A big welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a safe & happy holiday! Students & staff are all looking forward to welcoming our 2016 Kindergarten students on Monday!

Congratulations Jasmine!

Ballina Shire Council Australia Day
“Youth Citizenship Award” Winner….Jasmine Crethar!

The word has got out about how fantastic our students are here at Empire Vale Public School, which has led to last year’s Year 6 student, Jasmine Crethar, being awarded The Ballina Shire Council’s Australia Day Youth Citizen Award.

Jasmine was awarded for her high achievement in public speaking, debating, state swimming & athletics, her involvement in the science & engineering team, as well as having her artwork selected to tour with Operation Art last year. Congratulations also to Kirsty Graham-Jones, who was also nominated for The Ballina Shire Council Australia Day Youth Sport Award - what an outstanding achievement!

PARENT RESPONSES DUE

Small Schools P.S.S.A Swimming Carnival
Permission (8 yrs & older who can swim 50m)
Due - Tuesday 2nd Feb

2016 PSSA - Zone Trials EOI (yrs 5/6)
Due - Tuesday 9th Feb

Newsletter preferred method
Due - Tuesday 9th Feb

Mathletics - $30 - Optional for K-3
Due - Tuesday 9th Feb

Healthy Lunch Boxes

Please ensure student lunch boxes contain healthy lunch and snacks. No chocolate, lollies, chips or soft drinks are permitted at school. Your assistance would be appreciated.

Receive your Newsletter electronically

Throughout 2016 we will be phasing out the printed version of the school newsletter. Please complete the attached form to provide us with your preferred method of receiving the newsletter.

Receiving your newsletter by electronic means will enable you to receive a colour version of the newsletter (handy when your child’s photo is in the newsletter 😊) as well as being able to reprint permission notes as needed.

We will continue to provide the printed version in term 1 while we switch to the new system. Thank you for your assistance.

Attachments
- S.S. PSSA Swimming Carnival permission note (Yrs 2-6, 50m swimmers only)
- PSSA Zone Trials (yrs 5/6)
- 2016 Canteen Pricelist
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...

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 (like today!!)

In these instances, staff check the answering machine before bus in the afternoon and, where possible, will also check messages during break times throughout the day. Messages will be actioned and/or passed on to the relevant staff member. 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.

2016 Class Structures

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

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

2016 school 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 assists the school in supplying your child with items such as text books, pens, pencils, exercise books, sport affiliation fees etc.

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.
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 be held.

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 1:30pm. 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.

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.

Mathletics

The P&C will be purchasing Mathletics again in 2016 for Yrs 4/5/6 students and will be purchasing a ‘spare’ password for use by younger students and curious parents.

If parents of students in Kinder, Year 1, 2 & 3 would like to purchase Mathletics for their child, you can do so 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 9th 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.

SCHOOL BUS – Ballina Buslines

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.

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.
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 provide 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 provide 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**

**January**

Friday 30th January
'Best Start' Assessments for kinder students
*As per appointment times previously arranged*

**February**

Monday 1st (Kinder)
First Day for 2016 Kinder students

Tuesday 2nd (Yrs 2–6)
Small Schools PSSA Swimming Carnival
Venue: Ballina Pool

Tuesday 9th
P&C Meeting, 7pm
Venue: EVPS

Friday 12th (qualifying students) Date TBC
District PSSA Swimming Carnival
Venue: Ballina Pool

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Kids Helpline

1800 55 1800

Kids Helpline is a service of BoysTown.
Canteen recommences Week 2, Wed 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 9th, 7pm

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**ballina HOCKEY club**

Ever wanted to try Hockey?

Come & have a go.....**FREE**!

New & experienced players welcome;
Learn Pre-season skills with experienced coaches;
Hockey sticks supplied, just come & have some fun ........

Where: TURF at Kingsford Smith Park, Bentinck St, Ballina
When: Tuesdays from 9/2/2016 for 5 weeks
Time: 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Bring: Hat, sports shoes, water bottle, shin pads and MOUTHGUARD essential.

For more information contact:
President, Mark Stanger 0414477811
OR secretary@ballinahockey.org.au

Ballina Club Website: [www.ballinahockey.org.au](http://www.ballinahockey.org.au)

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**Ballina Soccer Club**

*Home of the Seahorses*


**2016 JUNIOR SIGN ON/INFORMATION DAYS**

SAT FEB 13  12noon – 3PM (Saunders Oval Clubhouse)
SAT FEB 20  12noon – 3PM (Saunders Oval Clubhouse)

OR REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT

**Muster days**

Tuesday March 1st - grades 6, 7 & 8 from 4:30pm
Thursday March 3rd - grades 9, 10 & 11 from 4:30pm
PERMISSION NOTE

Small Schools P.S.S.A Swimming Carnival (Tuesday 2nd February 2016)
I give permission for my child/children ………………………………………………………………………………………………… to participate in the Small Schools P.S.S.A Swimming Carnival at Ballina Pool on Tuesday 2nd February, 2016. 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 2nd February, thank you

Newsletter Preferred Method

Printed newsletters will be phased out by term 2 2016
Please select all newsletter options that you have at your disposal and indicate your preference if you have one. Thank you.

☐ Email (Please provide your current email address………………………………………………………………………………………………)
☐ School Stream App (We are encouraging all families to install the School Stream App and ask for those who are unable to use the device to inform the school, so that they can be listed as needing to be contacted in traditional ways.)
☐ School Website (www.empirevale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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

Please return information note by no later than Tuesday 9th February, thank you