Principal’s Page

BOOK CHARACTER PARADE
The Book Character parade held yesterday was another great success. I am always impressed by the efforts that students and their parents go to when participating in these activities. The Book Fair continues this week and Mrs Menzies has further information regarding times in this newsletter.

NORTHERN RIVERS ATHLETICS
Best of luck to our team of over 40 students who will travel to Lismore this Friday to compete in the Northern Rivers PSSA Athletics. Mr Stanger and Mr Munro will be accompanying the team.

TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT SURVEY YEARS 4-6
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will again participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at:

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 21 August. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.
THE PARTNERS IN LEARNING PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY
Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary; however, your responses are very much appreciated.


CHESS CLUB
Congratulations to the members of our first ever chess teams who travelled to Yamba this week to compete in the Junior Chess League, Maclean Zone Competition. The children in the teams have been practising through the week and after school in the build up to the tournament. Mrs Menzies reports that our team competed very well and we look forward to expanding our chess teams in the future.

Thank you to Mrs Menzies for her organisation of the chess club and to the parents who assisted with travel on the day.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
The next school assembly will be held on Friday 14 August. The assembly will start at 2.30pm.

NAPLAN RESULTS
The NAPLAN results for this years’ Year 3 and Year 5 students are being released to schools next week. If any parents would like to discuss their child’s results please contact the class teacher.

NORTH COAST PRINCIPALS’ CONFERENCE
Last week I attended the North Coast Principals’ Conference held in Coffs Harbour. The conference guest speakers included Simon Breaksppear, Alisa Camplin OAM, Amanda Gore and Ruben Meerman. Frank Potter, Executive Director, Public Schools and Geoff Scott, President, NSW Primary Principals’ Association also spoke. Simon Breaksppear is recognised internationally as a leading thinker on the future of learning and educational innovation and was very informative. Major speakers from BOSTES and AITSL focused on the new teacher accreditation processes occurring this year and another workshop focused on the School Excellence Framework which will assist schools to develop and plan for the future. The conference was an excellent opportunity to look at what is happening in education now and for the future.

Reyn Urquhart
Principal
SCHOOL BAGS BACK IN STOCK

Gulmarrad School bags are back in stock and can be purchased from the office. Bags are $40.00 each.

CHESS CLUB

On Monday 9 students from Gulmarrad represented our school in the Junior Chess League, Maclean Zone competition. It is the first year that we have entered this competition and look forward to entering more teams next year. Although we did not place on the day, all the boys and girls had a great day and enjoyed themselves immensely.

SPELLING BEE

Spelling Bee heats for grades 3 - 6 will be held in class over the coming week. Two students from each class will then be selected to compete in the finals which will be held on Thursday 20 August at 9 am in the hall.

Parents are most welcome to come and watch.

P&C INFORMATION

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 August starting at 7pm. This is held in the school staffroom. The P&C meetings are an opportunity to become an active member of the parent school community and to support your child’s school so please come along.

THERES NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS

Tickets on sale
Week 6 - 8.30 - 9 am
(undercover area or from the office)

SCHOOL BAGS BACK IN STOCK

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What’s happening in 3-4S

A busy start to the Term for 3-4S! Lots of fun things happening in our room:

- Practice for our musical “There’s No Business
- Like Show Business
- Book parade costumes and characters
- Creating ‘Dynamic Dialogue’ in our writing
- Exploring exciting Apps on the school’s new Ipad’s

And a lot more....
Athletics News 2015

And the winning house was…… DINGOES!!!

At last Friday’s assembly athletic champions, runners-up and encouragement award winners were presented with their trophies and medals. Congratulations to the following students on their achievements.

**Junior Champion**

Kele Jeffrey & Jasmine Anderson

**11 Yrs Champion**

Eli Clarke & Prea Cormick

**Senior Champion**

Nathan Roberts & Trinity Minhinnick

**Junior Runner - Up**

Thor Harradine & Erin Goad

**11 Yrs Runner - Up**

Eli Clarke & Zali Bourke

**Senior Runner - Up**

Jake Townsend & Enya Britten

**Encouragement Awards**

Anthony Kendall & Kristel Gravolin

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**Girls Softball - PSSA Round 5 Game**

The fabulous senior girl's softball team travelled to Lismore last week to compete in the 5th round of the PSSA Softball competition. We competed against a very strong Brunswick Head Public School team at the Albert Park Softball/Baseball Fields. Our team lost the toss of the coin and were sent into bat first and made a cracking eight runs in our first innings while Brunswick Heads made two runs. Over the next three innings, Brunswick Heads rallied together and went on to score 21 runs in total while Gulmarrad scored 11 runs. Good luck to Brunswick Heads as they now move onto the final round of the PSSA competition.

Congratulations to all of our girls for their fantastic effort on the day and their dedication to lunch time training. I have seen so much improvement in their skills and abilities and I am very proud of them all. Thank you to Cath Ferguson for volunteering her time to not only drive the girls over to Lismore but to also score the game for us. Thank you also to all of the parents who have supported us and cheered us on.
Vacancies now available with a registered carer of 18 years. Wonderful learning environment with plenty of resources. After school care also available.

Taking enrolments for 2016.

For further information contact:
Amanda Fitzpatrick on 0409454401