The school held its annual special ANZAC Day Ceremony on Thursday 23rd April. Our seniors ran the service along with officials & members from the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch, the Ballina Ex-Army Association & 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.

A big thank you to the P&C who organised the morning tea, for those who sent in flowers & for the wonderful messages of thanks for our diggers to mark this centenary. It all came together to make a very touching service for our special guests.

**PARENT RESPONSES DUE**

**Speeches (Public Speaking for all students)**

Due - Weeks 3/4/5

**District Cross Country permission & levy**

(selected students)

DUE - Tues 5th May

**Reminder - Public Speaking**

Public speaking will be commencing NEXT WEEK! Just a reminder that students should be practicing their speeches at home in preparation for class presentations commencing next week.

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.

**Ballina District X Country REMINDER**

There are still a number of permission notes & levies which need to be collected for the Ballina District Cross Country Carnival. If you have not already done so, please return these ASAP. Best of luck to the following students who will be competing at Lennox Head on Friday 8th May:

- 12/13yrs girls: Y Ho, Kirsty G-J
- 12/13yrs boys: Riley G, Ryley M, Tom M
- 11yrs girls: Tilly H, Millie S, Jasmine C
- 11yrs boys: Ethan B
- 10yrs boys: Rohan B, Owen G, Shifan K
- 8/9yrs girls: Molly W, Erin G, Gypsy S & Sally C
- 8/9yrs boys: Billy W, Dylan B, Kyle P
GARDENING WITH THE INFANTS

The infants class took advantage of the lovely sunny weather by planting a few seedlings in the raised vegie patch beds out the back!

We look forward to seeing their garden grow as they tend to it each week.

Debating Workshop - REVIEW

A number of senior students attended the Debating Workshop at Alstonville Public School last Wednesday. Students had the opportunity to hone in on their debating skills for future inter-school debates! Thank you to those parents who transported students to & from the venue for this very worthwhile workshop.

Final Round of Tickets Sales - (SUPPORT FOR STATE SWIMMERS)

To assist our state swimming qualifiers with the costs they incurred whilst competing in State swimming in Sydney last month, we are conducting a final round of North Coast Sport raffle ticket sales!

Tickets to be drawn on 7th December 2015.

We are hoping to sell as many tickets in this final round as possible so dig deep everyone!

Up & Coming Events

April

Wednesday 29th (each Wed of Term 2)
Little Athletics

May

Wednesday 6th (each Wed of Term 2)
Little Athletics

Friday 8th
District X-Country
Venue: Lennox Head

Tues 12th - Fri 15th
NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)
Venue: EVPS

Mon 18th
School Assembly
Venue: EVPS

Senior Excursion Chocolate Fundraiser

Just a few reminders to those parents who are participating in the senior excursion chocolate fundraiser this term. Students are given 2 boxes at a time & are issued further boxes upon payment of the previous two. Parents are able to pickup any number of boxes at a time. Please ensure all monies are in a secure & sealed envelope to avoid lost coins and that envelopes are clearly marked with your child’s name. Expressions of interest will be sent home in the last few weeks of term for a possible second & final round of chocolate orders.

All monies for Round 1 are to be returned by no later than Tuesday 23rd June. (last week of term 2), thank you.
**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 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.

Please find attached notification of attendance letters if your child's attendance has fallen below 85%.

**OPPORTUNITY CLASS APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2016**

Opportunity Class information is attached for those students seeking Year 5 entry in 2016. Applications close on Friday 15th May 2015.

**Top Tips from DET**

Application for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2016

If your child is seeking Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2016 you must submit the application online between Monday 27 April 2015 and 15 May 2015.

The application website is at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement)

Spellcheck

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


**P&C News**

**P&C MEETING:** The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th May at 7pm. All welcome!

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**Community News**

**Anzac Day March, Ballina** - Thank you to those parents and students who marched on ANZAC Day in Ballina on the weekend. It is always pleasing to see our students pay their respects to our ex-servicemen and women and those who gave up so much to give us the great life we have in Australia.

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**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.

**Joeys 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

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**Attachments**

- Student bus passes
- Opportunity class application information for students seeking Yr 5 entry in 2016 – (Yr 4 students)
- AECD Parent Information letter (Kindergarten students only)

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( Final Round)

**Raffle Tickets to Support our State Swimming Representatives**

Name __________________________________________ Contact No________________________________________________________

I would like to purchase ___________________tickets @ $2.00 each

Total enclosed___________________________

*Raffle Tickets requests are to be returned to the school with payment by no later than Wednesday 20th May, thank you.*