Sandology....

We were very fortunate to have Steve Machell, (Odynn's dad & professional sand sculptor), visit the school last week to conduct a sand sculpting workshop with the whole school.

Students received some expert advice from Steve & had the opportunity to put their new found knowledge into practise! A huge thank you to Steve for the visit - students (& staff) had so much fun constructing some amazing creations!

PARENT RESPONSES DUE

SXCSS General Knowledge Competition
permission notes (selected students)
DUE – Tues 10th March

Chocolate EOI (senior students)
DUE – Tues 17th March

SXCSS General Knowledge

When : Tuesday 17th March
Where : Ballina Primary School
Times : 10:00am start
1:30-2:00pm finish

The Southern Cross Community of Small Schools General Knowledge Day will be held on Tuesday 17th March at Ballina Primary School. Transport would be by private car.

Questions will support the KLA syllabuses of English, Maths, Science & Tech, HSIE and Creative Arts. There will also be questions focusing on current affairs and pot luck which will be very trivial. The questions are not based on any trivial pursuit games to ensure that it is fair for all competitors. There will also be lots of fun activities in between questions.

Remember, parents are welcome to stay but they are not able to help students.

Students will need to bring along:
- their pencil cases
- a packed morning tea, lunch & drink.

Congratulations to the following students for their selection in the team. We are proud of their representation of our school.

Stage 2 team: 
- Rohan B
- Sally C
- Tayla U
- Gypsy S
- Jack P (Res)

Stage 3 team: 
- Jasmine C
- Kirsty GJ
- Riley G
- Ethan B
- Ryley M (Res)

Permission notes are attached & are to be returned to the school by no later than Tuesday 10th March, thank you.
Administration staff are only present at the school for 3 days each week. To allow our teachers to spend their time preparing classroom learning activities instead of attending to office tasks there are a few things that parents can do to assist.....

How you can help us!

- **Permission** notes & payments to be returned on time please (to avoid the need for reminders and ‘chasing up’).
- **Correct money** to be sent in.
  - Money to be in an envelope with details listed on the front.
  - Please avoid large amounts of coinage where possible.
- **Canteen orders** to be on a lunch bag with the correct change please.
- Details of **student absences** are required to be in writing. Please avoid phoning through your child’s absences as this requires additional steps for us. Just a reminder that it is a legal requirement of the Department of Education & Communities that **ALL** absences, (whole OR part absences.... including late arrivals & early pickups), be explained via a written note. Your assistance in this matter would be much appreciated.
- Check with your child EACH Wednesday for their **newsletter**, to avoid having to seek reprints from the office.
- **Bus arrangements** are best in writing & placed in the notes box by your child at the beginning of the day. If the change was unexpected, please it is phoned through early in the day & the message left clearly on the answering machine.

These are all very small things, but when taken into consideration from all families, it really does make a big difference to Kimmy’s workload. Thank you all for your understanding!

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**Up & Coming Events**

### February

**Wednesday 25th** (qualifying students)
Far North Coast (Zone) PSSA Swimming Carnival
Venue: Ballina Pool

### March

**Monday 2nd** 11:30
Assembly
Venue: EVPS

**Wednesday 4th** (qualifying students)
NC PSSA Swimming Carnival
Venue: Lismore Pool

**Tuesday 17th** (selected students)
SXCSS General Knowledge
Venue: Ballina PS Hall

**DATE TBA** (all students K-6)
SS PSSA X-Country
Venue: Teven-Tintenbar PS

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**Chocolate Fundraiser**

We would like to get an indication of how many families are interested in selling chocolates again this year in preparation for the 2015 senior school excursion. As per last year, the school will be placing an "early bird" order in Term 1 & if there is sufficient demand, parents will have the opportunity to place a second order in term 2.

At this stage we have not booked a venue or organised any excursion activities. At this stage we are intending to take Year 4, 5 & 6 students.

Could you please return the attached Chocolate Fundraiser Expression of Interest Form by Tuesday 17th March, thank you.
EMPIRE VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Ms Bonita Avery
Ph: 6683 4298

Top Tips from the DET

Good number sense
Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.
Find out more:

Reading with your child at home
When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading.
Find out more:

Removing head lice and nits
Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits.
Find out more:

Alstonville Scouts welcome new Members in 2015

Come and try FREE for up to 4 weeks before joining!
For Girls and Boys of all ages who love adventure and fun.
For Mums and Dads who want their Kids to learn important life skills in a safe environment.

Joey Scouts: ages 6 to 8 years, Wednesdays: 5.30 to 6.30pm
Cub Scouts: ages 8 to 11 years, Wednesdays: 6.30 to 8.00pm
 Scouts: ages 11 to 15 years, Thursdays: 6.30 to 8.30pm
The Alstonville Scout Hall is located at Gap Road, Alstonville.
To find out more, contact either:
Troy Davis (Group Leader)
Mobile: 0428 582 973
Cindy Robinson (Joeys Leader)
Mobile: 0413 454 177

P&C News

The next P&C meeting will be held Tuesday March 10th at 7pm. All welcome.

Attachments

- Sandology Feature Page
- SXCSS General Knowledge permission (selected students)
- Chocolate EOI (senior class)
Senior School Excursion Chocolate Fundraiser

Chocolate Order Form (Round 1) - Years 4, 5 & 6

We are in the process of organising an early bird order for chocolates as part of the senior school excursion fundraiser, (provided we get a minimum order of 15 boxes).

Chocolate prices remain the same as last year...$2.50 per chocolate bar, confectionary prices are $3 per bag. This means that each chocolate box sold brings in $60; ($30 of which goes towards your child’s excursion expenses), however each confectionary box sold brings in $60; ($25 of which goes towards your child’s excursion expenses).

As we cannot return unsold boxes, it is extremely important that the number of chocolates that each family has pre-ordered, be completely sold so that your child can receive the full benefit of having their excursion costs reduced.

Boxes cannot be returned to the school unsold or partially sold as we have already outlaid the funds to purchase to boxes. In the event that you are not able to sell the required number of boxes you have committed to, funds from all boxes you have sold will need to cover the cost of your full commitment before profits are able to be directed to reducing your excursion cost.

i.e. commitment 10 choc boxes and 10 boxes sold ($600.00 brought into the school)...
   = $300 for purchase of the chocolate boxes and $300 to reduce the cost of your child’s excursion.
Commitment 10 choc boxes and only 8 boxes sold ($480.00 brought into the school)...
   = $300 for purchase of the chocolate boxes and $180 to reduce the cost of your child’s excursion.

NOTE: This change of policy has been brought about through past difficulties of the school in dealing with unsold boxes that have been returned. Families that sell the committed number of boxes will be unaffected by this change.

-----------------------------please detach here-----------------------------

Senior School Excursion Chocolate Fundraiser

(Round 1) Chocolate Order

Name: ........................

Commitment  _______________ (quantity of chocolate boxes)

Commitment  _______________ (quantity of lolly boxes)

Total  _______________ (TOTAL quantity choc/lolly boxes)

(Orders to be returned by no later than Tuesday 17th March, thank you)
PERMISSION NOTE
General Knowledge Day
(Tuesday 17th March 2015)

I give permission for my child/children ................................................................. to participate in the General Knowledge Day at Ballina Primary School on Tuesday 17th March 2015. I understand that transport is the responsibility of the parent.

☐ I will be transporting my own child to the General Knowledge Day

☐ I will be transporting __________________

☐ I confirm that I have arranged transport for my child with _______________________

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

Please return permission by no later than Tuesday 10th March, thank you