Dear Parents, and Community Members,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely weekend.

Swimming Carnival

Last Thursday saw our school students participate in the combined small schools swimming carnival held at Bellingen Pool. What a fantastic day it was! I was proud of all the students, not only for their behaviour on the day, but for joining in and having a go in nearly all of the events. A highlight for me was watching Olivia push her own personal limits to complete the 200m medley event. It took courage and determination, which it seems she held in abundance. In reality, there were so many instances when all of the students showed strength of character and exemplary conduct, I would need another page to list them all. Our school did not come home with the trophy, but our students demonstrated values and traits that are far more important. Thanks also to the fantastic group of parents that were present on the day. I really appreciate your support with providing transport and assisting the students throughout the carnival.

District Swimming Carnival

In more swimming news, congratulations to those Crossmaglen Public School students who were successful in beating qualifying times to get into the district PSSA swimming carnival to be held at Macksville Pool on February 19th. I doubt that many schools could boast that more than 50% of their student population (8 years and over) had qualified for district swimming carnival. Well done, and good luck to Rahni, Lanna, Patrick, Isabella and Jorjah.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th February 2016, commencing at 3pm in the admin building. All welcome.

Scripture and Piano

Scripture will be held on Monday mornings this term so as to avoid conflict with Thursday morning piano lessons. Piano lessons will commence this week and Scripture will resume next Monday. Please ensure students come to school with their piano books each Thursday.

Cooking

Our students and staff enjoyed delicious and super healthy sandwiches on Friday. The children worked in groups to prepare the ingredients, make the sandwiches, and then clean up the kitchen. The end result was fantastic with all students enjoying a healthy and nutritious meal together. Thanks to Cindy for her ongoing support of the cooking program.

There will be no cooking this Friday, as cooking will only occur every second Friday.

Basketball

This Thursday afternoon will see students participate in the first of seven basketball sessions run by professional coaches from Coffs Harbour Basketball. Held at our school, the sessions will be lots of fun for students and work to improve their skills and teamwork. The program will be funded by the Sporting Schools (Australian Sports Commission) initiative and will therefore be of no cost to parents.

TERM 1 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th Feb</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival Macksville</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Feb</td>
<td>Book Club Orders Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Feb</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting, 3pm Admin Building</td>
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Week 3 Term 1, 2016
Mystery School Pen Pals

Students from years 4 to 6 last week wrote to our mystery pen pals for the first time. A teacher colleague of mine who works in a ‘faraway mystery school’ and I have decided to implement a program where our students get to know each other through a series of letters, emails and video conferencing. The first step of course is to establish contact. Last week our students wrote letters describing our location in general terms without giving away too many details. Information such as our proximity to the coast and the Great Dividing Range was given, as was a description of our local environment. We also asked questions in the hope that the answers we receive will be clues that help us to pinpoint where this mystery school is exactly. When students start to get close, the coordinates of each school will be given and we will look them up on Google Earth and Google Maps etc.

Book Covering

We still have around 50 books that need covering before they can be used by students. If you do happen to have a spare moment (which I know is quite rare), any donation of time would be greatly appreciated.

Have a great week everyone!

Pete Rundle
Principal