EMPIRE VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A big welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a safe & happy holiday! Students & staff are all looking forward to welcoming our 2015 Kindergarten students tomorrow!

Congratulations Mrs Rantissi

The word has got out about how fantastic our Creative Arts program is here at Empire Vale Public School which has led to Mrs Rantissi being awarded The Ballina Shire Council’s Australia Day ‘Arts and Culture’ Award.

Ballina Shire Council was so impressed that our students had artworks in exhibitions locally, nationally and internationally in 2014. Our school’s ability to network with artists and art providers was also described as inspirational. Mrs Rantissi is currently working in partnership with The Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Sydney’s Museum of Contemporary Art helping them become more accessible to rural students. She has also just completed her Masters of Education, where she completed an educational research project exploring the role of primary school art experiences in the development of contemporary artists.

This year is set to be another great year for the creative arts, with many wonderful learning experiences already organised. Mrs Rantissi is currently fine-tuning a special project where our students will be working with local artists to create an art exhibition which will be on display in September in the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.
Class structures for this year will be as follows:

Ms Bonita Avery - 4-6
Mr Michael Spencer - K-3
Ms Karen Rantissi - Creative Arts, Library, Reading Recovery (selected yr 1 students), Shared teaching 4-6
Ms Annie Roberts - 4-6 on Thursdays

SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL

From time to time money needs to be sent in to school for excursions and other activities. When this is required please ensure that the money is sent in an envelope with the child’s name, reason for payment and the amount clearly marked on the outside of the envelope. Envelopes not clearly marked with the above details will be returned home with the student. Envelopes are then to be placed in the Notes Box outside the office. If at all possible, correct change or small denominations would be appreciated. This will make Kimmy’s life much easier!

School Contributions

Thank you to those families who have already paid their contribution for 2015. The contribution remains as per last year at $35 per student.

The General School Contribution of $35 per child is paid directly to the school and covers items in use by your child such as text books, pens, pencils, exercise books, sport affiliation fees etc.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Regular school office hours are from 8.45am to 3.15pm Tuesday through to Thursday. From time to time, however, Kim has outside commitments, including things such as professional development, which may mean a change to her usual working days or alternatively may mean the office is unstaffed on the odd occasion. In these instances, staff regularly check the answering machine during break times for messages & will endeavour to follow up urgent messages in the event of the office being unstaffed. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Wednesday 4th Feb
Mosquitoes / Sunscreen

Please apply insect repellent at home before your child comes to school if they are affected by this. It is Department of Education & Communities Policy that schools do not apply insect repellent to students.

Particularly in this hot weather, we would also recommend that parents apply sunscreen to their children as well, prior coming to school.

Mathletics

The P&C will be purchasing Mathletics again in 2015 for Yrs 4/5/6 students and will be purchasing a couple of ‘spare’ passwords for use by younger students and curious parents.

If parents of those 2015 Kinder, Year 1, 2 & 3 students would like to purchase Mathletics for their child at a cost of $30, (usually $100 if not purchased through the school), please inform the school and provide payment by no later than Tuesday 4th Feb if you are interested in your child accessing this, thank you. This will mean your child will have their own password and be able to track their own progress and achieve certificates.

Guitar Lessons Info for 2015

Thank you to those parents who have expressed an interest in guitar lessons for their child this term.

An expression of interest is attached for those still interested - please return these URGENTLY to avoid missing out.

Lessons to commence Week 3, Tuesday 10th February 2015.

STUDENT NEEDS FOR TERM 1

It would be really helpful for parents to provide their children with a few small items ready for the commencement of school next year:

Many items are provided to each class to start the year for the students to share i.e. coloured pencils, sharpeners, erasers

Students could benefit from owning their own.

K-3 Class

K/1 students:
- Coloured pencils (not textas please)
- Library bag

2/3 students:
- Coloured pencils (not textas please)
- Library bag
- Sharpener
- Eraser

The following items are provided to each student to start the year but most students could benefit from more than one - please also keep one at home for homework!
- Lead pencils
- Ruler

4/5/6 Class

- Coloured pencils (not textas please)
- Library bag
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- White gloves for boxing inners (found in the cleaning section of Coles / Woolies)

The following items are provided to each student to start the year but most students could benefit from more than one - please also keep one at home for homework!
- Lead pencils
- Blue pen
- Red pen
- Ruler

Optional items that would be useful in the senior class
- Highlighters
- A Mathomat (not essential but handy 😊)
- Mini Drive (not essential but handy 😊)
Bus Passes: Student bus passes will be issued over the coming weeks, the distribution of bus passes can often take up to several weeks. Your child is free to catch the bus to & from school straight away. If there is a change to your child’s regular bus route, please send a note in to the school.

Students entering Year 3 in 2015 are required to apply for a new bus pass. Please complete the attached blue bus form & return it to the school by no later than Tuesday 3rd February to ensure uninterrupted bus travel, thank you.

Bus/Parking Zones

Just a reminder to parents to please keep the following areas free during the following times:

The laneway at the north end of the school grounds from 8am-9am & 2:30-3:30pm

Directly in front of the school (between the bus signs) is a “kiss and go” area at all times. Drivers are asked not to park in this area as it is used by the school bus, the mobile library and for school deliveries.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Leaving your child at home alone
Making some clear ‘home alone’ rules with your child gives them an understanding of their boundaries and can also keep you from worrying. Most kids will be fine on their own when the appropriate time comes, so long as some guidelines are followed. Find out more:

Printable 2015 homework calendars
Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan – so print out School A to Z’s 2015 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Find out more at http://bit.ly/2015SchoolCalendar.

Swim and survive program
Lessons are for beginners through to confident swimmers keen to practise their technique (from infants to 12 years). See the map to find the pools where friendly swim teachers with AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING accreditation teach across NSW. Find out more:
P&C News

Canteen recommences (Week 2)
- Next Wednesday 3rd Feb!

Canteen Procedures
- ALL items ordered from the canteen are to be written on a paper bag with your child’s name. Please place the correct money in the bag.
- A separate order is required for recess & lunch items.
- CORRECT money please. We don’t always have change available to send home.
- Orders to be placed in notes box Wednesday morning, (located in front of office).
- Canteen recommences in Week 2 of EACH term.

Attention Parents: Are You Missing Cake Containers/Platters?
There are a number of cake containers, platters etc belonging to parents/community currently in the canteen. If you are missing any of these, please drop into the canteen next Wednesday to pick up your items, thank you.

P&C Meeting – Tuesday 10th, 7pm

Attachments
- Blue bus form applications (Yrs 3 only).
- S.S. PSSA Swimming Carnival permission note (Yrs 2-6 only)
- EOI (expression of interest) for Guitar lessons in 2015
- 2015 Canteen Pricelist

Go4Fun
Free Healthy Lifestyle Program for kids 6.5 to 13 years
- Helps kids reach a healthy weight
- Fun games & exercise for kids
- Build self-esteem & motivation
CALL: 1800 780 900
BALLINA program in 2015!

PERMISSION NOTE
Small Schools P.S.S.A Swimming Carnival (Tuesday 3rd February 2015)
I give permission for my child/children ............................................................. to participate in the Small Schools P.S.S.A Swimming Carnival at Ballina Pool on Tuesday 3rd February, 2015. I understand that transport is by private car & is to be organised by each individual family. The cost of this excursion is $3.50 per student (to be paid directly to the pool).

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

Please return permission notes by no later than Tuesday 3rd February, thank you