Review - Bike Week (so far) & Road Safety Day

What an outstanding week of riding, learning, exploring and experimenting!

Our school playground has been successfully turned into a super highway, offering students with endless learning opportunities to put their road safety knowledge into practice!

Our bikes have undergone rigorous safety checks in order to pass registration and licenses have been issued to all students. Allowing our students the opportunity to pedal their way around our super bike track.

Thank you to our special road safety guest speakers - Michael from Transition Cycles, Ballina Highway Patrol Unit’s - Acting Senior Sergeant Fogherty, Ballina Shire Council’s Road Safety Officer - Helen Carpenter and Department of Education’s Road Safety Educator - Justine Thomson who all offered a different perspective on the importance of being safe on our roads. It is wonderful to have so many members of our community supporting our students learning!

Our senior students have done an awesome job of teaching our younger students about safety issues through games, songs, computer activities, book readings and hands on activities. We plan to complete more peer led activities on Friday to help reinforce our safety messages.

The ‘Egg Head’ science design and make challenge was a huge success with many designs successful meeting the safety brief. We were so impressed with the creativity and scientific thinking that went into the designs. We will continue to discuss the materials and design concepts of our egg helmets within our science lessons. Eggscellent Effort!

Once again, the shared morning tea was simply delicious and right on theme!

Thank you to all the families, school staff and community members who went to so much effort to make this week a great success!

Casual Day - last day of school
Students may wear casual clothing on the last day of school - Wednesday 16th December, 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 etc.

FINAL NEWSLETTER/STUDENT REPORTS – Next TUESDAY!

The final newsletter for the year will be sent home on TUESDAY next week. STUDENTS REPORTS will be attached to this newsletter.
CAROLS EVENING
TOMORROW NIGHT!

Carols Evening

We would like to invite everyone to attend our Carols Evening TOMORROW - Thursday 10th December at 6pm.

6:00pm  BBQ
6:45pm  Children assemble
7:00pm  Carols
         Kinder Presentations
         Yr 6 Presentations
         P&C thanks & raffle
         Carols continued
8:00pm  Santa arrives
8:20pm  Thanks and goodnight

Wet Weather Plan: In the event of inclement weather, the evening will be postponed until Tuesday 15th. If a postponement is required, a notice will be sent home as well as being displayed at the post office for community members.

Carols Evening Parking

It would be appreciated if parents/community members could avoid parking along the front of residential properties on either side of the school on Carols night - as the grounds can be quite wet, front lawns can become quite damaged. Parking is available:

- along the front of the school (no further than where the old senior class demountable was situated, as this is private property & not suitable for parking) and
- the back paddock behind the school (which provides ample parking & easy access to the school’s grounds)

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated, thank you.

Year 6 Farewell Bubble Night!

When: THIS Saturday 12th December 2015
Where: Ballina Pool
Times: 5:00 - 7:30pm
Cost: $13.00 per student
      (Spectators only-$3.50)
      (Children swimming only-$3.50)

(To be paid to the pool on the night – payment not required by the school).

Year 5 are invited to attend the Bubble Night to farewell the year 6 students. Students will be supervised by Empire Vale staff and by the Ballina Pool staff.

Other students from the school are also welcome to attend but will need to be supervised by their parent or guardian for the duration of the evening. These students will not require a permission note, however, will need to indicate at the bottom of the permission slip of their attendance, so that the pool has an idea of numbers.

A big thank you to the P&C who will be providing pizzas for our Yr 5 & 6 students on the night!

Wet weather - please check with the pool directly if you are unsure of the weather conditions on the night.

School Attendance

The Education Act (1990) requires parents to ensure that children between the ages of six and fifteen attend a registered place of instruction on each day it is provided. While sickness or family leave can be unavoidable it is important to encourage good attendance as this has a positive effect on learning.

It is a departmental requirement that when your child is absent, the parent/caregiver must provide an explanation for the absence within 7 days. The explanation must give a justifiable reason for the absence.

Attendance Notices for term 4 (as at 16/12) will be attached to next week’s newsletter if your child’s attendance has fallen below 85% or if justifiable reasons have not been received.
Small Schools Swimming Carnival 2016

The 2016 Small Schools Swimming Carnival for yrs 2-6 is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd February. Students 8 years & older who can swim 50 meters will be involved in the carnival. Infants' children will remain at school & normal classes will resume.

**Time:** Arrival 9.15 (9.30am start) Finish approx. 1:30pm

**Venue:** Ballina Memorial Pool

**Transport:** Students will require private transport on the day which will need to be organised by each individual family. We expect the carnival to conclude by around 2pm. Due to the short time frame, we cannot organise the transport through the school.

**Pool entry:** The cost will be $3.50 per student or parent/spectator. Payment to be made directly to the pool on the day.

**Wet weather arrangements:** In the event of postponement, it will be broadcast on 2LM between 7.30 & 8.30am

**Permission notes are attached & are to be returned to the school ASAP, preferably by the end of next week,** however actual permission deadline is Friday 29th January (Week 1, Term 1).

**NOTE:** This is a full day activity. Please arrange for your children to have alternative care following the carnival rather than returning to school. Supervising staff are required to remain at the carnival until the last of the students are collected and the carnival equipment has been packed up. **This means that students will not have supervision if they return to school without adversely impacting the infant class.** Thank you for your co-operation.

(District Carnival Friday 12th Feb)

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 and 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.

Senior Class Xmas Shirts

The senior class have been working hard on their Christmas shirts over the last few weeks. Here is just a sample of some of the T Shirts our creative seniors have been working on!

Attachments

- Bike Week Feature Page
- Road Safety Guide for Families
- Pedestrian Safety flyer
- Cycleways & shared paths along the Ballina Coast map
EMPIRE VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Ms Bonita Avery

Ph: 6683 4298

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

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 😊)

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**Up & Coming Events**

**December**

- **Monday 7th – Friday 11th**
  - BIKE WEEK (all students)
  - Venue: EVPS

- **Thursday 10th** (Alternative date Tues 15th)
  - Carols Evening
  - Venue: EVPS

- **Saturday 12th**
  - Yr 6 Farewell Bubble Night
  - Venue: Ballina Pool

**Monday 14th URGENT - Note the date change!**

- Whole School Assembly
- Venue: EVPS

**Wednesday 16th**

- Last day of school (casual day for a gold coin)

**January**

- **Thursday 28th**
  - First day of school for 2016 (Grades 1-6)

- **Friday 29th**
  - Best Start Assessments for Kindergarten

**February**

- **Monday 1st**
  - First day of school for Kindergarten students

- **Tuesday 2nd**
  - Small Schools PSSA Swimming Carnival (8yrs+)
  - Venue: Ballina Pool

- **Wednesday 3rd**
  - Canteen Resumes
P&C News

CALL OUT FOR SWEETS/DESSERTS FOR CAROLS NIGHT!
The P&C would like to put a call out for cooking of sweets as dessert for TOMORROW’S CAROLS EVENING! Thank you everyone – much appreciated!

IMPORTANT CANTENE NEWS FOR PARENTS!

Canteen will be operating next week as usual.

CANTEEN 2016

Just a reminder to parents that there will be NO CANTENE in the first week back next year (Canteen does NOT operate on the first week back of EACH term).

Canteen will re-commence in WEEK 2, Term 1 2016!

PERMISSION NOTE
Small Schools Swimming Carnival
(Tuesday 2nd February 2016)

I give permission for my child/ren………………………………………………………………… to attend the Small School’s Swimming Carnival at Ballina Pool on Tuesday 2nd February, 2016.
I understand that transport is the responsibility of the parent.

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

* Please return permission notes ASAP, (preferably before the end of next week) Actual deadline is Week 1 Term 1, Friday 29th January 2016, thank you *