession or fee free scholarship.

Please find attached a leaflet for the course, which is designed to assist people with career information, confidence building and skills to enter or re-enter the workforce or further study. For more information call – Donna on 49 302 926 or Raelene on 49 302 827.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Kind regards

Donna Clark

Teacher | Foundation Skills & Pathways

tel 02 4930 2926
ext 47926
mob 0402 275 264

MINDARIBBA COFFEE CLUB

Coffee club will be run fortnightly on Fridays at various locations.

Time: 11am till 1pm

Coffee club dates and location:

- 24th July 2015  Mindaribba LALC
- 21st August 2015  Flip Out Thornton
- 4th September 2015  Play for Kids Rutherford
- 18th September 2015  Mindaribba LALC
- 16th October 2015  Maitland Park
- 30th October 2015  Mindaribba LALC
- 13th November 2015  Maitland Park
- 27th November 2015  Mindaribba LALC

For more information contact:

Raelene Cook
(02) 4930 2926
raelenc@tache.edu.au
raelenc@tache.co.oz.au

Please contact Amanda on 40157000 or 0419 354 221
ABSENTEE NOTICE

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

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

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