Welcome to Week 7 of Term 1.

A quick reminder to all of our parents and carers that our school is a Sun Smart school and, as such, a hat must be worn whenever students are playing in the sun. This “No Hat, No Play” policy is designed to keep all of our kids safe. It was pointed out to me last week that many of our kids are wearing caps. Whilst this is accepted, it is not school uniform and it is not school policy. Students should be wearing a bucket hat. The brim keeps the sun off the ears, neck and face as our students play in the sun. Please encourage your child to bring a bucket hat to school each day. We have them for sale at school for only $10, so please see Anne or Leanne should you need to purchase one.

Information on the ‘Tell Them From Me’ survey for students in Years 4 to 6 went home last week and we are very excited to be accessing the views and opinions of our students through an online, anonymous survey. Mrs Leahy has been the coordinator of this initiative and we will be sure to let our school community know just what our students are thinking and feeling about their school as soon as the surveys are complete. Should you have any questions at all then please give me, or Mrs Leahy, a ring.

Marcel and Mrs Smith had the opportunity to attend a Key Word Signing Conference last week. As a school community it is important that we all understand the importance of communication for all stakeholders. Hopefully your children will be excited to learn a little about this system throughout the year. Special signs will be sent home in our newsletter and various classes will be exposed to sign language throughout the year.

Our School Plan is only in its infancy, but it is important that all stakeholders have a say in our direction and plans over the next 3 – 5 years. As a staff, we have been talking at length about 3 key areas of your child’s schooling. These are called Strategic Directions. Whilst these are still in the planning stage we are looking to target;

Engagement, Community and Student Potential.

These strategic directions link directly back to our vision statement, where we strive to produce a high quality teaching and learning environment that caters for the specific needs of each individual student and allows them to reach their full potential academically, socially, physically and emotionally.

The three Strategic Directions are supported by 3 main programs each. We have not yet begun to formalise these, and any parent/carer feedback on areas of interest or focus will be enthusiastically received. Our parents and carers have a massive role to play in all of these programs and I have noted some key school community features next to each one for you to consider.

Some of our key programs include;
Smaller classes: Let us know what you think and how important these are.
Teacher development: Support our staff to attend training and become even better teachers.
Attendance: Get your kids to school whenever you can, on time and ready to learn.
Instructional Leader K-2: Read with your kids every night. See your teacher for ideas.
Whole School Assessment: Ask questions about reports. Let us know what you want to know.
Physical activity for fun, individuals and teams: At school and beyond.
Help us out with transport whenever you can: Encourage your child to have a go. Check out our morning activities.
Homework and Home Readers: Spend some time with your child every night. Feedback for their teacher is instrumental.
Building Blocks for Learning: Return notes and follow up with specialists when needed.
Outside Agencies: Return notes and follow up with specialists when needed.
Cultural Groups: Talk with your kids about school and home, and what interests them.
Gumbaynggirr Language: Respectful culture starts at home by learning traditional ways.
Kindergarten Transition and High School Transition: Encourage your friends to participate.
Excursions K-6. Our community and Beyond: Encourage your child to get through their nerves.
Technology Every Day in Every Classroom: Talk to your child’s classroom teacher. How can you help at home?
Teacher Meetings: Come along and find out what is happening in your child’s classroom and let us know how we can do even more. Your concerns are important.
I hope that our parents and carers are as excited by these initial programs as we are. Our staff are an incredible team and I am sure that there will be more details and programs added over the coming weeks. I look forward to receiving any feedback.

This Thursday will be the District Soccer Selection Trials so Mr Lambert will be away. He will then be taking a team of budding Socceroos over to Coffs Harbour on Friday. All students should have received a permission note if they have qualified to attend.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who have made the time to contact me or pop in with any concerns or questions throughout the term. We have managed to work through all issues and this is only due to your understanding and willingness to work with us to support your child. Our school depends on your support and our community is incredible when it comes to looking after our kids and their needs through our school teams.

Have a great week.

Todd.

Each week we will be sharing an Auslan Sign in the newsletter.
This week’s sign is Thank you!

Class Merit Awards

Class of the Week - 2/1W
Congratulations
P&C News

All Easter raffle tickets have been sent home, so please get busy selling your tickets. The Easter raffle will be drawn on Thursday 2nd April. We are still needing donations of Easter eggs! Please send to the office.

Fete News: Not long now until Saturday 28th March. See attached flyer.

Everything is coming along nicely. We have had some very generous parents donate some wonderful things to sell and add to our raffle. Please, if you have anything for our White Elephant Stall, Book Stall, or to sell, or add to our raffle, please drop off at the office.

We are also asking for helpers to bake a cake or slice. If you are interested please let the office know or phone Jeni on 0437504498. Thank you for supporting our school.

Our P&C AGM is next Wednesday 18th March at 4pm in the staffroom. All welcome.
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### Community News

**MACKSVILLE GIRL GUIDES** invites girls 5–14 years to come and see what Guides can offer for after-school activities. Girls learn life skills, cooking, camping opportunities, crafts, badge challenges and more, and enjoy the company of other girls their own age in a safe, friendly environment under the guidance of qualified leaders.

**LOCATION:** Bellwood Park, Riverside Drive, Nambucca.

**DATE:** 9th of April 2015. **BOOKINGS CLOSE:** 2nd of April 2015

**CONTACT:** Milan Duwenhogger-Lange on 0458 274 876 (please leave a detailed message) or email milan.duwenhogger@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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**Kids’ fishing workshop**

Kids 8–14 years old are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly. Instructors are experienced volunteers and staff from Industry & Investment NSW.

The day runs from 10 am–2 pm and involves fishing techniques, bag & size limits, fish handling for catch & release.

**COST:** $40 PER CHILD, and includes rod & reel combination, shirt, hat, tackle box and show bag — all to take home!

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.** Maximum 25 participants.

**LOCATION:** Bellwood Park, Riverside Drive, Nambucca.

**DATE:** 9th of April 2015. **BOOKINGS CLOSE:** 2nd of April 2015

**CONTACT:** Milan Duwenhogger-Lange on 0458 274 876 (please leave a detailed message) or email milan.duwenhogger@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Don’t forget to.....

[Facebook logo] Frank Partridge VC Public School