Welcome to Week 3 of Term 4.

A huge thank you to our local Valla Lions Club who made yet another donation to our breaky program last week. This program is made possible by the generous support of our local Lions. We make toast for all of our kids each morning to ensure that they are fuelled up and ready to learn. Many of our kids get here quite early and this program ensures that their bodies have the energy needed to take on the big day ahead. The program is supported by our staff and parents who generously give of their time each morning to get the toast cooked and ready. Many of our students also get involved. We are in the process of purchasing a commercial toaster to make the whole process much quicker for all involved. If you would like to give us a hand on any given morning then please contact the school and we will give you the details of when and where we need you. We will be sure to include a photo of our dedicated breaky team and their new toaster as soon as it arrives.

With the help of our P&C, the car park modifications are really beginning to take shape. There will be a left hand turn about half way up the first car park. This will take you on a drop off, pick up loop. The exit will be at the top of the first car park. This is not a parking area. It is a safe way to drop off and pick up your children. I have been escorting some students down to the bus bay each afternoon to meet their parents who are parking legally in the designated area in front of the bus stop. This is working well and I would encourage any parents who are arriving early to park there and wait for their children. If you would like them to be escorted in the bus lines then please see their classroom teacher who will deliver them to be walked down. This is by far the safest option considering the congested nature of our current situation. I am really looking forward to making this area of our school much safer for our students.

We are in the process of finally making a considerable reading system purchase. Our wonderful teachers need the best tool available to them, and this system will certainly provide a new level of resource availability K-6. It will also free up many levelled readers for the intensive home reading program that we will implement in 2015. Based on parental and staff feedback in regards to home reading and homework, we are developing a whole school plan that will hopefully cater for the needs of all stakeholders. Home work and home readers are key drivers of student progress. They DO make a difference to your child’s learning and it is vitally important that parents and carers find the time to support their child or children in this area. School community feedback indicated a need for homework that was regular, challenging, easy, not too much and relevant to their child’s learning. As a result, our homework and home reading will look something like this (with some variations K-6);

A familiar reader home every night. This must be returned each day.
½ page of compulsory Literacy homework each week. Home on Monday and returned Friday.
½ page of compulsory Numeracy homework each week. Home on Monday and returned Friday.
½ page of optional Literacy homework each week. Home on Monday and returned Friday.
½ page of optional Numeracy homework each week. Home on Monday and returned Friday.
Homework will be marked in class to allow for immediate and individual feedback.

If ANY part of your child’s homework is too hard or they say they cannot do it, then mark clearly and return to their teacher for explanation. Do not be drawn into an argument with them. Often this is just a strategy to get out of doing their homework in the early stages. As it becomes more of a habit this part of the homework cycle will become much easier.

As parents and carers you will be on the front line of homework completion which can become quite tricky if not handled carefully. Homework needs to become a habit. Students get the most from homework when they complete it in a quiet, clutter free area at a regular time each day. They also need to approach this time with a positive attitude (which can be a challenge!). It should take no more than 15 to 20 minutes each afternoon. TV off. Homework DOES make a real difference to a child’s learning if done well. Please see your child’s classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns next year.

Our Year 6 students reported an interesting and engaging transition visit to the high school on Wednesday. They had a great time and certainly feel a little more confident in regards to taking on the challenges of 2015 in their new school environment.

I was lucky enough to get to pop in and visit 2015 kindy students in their preschool setting on Thursday. It was an awesome morning and all of the kids had lots of questions for our Year 5 student representatives. Crystal, Tyrone and Kailee represented their school brilliantly and certainly made a great impression on the younger students. Kickstart begins this Thursday at 12.30pm, so please be sure to let any parents or carers know who may not be involved in preschool.

Our infant students had a great time on Friday with the Rugby League Literacy sessions. Brandon Costin and his team did a great job running the kids through fun-filled activities that link back to a specially designed text for the classroom. This program will continue for 2 more Fridays.

This Wednesday our Year 6 Mini Fete Garage Sale will be held at 11:30am in the Quad. Items will be available for purchase from $1 to $10. Show bags etc. If you would like your child to participate then please send them in with some money on the day.

Have a great week.

Todd.
Expressions of interest are now being taken for
2015 Kindergarten Enrolments.

Name........................................... Phone Number................................

Child’s Name....................................Date of Birth..........................
Term 4
So Far...

- Gumbaynggir Language Lessons
- We’re going on a bear hunt!
- Self Portraits
- Library Learning with Mrs Coulter
- SPORT ON FRIDAYS
- Rugby League Literacy Sessions
- Ka mate, ka mate! ka ora! ka ora!
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<td>BBQ Chicken &amp; Homemade Coleslaw Roll</td>
<td>Savoury Mince</td>
<td>Satay Chicken &amp; Vege with Steamed Rice</td>
<td>Homemade Pumpkin Soup &amp; Garlic Bread</td>
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<td>Price $5.00</td>
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**Community News**

**GETin2FUN GETin2CRICKET**

MILO in2CRICKET introduces girls and boys to Australia’s favourite sport. It’s fun, safe and teaches basic skills to help kids learn to play just like their Australian Cricket Heroes.

**Positive Partnerships**

Is offering a FREE two day workshop and information sessions for parents and carers of school age children on the Autism Spectrum.

Where: Australis Sanctuary
250 Pacific Hwy (South) Coffs Harbour
When: Two Day Workshop
1st Day: Wednesday 12th Nov 9am-4:30pm
2nd Day: Thursday 13th Nov 9am-3.30pm
Registration available from Wednesday 1st October.
Online registrations are preferred directly through our website
Www.positivepartnerships.com.au

**2014/2015 Family Energy Rebate**

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children.

In 2014/2015 the rebate gives:

A $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer.

A $165 direct payment to nominated bank account for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

**APPLY BEFORE 16th JUNE 2015**

It takes 2 minutes to fill in the form.
For more information and assistance
Phone: Service NSW 137788
Email: fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au