Senior Class Science & Technology Assignment

As part of the senior class Science & Technology unit, students are required to research an element of our local community. Please find assignment information attached for students in Yrs 4,5,6.  Mrs Rantissi

REVIEW - Ballina District PSSA Swimming Carnival

Well done to all of our swimmers who participated in the Ballina District Swimming Carnival at Ballina Pool last Wednesday. Congratulations to our 7 qualifiers who will be participating in the FNC Zone Swimming Trials this Friday at Murwillumbah Aquatic Centre!

FNC Zone Swimming PSSA Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Erin G, Billy & Molly W, Ethan & Rohan B & Sally C, who have qualified to compete in the Far North Coast Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival this Friday at Murwillumbah Aquatic Centre! Qualifying events:

- Erin G: 50m Butterfly, Jnr Girls Relay
- Billy W: 50m Freestyle
- Owen G: 50m Butterfly, PP5 Relay
- Sally C: 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, Ind. Medley, Jnr Girls Relay, PP5 Relay
- Rohan B: 50m Butterfly, PP5 Relay
- Molly W: Jnr Girls Relay
- Ethan B: PP5 Relay

Program of events & qualifying events are attached. Due to the short timeframe, please return permission notes & levies by TOMORROW please.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Wednesday 2nd March
School Administration

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!

**Up & Coming Events**

**February**

- **Thursday 25**th (interested community)
  Empire Vale Art Group
  Venue: Mrs Rantissi’s classroom

- **Friday 26**th (qualifying students)
  Far North Coast (Zone) PSSA Swimming Carnival
  Venue: Murwillumbah Aquatic Centre

  **Monday 29**th 11:30
  School Assembly
  Venue: EVPS

**March**

- **Tuesday 8**th (Parent & Community)
  P&C Meeting 7pm
  Venue: Senior Class - EVPS

- **Wednesday 9**th (qualifying students)
  NC (Regional) PSSA Swimming Carnival
  Venue: Kempsey

- **Friday 18**th (qualifying students)
  PSSA Winter Sporting Trials
  Venue: Saunders Oval & Kingsford Smith (TBC)

- **Friday 25**th – **Monday 28**th
  Easter Long Weekend

**April**

- **Thursday 31**st (qualifying students) **NOTE Date Change**
  SXCSS General Knowledge
  Venue: Ballina PS

**Attachments**

- Science & Technology Assignment (Yrs 4-6)
- Chocolate Fundraiser EOI (senior class)
- FNC Zone Swimming - Events & Program (qualifiers)
Thank you to those families who have already paid their contribution for 2016.

The General School Contribution of $38 ($35 if paid term 1) 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.

Just a reminder to parents, if you are sending in payment for the school & P&C, please send payments in SEPARATE sealed envelopes marked P&C on one & school on the other, thank you for your assistance.

PAYMENTS MADE DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL: include school contributions, excursions, competitions, sport levies etc.

PAYMENTS MADE TO THE P&C: include P&C membership & insurances, uniforms, & all P&C fundraising events ie. raffle ticket monies etc.

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 2016 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.

We have not yet 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 8th March, thank you.

The Empire Vale ART GROUP
TOMORROW!

Are you looking for a creative outlet or would like to make new friends?

- 1.45 - 2.50pm. Thursday, 25th February.
- Art materials provided.
- No artistic experience required.
- A great opportunity to socialise and learn new skills.
- Toddlers welcome.
- Afternoon Tea Provided.

As part of our school’s commitment to The Arts, Mrs Rantissi is starting an Empire Vale art group for interested parents and community members. This will provide an outlet to both socialise and learn new skills.

The first ‘Empire Vale Art Group’ will start TOMORROW, Thursday the 25th Feb at 1.45 - 2.50pm. The sessions will be held at school in the creative arts room. (Next to the Junior Class)

All art materials will be supplied by Empire Vale PS and no artistic experience is necessary!

Just come along with a positive frame of mind and a willingness to get creative.

Puzzles and pencils will be provided by the school to keep toddlers busy, if they are joining us, and an afternoon tea will be provided.
**Internat’l Competitions & Assessments**

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise of Digital Technologies, English, Maths, Science, Spelling & Writing tests.

**The competitions are OPTIONAL & are ALL open to years 3–6 students, with Year 2 students eligible to participate in Maths, Science, English & Spelling only.**

The tests will be administered from May through to August.

**Attention parents: CHANGES TO ENTRY FEES**

There have been some changes to entry fees this year, affecting schools entering less than three entrants in each subject area. As each section must have AT LEAST 3 entries, payment MUST be made for AT LEAST 3 students in each subject area. As a result, families are potentially required to pay for at least 3 entry fees if their child is the only entrant in a particular subject area.

**Entry fees are $8.00 for Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics & Science, $11.00 for Spelling & $17.00 for Writing.**

If you would like your child to sit for any of these tests, please contact the school for an entry form. Entry forms & payment are due by no later than Tuesday 8th March, thank you.

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**New Combined High School Update**

2016 promises to be an exciting year as we begin the transitioning process for the new school, which will open 2019. I am sure that many of you share the same questions that the staff at both schools have including:

Who will be the Principal?
What will the school be named?
What will the uniform look like?
What will the buildings look like?
How will the learning take place?
How will the build impact on my child?
How will the transition take place?

Over the year we will endeavour to seek clarity around these questions and more. In the next newsletter there will be two survey monkey links. One will be to continue the naming process for the school and the other will be to begin the process for designing the uniform.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Suzanne.page@nsw.edu.au or ring Southern Cross school on 66860503.
P&C News

P&C School Family Directory - Update

The P&C are currently updating the School Family Directory. We would appreciate it if families could please return the attached P&C School Family Directory slip to the school by no later than Tuesday 15th March, thank you.

Next P&C Meeting - Tuesday 8th March 7pm. All welcome!

Community News

Attention: Local Community!

Education on Use of Defibrillator

Venue: Wardell Hall
Date: Wednesday 23rd March
Time: 5:30 pm
No Charge

The Unit was donated by:
- Red Cross
- Progress Association
- Private Donation

There will be a Clinical Nurse who specialises in cardiac conducting the demonstration from Lismore Base Hospital. The defibrillator will be located at the Wardell Hall (there is also one located at South Ballina) for all of the community to use when needed. It will not be locked so that it can be accessed at all times.

Kids’ fishing workshop

LOCATION: Faulks Reserve, Riverside Drive, West Ballina.
DATE: 21st of April 2016
BOOKING CLOSE: 15th of April 2016
CONTACT: Milan Duwenhoger-Lange
0458 274 876 (please leave a message)
milan.duwenhoger@dpi.nsw.gov.au

The simplest way
...to put healthy treats in your kid’s lunch.

This delicious Blueberry + Banana bread recipe is fruit-filled and tasty!

Ingredients
- olive oil and canola oil spray
- 3 ripe bananas, peeled
- ¾ cup raw sugar (60g)
- ½ cup recuped-fat milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 cup frozen blueberries

Method
Preheat oven to 220°C and spray a 20 x 10cm loaf tin with oil line base and sides with non-stick baking paper. Mesh bananas in a large bowl. Add sugar, milk and eggs and mix with a fork until well combined. Sift flours and cinnamon on top of mixture. Mix ingredients together until just combined, taking care not to over mix, then gently fold through blueberries. Spoon mixture into prepared loaf tin and smooth the surface. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean from the middle.

Hint
When cool, slice and freeze individual pieces in snap lock bags and keep for up to 3 months. Send to school as a healthy treat!
**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 16 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior School Excursion Chocolate Fundraiser</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(Round 1) Chocolate Order</strong></td>
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**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 8th March, thank you)