Welcome to Week 8 of Term 1. I hope everyone had a great weekend.

Our senior students have now completed their Peer Support Training and are ready to take on their Peer Support responsibilities in the coming weeks. Leaders have been trained in the skills needed to present teamwork-based activities to small groups. They will then join their group of peers, ranging in age from Kindy to Year 4 and conduct a Peer Support session. Teacher support will be close at hand if needed. This is a great way to develop the leadership skills in our senior students, while at the same time develop improved teamwork skills amongst our entire school population. Thank you to our Stage 3 teachers who put in all of the extra hours necessary to organise a project of this size.

As the term progresses the effects of low rates of attendance really come to the fore. 70 of our students are attending less than 90% of the time. To put this percentage into perspective, it equates to 5 days. This is a whole week out of the term. If this rate continues then it will be 4 weeks out of the year which is very close to half a term. Add to the mix the fact that each day is specifically designed to take students through a sequence of learning steps that will best enable them to develop their skills, and you can see how even one day absent seriously impacts on a student’s progress. We know that there are times throughout the year when you cannot send your child to school, illness, family commitments etc. It is because of these unavoidable absences that it is so important to get your child to school on all other days. We are doing our very best to create supportive, engaging and relevant classroom experiences for each and every student in our care. For your child to make the most of this they need to be at school. Please feel free to contact myself or your child’s teacher should you have any questions or concerns in regards to attendance.

We are also aware that there will be times when it is necessary to drop your child at school earlier than usual. Should this be necessary, then parents and carers must first see the principal. We have no staff officially on duty until 8:45am. This is when we would expect all students, except for bus students, to arrive. Any times earlier than this can only be with special permission. This is in the interests of your child’s safety.

Mr Freebairn and I will be in attendance at the Open Rugby League Trials on Thursday. All students involved have received a note. We will be using private transport on the day. This involves a separate note which will be sent home today. I am looking forward to seeing our boys in action!

Miss Wesley and Mrs Daley are busily organising our Anti-Bullying Day on Friday. Throughout the week all classes will be involved in discussions about bullying-what it looks like and how to deal with it. These activities will culminate in a wall of brightly coloured hands being displayed in a message that says NO to bullying and YES to looking after your peers. Our parents and carers are playing a wonderful role in helping us to ensure we have a bullying-free school by quickly reporting incidents when they are just that, incidents. As a school, we can then act on these incidents and move forward with more appropriate behaviours and choices. As a whole school team we are certainly making a difference, and this week is a great opportunity to celebrate our strength as a wider school community.
Our bush track seems to attract all sorts of issues and incidents. I would ask all parents and carers of students who use this path to reinforce with them the need to stay safe and the need to make good choices when in this unsupervised environment. Please be sure to contact me should your child experience any problems on the way home from school in any direction. These incidents can be quite frustrating as they are out of our control, but we still do our best to help out the kids involved.

Students and staff are slowly getting used to our regular release periods occurring once a fortnight for the whole day. David Moseley will be joining our team 3 days a week as part of this program. We now finally have a regular teacher on the same class for release at the same time every fortnight. This will lead to improved program delivery, student confidence and consistency. I look forward to hearing from our teachers and students in regards to the effectiveness of this initiative at the end of the term.

A special thank you to the boys who helped me with the badge repairs this week! Who would have thought that fixing badges could be so dangerous!

Have a great week. Todd.

**AGM and P&C meeting**

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 19 March at 4:30pm in the Staffroom. Our P&C Association is required to hold an AGM in accordance with the Association’s by laws.

All office bearer positions are declared vacant and are available for election.

The Officer positions to be elected are President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. Representative positions for Canteen Treasurer and Uniform Coordinator will also be elected.

Only financial P&C members are eligible to stand for a position.

New members always very welcome.

**P&C Easter Raffle**

We are calling on families to donate Easter eggs, wrapping paper and/or anything to do with Easter. Raffle books will be sent home today. There will be one per family. A note will go home next week with more details.

The more eggs the better!!

**Pink Stumps Day**

Next Tuesday is shaping up to be a great fundraising day. All children and staff are asked to please dress in pink for a gold coin donation.

Stage 1 will be playing cricket against Mr Potter’s team during lunch. We will also be selling merchandise during lunch and recess. Cakes and pink snacks will also be available to buy from as little as 20c each. All monies raised will go to the McGrath Foundation, for breast cancer research. Arm bands $2.00 Shoe laces $2.00

**Stewart House Donation Drive**

Please find enclosed in today’s newsletter an envelope for donations to Stewart House. This is a great organisation supporting children throughout NSW. Every little bit counts!
From My Library
The 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun!
Students in Years 3-6, who have registered for the Challenge are encouraged to read/share texts from the prescribed Booklists to achieve the goal of 20 books by the end of August. Students in Years K-2 will share/listen to stories from the Booklists in their classrooms and at the Library in order to complete the Challenge. For more information go to the PRC website or see Mrs Coulter at the Library.

Our school has recently purchased a 2014 subscription to World Book online. This is an online reference tool which our students are able to use both at home and at school. The easiest way for students to access the resource at home is via their DET portal. Students should follow the School library link to the My Library homepage. From here they can access World Book online from My Library Links. Our username and password are the same: frankp. Alternatively go to http://www.worldbookonline.com/?subacct=AU14012

Our subscription includes access to Students and Kids. Students has information which is more detailed and complex, while information at Kids is shorter in length and easier to comprehend for students who are beginning to learn research skills. Features of the product which I believe make it a worthwhile resource include a focus on Australian content, currency and inclusion of appropriate material. In general, students have found it to be quite user friendly. Nambucca Heads High School also subscribe. Please take some time if possible to explore the site with your child.

A reminder of your child’s library day:
Kinder: Thursday, 2/1E: Wednesday, 2/1C: Wednesday, 2/1H: Tuesday, 4/3M: Thursday, 4/3F: Thursday, 4/3W: Thursday, 6/5M: Tuesday, 6/5L: Thursday, 6/5S: Tuesday, Miss Baker’s class: Wednesday, SU1: Wednesday, SU2: Tuesday
K-2 students don’t forget your library bag!

Finally, a big THANK YOU to support staff member Denise for covering all our new library books.

Easter Hat Parade
Each year our school runs a Parade to show off all our students’ great talents in creating their special Easter Hats. Students make their hats within their peer support groups on the day of the parade. All the materials will be supplied and students will join their peer support groups in the morning to allow time for the hats to dry or be completed. This year our Easter Hat Parade will be on Friday, 11th April at 2.30pm and students will showcase their hats within their peer support groups. The parade normally runs for approximately 30 minutes and we would love for you to come and attend this event. Looking forward to seeing you all here.

Kindergarten-Year 2 classes
All students in our classes - Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 have been learning about and discussing what are the 5 most important things that children need to bring to school every day. They have decided they are:

* Healthy lunch, including fruit and a drink.
* School uniform.
* Home Reader and or Homework.
* School hat so they can play on the field

Gumbaynggirr Words of the Week are Miimi and Baaba meaning Mum and Dad.
Spotlight on.....
Peer Support Training
Canteen Meal Offers

Normal menu available every day

Name: ______________________  Class: ______

**Wednesday 12th March**

BBQ Chicken & Homemade Coleslaw
PRICE $4.50

Name: ______________________  Class: _______

**Thursday 20th March**

Salad Boxes with Ham, Chicken, Egg or Tuna (Circle Choice)
PRICE $4.50

Name: ______________________  Class: ______

**Friday 14th March**

2 Chicken Kebabs Honey Soya with Fried Rice
PRICE $6.00

Name: ______________________  Class: ______

**Monday 10th March**

6 Chicken Nuggets + Tomato or BBQ Sauce + Nippy Flavoured Milk (Choc/Strawberry)
PRICE $5.50

Name: ______________________  Class: ______

Community News

**Scotts Head Nippers**

A reminder to all Nippers and their families that there are 2 weeks left of Nippers. This Sunday March 23rd is a Fun Day & the following Sunday, March 30th is the Nippers Presentation Day.

Don’t forget to bring your raffle tickets. Tell your fellow Nippers and cross your fingers for more sunshine and an open beach.

Also a big thank you from the Nippers Committee to all the parent helpers...we couldn't run Nippers without your fantastic support!!

NSW Early Days Autism Behaviour Workshops

9:30am – 2:30pm Wednesday 19th March
Nambucca Valley Early Intervention Service
Briner St, Macksville, NSW, 2447

Early Days Workshops are designed for parents and carers with a child (aged 0-7 years) who has (or may have) an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Free Family Fun Days – Across the Mid North Coast

Promote your service to families by offering them a free activity at one of our family fun days.

- Tuncurry 14th April - John Wright Park
- Taree 15th April - Fortheringham Park
- Woolgoolga 16th April - Centenial Reserve
- Nambucca 22nd April - Bellwood Park
- Urunga 23rd April - Morgo St Reserve
- Kempsey 24th April - Riverside Park

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Bellingen Bulldogs/Nambucca Valley Junior AFL

Bellingen Bulldogs/Nambucca Valley AFL club are looking for boys and girls aged 5-14 years to play AFL and NAB AFL Auskick in 2014.

Registrations are being taken at training every Wednesday starting on 12 March from 3.30pm at Bellingen Primary School or online. Come along for some footy fun!

Contact Adam 0417 423578 or Budge 0411 720593