Casual Day – last day of school

Students may wear casual clothing on the last day of school, Friday 11th April, for a gold coin donation. All proceeds will be donated to charity. Appropriate clothing must be worn, i.e. no shoe-string strapped tops or thongs.

Debating Workshop – selected students

We have 8 places for the debating workshop in term 2. I would like a mixture of year 5 & 6 so that we have year 5s being trained up and the experience of year 6 students assisting them. Whoever has their notes in first with transport organised will be entered to attend on the day.

Places will be filled by a 'first in, first served' basis. Please ensure your notes are in promptly.

When: Wednesday 30th April
Where: Alstonville P.S
Times: 9:15am register for a 9:30 start. Concludes at 2:45pm
Cost: NIL ($20.00 per student will be covered by the school)
Transport: Private car

A training day is being held for selected senior debaters. The debating training day will be held on Wednesday 30th April at Alstonville P.S. Students will need to bring along a packed morning tea & lunch as well as some pens and paper, or better yet, a debating notebook in which they could keep all their tips and debating work for the year ahead. Parents must be able to organise transport for those students involved. Permission notes & payments to be returned to the school by no later than Tuesday 29th April (first day back)...but preferably before the holidays! Thank you.

PARENT RESPONSES DUE

Easter Raffle Tickets
- DUE Thursday April 10th
Debating Workshop (optional - yrs 5/6 only)
- DUE Tuesday April 29th
District X-Country (qualifying students only)
- DUE Tuesday May 6th

Little Athletics Workshops

The Little Athletics Programs for Schools workshops will be run again this year. Workshops will be run on a weekly basis throughout Term 2. Students thoroughly enjoy this program & are once again excited to participate in this activity, which will give them new skills and expertise in many areas of athletics such as high jump, long jump, shot put, discus, relay & hurdles.

ANZAC - March Wed 25th in Ballina

ANZAC Day March, Ballina - Parents & students are invited to attend the Anzac Day March through Ballina on Wednesday 25th.

Some parents have already kindly offered to march with those students wishing to attend - all parents are welcome to march with students if they wish. Students are required to wear sports uniform & school hat. (Don't forget the sunscreen!)

The group is to assemble in front of the old Post Office, (Court House), on the corner of Martin & River Streets at approx. 9:30am. Please make yourself known to Wendy Brown & Shantelle Searle when you arrive and she will assist in organising the students. (Shantelle 0407488982)
Special School ANZAC Day Ceremony

The school will be holding its annual special ANZAC Day Ceremony on Thursday 1st May. Our senior students will be running the service along with officials & members from the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch & the Korea, South East Asia Vietnam Veteran’s Association. Student’s & staff take pride in this special service each year as it is a way of reinforcing the significance of ANZAC Day to the whole student body.

Call out for flowers! Each year the students lay a flower at the base of the flag pole to commemorate ANZAC. We would like to make a call-out to families who may be able to send in some flowers on the day, so that all students are able to lay a flower at the base of the flag pole during the ceremony, thank you!

Zero Tolerance - School Security

Please be advised that the school grounds will be out of bounds for the duration of the school holidays and at all times that school is not in session. We ask that all community members be vigilant in the holidays to help us keep the school property secure. We have been advised the police are:

Conducting a zero tolerance operation targeting schools to reduce the frequency and intensity of malicious damage, arson, break & enter & trespass offences that impact upon schools. Police will document names and offences and utilise the move-on legislation to send a clear message that the current level of malicious damage, trespass, arson and break and enter offences in schools is not acceptable and the risk of detection and apprehension by Police is at maximum.

Please help protect our school, should you see anyone on school property during the school holidays, please call the 24hr School Security Unit hotline on 1300 880 021 or the local police. We thank you for your co-operation.

Up & Coming Events

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<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th - Thursday 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW Swimming (qualifying students only)</td>
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<td>Venue: Homebush</td>
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<td>Friday 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>CASUAL FOR A CAUSE Last Day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Friday 18th</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Monday 21st</td>
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<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Thursday 25th</td>
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<td>ANZAC Day March</td>
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<td>Venue: Ballina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29th</td>
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<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debating Workshop (selected students)</td>
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<td>Venue: Alstonville PS</td>
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<tr>
<th>May</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 1st (TBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANZAC Ceremony</td>
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<td>Venue: EVPS</td>
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| Last day of Term 1 |
| Friday 11th April |
| First day of Term 2 |
| Tuesday 29th April |
| Have a safe & happy holiday everyone, see you all next term! |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Library Books Return</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please ensure that all library books are returned to the school by TOMORROW, thank you.</td>
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Student Pick Up & Drop Off Procedures

Just a reminder to parents to please inform the duty teacher prior to collecting your child/ren in the afternoon.

Staff are officially on duty from 8:30am (or when 1st bus arrives) to 3:20pm. As supervision of students occurs between these hours, there is NO SUPERVISION of students outside these hours. Please ensure that students are NOT dropped off prior 8:30am & are picked up BEFORE 3:20pm. Your assistance in this matter would be appreciated, thank you.

Review - NSW PSSA Swimming Championships

Congratulations to Sally C who competed in the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships in Sydney today. Good luck to Kirsty G-J, Jade T, Jesse B & Jasmine C who will be competing tomorrow.

Sally ranked a fantastic 33rd out of 38 in her freestyle event. We are all extremely proud to be represented at such a high level of competition! Go Empire Vale!!!

Review - SXCSS General Knowledge

Congratulations Owen, Ethan, Tilea, Laura, Jesse, Jade T, Lillian & David who completed against eight other schools to come out triumphant at the General Knowledge Competition last week. The team worked effectively together to solve problems & find answers regarding a wide range of topic areas. We are so proud of their sensational effort! A big thank you also goes to those parents who transported on the day! Well done Empire Vale!

Review - Small Schools Cross Country

Despite the rain that forced the postponement of our X-Country last week, students put in a great effort at the Small Schools Cross Country Carnival on Friday. It was great to see so many parents there on the day to cheer our runners on!

The Ballina District Cross Country will be held in Lennox Head on Thursday 8th May.

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified to compete in the Ballina District PSSA Cross Country Championships at Lennox Head on Thursday 8th May.

12/13yrs girls: Maureen G & Jade T
12/13yrs boys: Jesse B & Anthony M
11yrs girls: Kirsty G-J
11yrs boys: Riley G, David B, Tom M, Liam O & Ryley M
10yrs girls: Jasmine C, Bella M & Millie S
10yrs boys: Ethan B
8/9yrs girls: Rohan B & Owen G
8/9yrs boys: Sally C, Molly W & Gypsy S

Permission notes & $5 levy are to be returned to the school by no later than Tuesday 6th May, thank you.
Puppet Power!

On Monday, Empire Vale and Cabbage Tree Island senior students had an amazing time developing stories, creating awesome puppets and presenting team performances at a theatre workshop held at Macadamia Castle. The workshop was led by the cast of *Wulamanayuwi and the Seven Pamanui*, who helped us develop new theatrical skills and friendships. On Tuesday the students attended a live performance of *Wulamanayuwi and the Seven Pamanui* at Lismore City Hall. The story is an indigenous twist on the traditional fairytale of Snow White and The Seven Dwarves. The workshop and the performance have taught us many new ways to express ourselves as well as heighten our appreciation of Indigenous storytelling and culture.

We asked the senior class what they liked about the workshop and theatre experience:

I loved making the puppets and acting out our story. It was so fun! Liam. Year 5.

I really enjoyed the live show it was entertaining and funny. I loved the sense of humour that the writer had. His character was very funny. Jesse. Year 6

I liked spending time with the Cabbage Tree Island School, they were great to make puppets with and had lots of interesting ideas. Riley G. Year 5

I liked how the story had a good side and a bad side. At times it was fun and other times it was scary. Tilea. Year 4.

Congratulations to all students who were presented with awards at our recent School Assembly. It is great to see so many students receiving recognition for their hard work and social skills throughout this term. It was also wonderful to see so many parents, carers and community members joining us to celebrate our school success stories at assembly.

As a performance item, the whole school got to show off their new musical talents, with both classes performing songs on the xylophone and glockenspiels. The school has enjoyed exploring their musical creativity this term, which has been inspired by Mrs Rantissi completing a music education workshop with The Sydney Symphony Orchestra throughout the summer holidays. We look forward to performing more musical items in the future.
**Review - ArtSmart**

Jesse, Lillian and Kirsty recently represented our school at the North Coast Arts Smart Program, where they enjoyed exploring new visual arts techniques, throughout a three day artist workshop. The students enjoyed working with a range of art mediums such as watercolour paints, pencil and marker pens to create a range of vibrant jungle themed pictures. Their finished works are simply outstanding!

**Reminder - Public Speaking**

Just a reminder that Empire Vale P.S. is once again running our public speaking program this year. The program is designed to encourage students to develop their communication skills, and express themselves with confidence. Students from all classes are involved in the program. Please assist your child/ren with their preparation for the speech. Speeches are to be 1-4 minutes in duration depending on age group. *All students will be presenting their speeches to their classes in weeks 3, 4 & 5 of Term 2.* The winners of each stage will present their speeches at a special assembly or public speaking event at the school, TBA.

**URGENT!!!! ALL FAMILIES! (INFORMATION UPDATES REQUIRED)**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please find attached your child’s full enrolment form. We require parents to check each one carefully & update where required AS A MATTER OF URGENCY!

It is CRITICAL that parents pay special attention to the parent employment section of your child's enrolment form as the schools funding *is based on the information you provide in this section.* Under the new school funding model introduced by State Government, part of the schools budget is allocated based on the occupation & education details of parents. More money is allocated to schools where parents are unemployed or employed in jobs that require fewer qualifications. For example, if you have become unemployed since enrolling your child, we need to know! *Having this information may make a significant difference to Empire Vale P.S.'s finances, so please return updated forms URGENTLY.* Thank you for your assistance.

**Top Tips from DET**

**Spellcheck**

Is your child learning to spell? Struggling with the weekly spelling lists? Here are a few strategies that will help:


**Homework planner**


**Attachments**

- Repeat – Public Speaking information – ALL students
- X Country info & permission (selected students)
- Moms night out flyer
Easter Raffle: Easter Raffle tickets were attached last week. Please remember to return your tickets TOMORROW. The raffle will be drawn on Friday AND WHO WOULDN’T WANT TO WIN THESE PRIZES!!!

Anzac Day March: Every year the students of our school proudly march on Anzac Day down River St in Ballina. This year Anzac Day (April 25) falls during the holidays and we are hoping for a big turn out. We ask for students to be in full school uniform, preferably sports shirt and a hat. Students will need to assemble on the corner of River & Martin Sts (old Post Office) at 9.30am.

Wendy Brown & Shantelle Searle will accompany the kids through the march but of course, other parents are welcome to join.

Please consider coming along to show your pride for our diggers and our school.

Shantelle 0407488982

Take Home a Big Brother or Big Sister
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother / sister by volunteering to host 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, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain & Colombia will live as a local, attend a local high school, arrive with their own spending money, & comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, gender, duration & interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501.

The Mother’s Day Classic is a national fun run / walk held annually to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

Last year saw the introduction of the inaugural Mother’s Day Classic – Ballina event and we’re hoping that 2014 will be bigger and better.

The Mother’s Day Classic is hosted in every capital city and Ballina is just one of more than 60 regional events that offer local communities an opportunity to be part of something that is a tradition for thousands of Australians; an event at which they can remember those lost to breast cancer and acknowledge those diagnosed, and a wonderful and meaningful way for families to celebrate Mother’s Day.

Breast cancer is still the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women – 15,000 Australian women are being diagnosed a year and their lives and the lives of those close to them will be turned up-side-down as they navigate treatment with fear and foreboding. Sadly, thousands of women and a small number of men will die each year from this disease. The Ballina event on Sunday 11 May will commence from Missingham Bridge Ampitheatre. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be done at: www.mothersdayclassic.com.au otherwise, on-the-day registrations will open from 8:00am, with participants starting their walk or run from 9:00am. The course is approx. 4.5km along the foreshore of Shaws Bay, finishing back at the Ampitheatre for a post-walk breakfast.

Everyone’s reason for being involved in the Mother’s Day Classic is different but the day can
PERMISSION NOTE
Debating Workshop - selected students only
(Wednesday 30th April 2014)

I give permission for my child …………………………………………………………………………… to participate in the Debating Workshop at Alstonville Public School on Wednesday 30th April 2014. I understand that transport will be by private car.

☐ I will be transporting my own child
☐ I have arranged for my child to be transported by _________________________

Signed …………………………………………     Date ………………………………….
Parent/ Guardian

Please return permissions by no later than Tuesday 29th April, thank you.

PERMISSION NOTE
District Cross Country - qualifying students only
(Thursday 8th May 2014)

I give permission for my child …………………………………………………………………………… to represent Empire Vale PS (Ballina Small Schools) at the Ballina District PSSA Cross Country Championships at Williams Reserve on Thursday 8th May 2014. I understand that transport will be by private car and is the responsibility of the family.

☐ I will be transporting my own child
☐ I have arranged for my child to be transported by _________________________

Time: Students should arrive at Williams Reserve by 9.40am ready to walk the course at 10.00am.

Cost: $5.00 levy per student – paid at school.

Students with medical conditions that may be of concern during the trials should notify the Team Manager prior to the commencement of the trial. Team Managers should notify the convenor prior to the commencement of the trials.

Signed …………………………………………     Date ………………………………….
Parent/ Guardian

Please return permissions by no later than Tuesday 6th April, thank you.