WELCOME back to students and parents and a big welcome to all new students and parents! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday together and are ready to start the new term at Bobs Farm Public School. A special welcome is extended to our lovely new students Paige, Sara Jayne, Ally, Emily, Bayley H, Connor, Isaac, and Bryce. We hope you love our school as much as we do!

We have 26 students currently enrolled K-6. We still have space for more out of zone enrolments so feel free to get the word out! Please read our newsletter each week as this is an important means of communication with our parents and community. It is also available on our webpage each week if the hard copy is lost in a bag! Don’t forget to check out Facebook page which we update regularly with lots of photos for you all!

REMINDERS

Friday 5th Feb
Sporting Schools – Surfing Yr. 2-6 3.30 - 4.30pm. Birubi Beach

Fri 5th Feb
CANTEEN starts Kylene

Tues 9th Feb
PSSA Girls Cricket trials – BFPS 10am

Wed 10th Feb
NRL Blitz wellbeing presentation Yr. 3-6 10am

Wed 10th Feb
Basketball skills 12-1pm K-6

Friday 12th Feb
Surfing program Yr. 2-6 Birubi Beach 3.30-4.30pm

Friday 12th Feb
Canteen - Kirstie

Wed 17th Feb
Scripture starts

Fri 19th Feb
Zone Swimming, Raymond Terrace, Canteen – Emma

Fri 26th Feb
Canteen - Kylene

Tues March 1st
P&C meeting AGM School Library 3.15pm Free child minding

Thurs 24th March
Easter Picnic at local farm

Friday 25th March
Good Friday

Mon 28th March
Easter Monday, students return on Tuesday

Friday 8th April
Last day term 1

School beautifications- Over the holidays we organised garden mulching and plantings to make our gardens beautiful again. Thanks Peter! The grounds have been kept immaculate and a greenhouse has been erected; Thanks Barry! The K-2 Smartboard projector is being repaired and we have also had a pest control treatment to eradicate spiders and critters.

School organisation for 2015; as many of you know our regular staff member of Yr. K-2 (Laura) is on partial leave for the year and will be only teaching Fridays. Kim Margan, our part time teacher will be stepping up into Laura’s position until Laura returns. Mr Williams will continue coming in for Yr. 3-6 teaching science and music in particular and Mrs Julie Hobson and Mrs Parker will be a regular sight at the school working most mornings as our teacher’s aides, as we hopefully are fortunate enough to obtain additional funding support for several students.
**Message from bus companies** – Bus drivers are often left with the situation of younger children forgetting to get off at their correct bus stop and having to phone their parents to collect them. With the introduction of the Opal Card for travel, bus companies will no longer be able to access this information, so they are asking if all parents can organise for their younger children to have a tag on their bags with their parent’s contact details. It is entirely up to parent’s discretion but it may be helpful if this situation arises.

**HOMEWORK ROUTINE STARTS IN WEEK 4.** – Title pages and book covering this week AND reading of course! Students need to bring in a folder so we can organise their readers. Yr. 6 to complete a School Captain speech for Friday’s assembly at 12pm.

**CANTEEN STARTS Friday 5th Feb:** Volunteer helpers are required. If you are a new parent to our school please consider helping in our canteen as it’s the easiest and quickest way to get to know the other children and parents. Please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter indicating when you are available to help.

**Surfing program Yr. 2-6 starting this week Fri 5th Feb** As part of the Sporting Schools program we are able to provide free surf lessons for students who are 8 years old or older. Younger students may attend and play beach games on the sand with adults. Please complete the indemnity and permission forms which must be brought along to the session before students are allowed to participate in the surf. Parents need to provide or arrange their children’s transport to Birubi Beach on the 4 Friday afternoons. Participating surfing students do not need anything apart from their swimmers. The Surf School provides rash vests and boards. Please pack extra food/water however.

**School Leadership Elections**- Yr. 6 students are required to write and deliver a quality speech at next week’s assembly on why they would make a great school leader and assist others in our school. A Leadership day has been organised for our Yr. 6 students and one parent to attend in May in Newcastle.

**POOL DAY at Tomaree Aquatic Centre**. To be advised.

**Zone Swimming** – will be held on Friday the 19th of February at the Lakeside Leisure Centre, Raymond Terrace. If your child is an excellent swimmer and you would like them to attend please speak to Megan or Caroline to receive the relevant forms and information.

**Just in Case**- Hope all new parents know that a Port Stephens bus service runs from Salamander and Nelson Bay right to our front door for any children at our school. Year 3 students need to reapply for bus passes and forms have been sent home with those students. Please return as soon as possible.

**Reading/ general Helpers**- We will be organising parent helpers to listen to students read each day from next week if possible. If you can spare one hour per week, all our children will benefit. It doesn’t need any expertise, just a responsive ear and reassurance. We also need a parent to assist in changing readers over on any day that suits you. Please complete the note at the end of the newsletter indicating if and when you can assist this term. We always love parents becoming involved in any way. We always have a list; out sand pit needs cleaning up before we can organise clean sand, our outdoor kid’s kitchen setting needs a good clean and we will need some straw and help in our gardens. Any help is always appreciated in a small school. Thanks.

**MATHLETICS** – Bobs Farm PS continue to use this interactive online maths program as it is such an exceptional program. Mathletics is a web based learning program, which integrates home and school learning via the internet. Mathletics covers the K- 12 Australian Maths Curriculum and is currently used in over 1000 Australian schools, with more than 30,000 students accessing the site every day! By using a unique user name and password, your child can access the program 24 hours a day so we encourage parents to take an interest in their child’s learning at home with this. To gain the greatest understanding of how Mathletics can benefit your child, we ask you to spend time looking at the program with your child. To view Mathletics go to: [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au).

Studyladder is also part of mathletics which we will be using this year.

**All students** will also be participating in a spelling component called Spellodrome which is a program tailored to individual student levels and which can also be accessed from home.
NO HAT, NO PLAY policy to be enforced in Term 1. Please make sure your children wear a school hat! Hats are available from our P&C at a cost of $16. Caps are not acceptable as ears are not covered.

New parents please note: we need a copy of your Drivers licence and 3rd Party insurance to assist with school excursions using private transport. It’s best to do this early in the year.

CLASS NEWS- MRS ELLIOTT’S CLASS- Our Primary class has 12 students Yrs. 3-6. Our Integrated Topic to be covered this term includes; Orientation, skin protection, Food and Farming. We will begin some cooking sessions from Wk. 4 which can be integrated into our theme. Gardening sessions will occur every fortnight. If any parents can help in this area it would be very much appreciated. Please let Megan know which day would suit which will determine when we cook…..

Requisites and Texts; See fee list at end of Newsletter. Could parents please pay for all online programs ASAP. We will not be using a maths text book this year, as teachers will photocopy relevant parts. If any parents have financial issues in paying fees upfront, please see Megan who is happy to come to other suitable arrangements. We like to get students organised and working as soon as possible for optimum educational outcomes. Primary students require similar class items that they do every year. i.e. 3 x A4 display folders; Home Reading, Homework and Portfolio (available from school if necessary for $2 each), fruit each day for Crunch and Sip, a water bottle and school hat, own scissors, pens, pencils, glue stick, textas, ruler, rubber, USB stick, own head phones for computer work, library bag and they should still have their art smock at school. Thanks for keeping organised and looking forward to another wonderful year together.

K/1/2
Welcome back everyone! We wish to extend a warm welcome back to our previous K/1/2 students and a big welcome to our new Kindergarten students. While books and stationery is provided for K/1/2 students, there are a few things which children will need to bring to school. We have 16 students in our K-2 class.

- **Hats**- School hats are required each day for play and PE lessons
- **Water bottles**- We have water coolers which the students can use to refill their water bottles throughout the day. We encourage children to drink plenty of water at school.
- **Sunblock and Insect Repellent**- Please ensure that children arrive at school with sunblock and insect repellent applied. There is sunblock and insect repellent in the K/1/2 classroom, which I will assist the students to apply before going out to lunch if needed. If your child has a sensitivity to particular repellents, please let teachers know and if possible, send a suitable repellent to school for your child to use.
- **Crunch and Sip**- Students are asked to bring some extra fresh fruit/veg to eat during their Crunch and Sip break. K/1/2 have their Crunch and Sip as soon as they enter the classroom each day as we mark the roll. This snack helps to sustain their energy and concentration through till 11am when they have lunch. Students are also encouraged to drink their water at this point. Juice is accepted, but water is preferred. Fruit and Vegetables must be fresh (ie. No fruit bars), and some students may like to have their fruit and veg with yoghurt. If cutting is required, please cut fruit and vegetables prior to packing in lunchboxes. Each day student’s eat a healthy snack for Crunch and Sip they receive a sticker on our reward chart and earn prizes throughout the term.
- **Toothbrushes**- Each year K12 discuss the importance of good dental hygiene. Colgate provides the school with lessons, an educational DVD to watch, as well as a class set of toothbrush and toothpaste packs. These packs will be handed out to students this week, and will be used to brush their teeth after recess each day. To ensure that these toothbrushes are kept clean, please provide a labeled toothbrush travel case for your child/ren to store their toothbrush and toothpaste in. If your child requires particular toothpaste, or they wish to bring in a special toothbrush, this is completely fine also.
- **Homework folder**- A4 display folder.
- **Home Reading Folder**- Cardboard file.
- **Portfolio folder**- A4 display folder.
- **Art/Paint shirt or smock** (Mum or Dads old T-shirt will do)
• **Spare underwear** (Particularly Kindergarten) - Children are encouraged to go to the bathroom very regularly (especially at the beginning of the year), however accidents do sometimes happen. Please place a spare pair of underwear in your child’s bag, and let your child know that they are there.

Please make sure that all personal belongings are clearly labeled with your child’s name.

**Work Books** - ALL K-6 Students will be given their exercise books this week to take home and cover. Covering books helps to protect the lovely work that the students do, so it is something we encourage. If you are unable to cover your child’s books straight away, please return the books to school so that students can continue working in them and we can send them home at another time.

There will be more information in the newsletter in weeks to come, but if you have any questions, please come and see staff.

**News from Mrs Margan**

Welcome back. 2016 is already shaping up to be a busy and productive year. I will still oversee home reading progress on a weekly basis.

Please remember that home reading should never be a chore. There are several ways a family can approach this to ensure children enjoy reading:

- You can read with your child. (take turns)
- Make reading a part of the quiet bedtime routine.
- Read to your child.
- Have fun making up a story or predicting what you are about to read.
- Read a story and act it out.
- Read together and make up a different ending.
- Have an older child listen to or read to a younger child.
- Read something that interests you and your child, e.g. magazine articles, movie reviews etc.

Remember, learning is not always formal but should always be fun. Make the most of all opportunities to encourage your children to participate in activities which will stimulate, motivate and engage them. More information will be provided at our upcoming parent information session. It’s great to be back and I am looking forward to a fantastic year.

**P & C NEWS**

Our P & C are very involved in our school and would love to invite new parents to come along to whatever school functions and activities are being organised. Hope to see you at our first informal get together which is the pool day with the staff.

P&C AGM will be held on Tuesday 1st March in school library at 3.15pm Child minding will be provided. All positions will be declared vacant. If you have an interest in a P&C positions please text or email Kirstie Jolly on 0409017071 or kirstie.jolly@bigpond.com. Any items for general business that you wish to be discussed then please add them to the Agenda that will be held in the school office or text or email the item to Kirstie Jolly.

**UNIFORMS**: All students are expected to wear proper school uniform each day at school including **school hat** when outdoors. Lowes carries our basic colours and our P&C can make orders from a supplier.

**Canteen - Fridays**: Place your lunch orders, name and money in a paper bag and leave in the box at assembly. Helpers are always welcome if you can spare the time any Friday morning. Please see attached Canteen Menu and request for parent helpers form.

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**Canteen Helpers**

Name .............................................  Phone ..........................................

I can volunteer once a

☐ Term  ☐ Month  ☐ Fortnight
PARENT HELPERS

We are looking for parents helpers this year in all areas. If you have any special expertise that can help our school please let us know. It can mean anything from reading with the children to gardening or your special skill.

Special Skill: .......................................................... Day/Time ..........................................................

Reading helper .................................................. Day/time ..........................................................

Home Reader change overs .......................................................... Day/time ..........................................................

Cooking program helper .......................................................... Day/time ..........................................................

General tidy upper .......................................................... Day/time ..........................................................

Gardening help .......................................................... Day/time ..........................................................

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

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Parent Permission Form for students attending Surf School and beach games as part of Sport in Schools program on Fridays 3.30 - 4.30pm starting Friday 5th February

I hereby give my K – 2 child/ren .......................................................... permission to participate in beach games for AASCP on 4 x Fridays beginning Fri 5th Feb to Fri 26th Feb at 3.30pm to 4.30pm. They will not be swimming.

My 3 – 6 child/ren .......................................................... have permission to participate in Port Stephens Surf School on 4 x Fridays beginning Fri 5th Feb to Fri 26th Feb at 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

I can help with transport ........... I can transport .............. children including my own children.

I cannot help with transport but my child will be travelling with ..........................................................

Signed .................................................................. Date ..........................................................

Good for Kids good for life

Packing a Healthy Lunchbox

Many products marketed as being a healthy lunchbox addition can be high in sugar and fat, and low in nutrients. Here are some healthy options to consider swapping in your child’s lunchbox:

- An apple or banana instead of a fruit roll-up.
- Swap chips for unsalted popcorn.
- Include low-fat plain milk instead of drinks high in sugar such as sports drinks and fruit drinks with less than 99% juice.
- Swap sugary snacks, such as cake or biscuits, for a low-fat plain/fruit-based yoghurt.
- Use wholemeal or multi-grain bread instead of white bread for sandwiches.

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