Principal’s Report

Mrs Banks on Leave
Unfortunately I have to report that Mrs Banks has had to take leave for the rest of the term. Mrs Bonventi will be Relieving Principal in her absence. We really look forward to Mrs Banks return next term.
Mr Herron will take on the duties of Stage 3 Leader.

Year 6 Getting Ready for High School …..Really?
Yes, all Year 6 children (except those going to the District Swimming Carnival) will travel to Nambucca Heads High School for the first Transition Day for the year. The children will meet the Principal, teachers and some children from other schools. They will carry out scientific experiments, enjoy morning tea and lunch together and play some games. The children are really looking forward to the day.

Stage 3 Get Set for An Adventure
This Year Stage 3 are planning an excursion to Barrington Outdoor Education via Gloucester. A range of activities are planned including a visit to Copeland Gold Mine, Barrington Tops National Park and camping. More info out later.

Our Kids are Cyber Wiser
A big thank you to parents for organising payment for today’s show. This is what some of our students thought:

- Darcy - “He’s Mr Funny Guy.”
- Kellara - “I loved the show.”
- Lucy - “It was funny. He showed you how to deal with problems. He reminded us to be careful about what you say and do.”
- Jackson - “A good way to show the consequences of using the internet.”
- Benny - “He was really funny and went through the 4 privacy settings.”
- Jayden - “I loved Steve!”
- Bailey - “Really cool costumes”
- Brittany - “He was so quick when getting changed.”

Andy was fantastic and taught us that sometimes best friends can do silly things and it’s important to stay in control.

Follow the three don’ts:
- Don’t engage
- Don’t get upset
- Don’t show the bully that you care

For older students, remember you need to be 13 years or older for Facebook and keep your setting and your timeline private.
P&C News
Donations for Easter Raffle
It’s almost that yummy time of year again and the P&C are holding their Easter Raffle with the giant 10kg block of chocolate as first prize. Tickets will come home shortly and we are asking our generous school community to help with minor prizes by donating Easter eggs and other Easterly things that we can use to make prizes. Last year we had over 40 prizes thanks to your generosity and we hope to do the same again. Eggs can be left in the tub at the office.

P&C AGM
The next meeting of the P&C will be the AGM followed by a General Meeting. It will be held in the hall on 18th March at 6.30pm. It would be great to welcome some new faces. Current members need to pay their $1 annual fee to the treasurer before the next meeting.

Winter Uniform Orders
Orders need to be in by 6th March to ensure orders are back before the end of term. If you need an order form you can get one from the office. No excess winter uniforms will be ordered due to a lack of storage space so if you think you will need one please order now.
Spelling and De-Mystifying the English Language - Maybe?

The history of our language is both interesting and complex. Below is some information about how some of the words in our language have developed. I hope you find it interesting.

Words from Germanic Anglo-Saxon (woman, Wednesday) and old Norse (trust, give) were mixed with words from the church’s Latin (annual, bishop) and Norman French (beef, war). Pronunciation changed dramatically in England between 1350 and 1700 (The Great Vowel Shift), and scribes paid by the character added letters to words. Money helped develop the complexity of the English language.

Science and Technology and The Enlightenment added words, often based on Greek or Latin (anthropology, phone, school), wars and globalization added even more, like “verandah” from Hindi, “tomato” from Nahuatl (Aztec) via Spanish, and “Yakka” from Yagara (an Australian Indigenous language). Words are also continually being invented and added to contemporary dictionaries. Words like demo, Blu-tack, herogram, sciency were all added to the Oxford dictionary in 2014. The Macquarie Dictionary 2014 word of the year was mansplain (how men explain things!) I’m looking forward to hearing this word in conversations.

Words from other languages typically carry their spelling patterns into English. So, for example, the spelling “ch” represents different sounds in words drawn from Germanic (cheap, rich, such), Greek (chemist, anchor, echo) and French (chef, brochure, parachute). Are you starting to realise why learning to spell is so difficult for children when the same letters make several different sounds!

Our originally Latin alphabet has only 26 letters for the 44 sounds in modern Australian English. To master our spelling system, children must grasp that words are made of sounds represented by letters, that sometimes we use two, three or four letters for a sound (feet, bridge, caught), that most sounds have several spellings (her, first, nurse, works, early), and that many spellings represent a few sounds (food, look, flood, brooch).

As you can see English has one of the most difficult spelling systems of any language, due to the way it has been developed.

A component of teaching spelling in our school is the etymology of words, the study of the history and origins of words which help students understand where words have come from. Explanations of word origins help to de-mystify the language for children. Did it help you?

(Article taken in part form Alison Clarke Speech Pathologist)
Canteen Roster

Thursday 26th
Helen

Friday 27th
Vicky Marriott

Wednesday 4th
Helen

Thursday 5th
Helen

Friday 6th
Rhiannon Weaver

Where in the World is Seemore?

This term, find Seemore visiting somewhere in the world. He might be somewhere local or he might be visiting another country or a famous location.

This week's clue is:

E_______ P______

Fill in the slip provided and place in the Seemore box at the office to win a $2 Canteen Voucher. Two winners will be drawn - one from Yrs K-2 and one from Yrs 3-6.

Entries to office by Friday Morning. Winners will be announced at Fridays Assembly.

Stars of the Week - Friday 20 February 2015


Students of the Week

Roxanne Hall, Sami Spokes-Langenbaker, Will Bournes, Poppie Edwards, Sonny Breckenridge, Nate Morrison, Cooper Parry, Landon Brown, Jasmine Dell, Kobi Loughton, Mia Kelsey

Students of the Week

Stage 1 Stars of the Week

Photographs at School

We realize that parents and family love to take photos of their children at various functions at school. The rules around taking photos of students at school are very complicated and unless the photographer has the permission of all their subjects they can't take photos.

We have a number of students for various reasons that can't be photographed. As such we have tried to simplify the taking of photos at school without totally banning them, by asking parents to try and only take photos of their own children. If the photographer has other students in the background please don't place the images on any digital media such as Facebook and don't identify the other students by name. We are happy for parents to just use the photos for personal use. Obviously photos of your own child you can use in any way you wish.

You will notice that in the Newsletter we are trialing not including student's full names of our incidental photos taken around the school. If parents have any concerns regarding these arrangements please contact the school.
Head Lice – Stop the Spread
Schools are great breeding grounds for head lice. They do not discriminate and like clean hair. If you notice your child scratching please check and see if your child has head lice. Let’s try and stop the spread.

Chemists have treatments or parents can use a very fine comb with some white conditioner and remove the eggs and louse. Even after chemist treatments it is recommended that the eggs be removed as there is still a chance that the eggs can hatch and a re-infestation can occur. The conditioner and comb is a good back up to this. Tying up long hair can help eliminate the chance of catching or spreading the lice.

The school recommends a weekly check of hair. Happy searching! Thank you for your support.

All about apostrophes
Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here’s an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.

When older kids struggle with reading
Should you let your reluctant teen reader choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they’re heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page.

Check it Out!
Don’t forget to check your Skoolbag app for notices info and newsletters.
We have also posted a calendar showing school terms etc.
Mid North Coast Swimming Carnival

The Mid North Coast Swimming Carnival will be held at the Coffs Harbour Swimming Pool tomorrow Thursday 26\textsuperscript{th} February.

Congratulations to the following children who have qualified for the Mid North Coast Swimming Carnival.

Daniel Williams - 8 years 50m Freestyle and Junior Backstroke
Elle Holladay - 8 years 50m Freestyle
Wilson Baade - 9 years 50m Freestyle
Liam Jones - 11 years 50m Freestyle
Amisha Marican - 13 years 50m Freestyle and Senior Breaststroke
Ella Williams - 11 years Backstroke
Domynique Byrt - Senior Butterfly
Monty Wilson - Senior Butterfly
Sumah Robins - Junior Butterfly
Senior Boy Relay - Monty Wilson, Liam Jones, Will McKinney and Koelby Welsh

Sport Choices – Stage 2 and 3

Unfortunately sport choices could not start last Friday due to the weather. Sport choices will now start this Friday 27\textsuperscript{th} February and finish on Friday 27\textsuperscript{th} March. This means sport choices will still last for 5 weeks. All children in Stage 2 and 3 should know which sport they are in. If children are in doubt they should see Mr Katte. Most children received their first choice. The only sport that didn’t have enough to form a group was Volleyball / Newcomb ball. Only 8 children chose this sport. Fishing people will need to pay Mr Herron $2 on Friday for bait for the 5 weeks or give Mr Herron your bait when you arrive at school each Friday. Bait needs to be packed in a sealed bag so it doesn’t leak in the fridge. Dancers will need to pay Mr Katte. If Dancers pay this Friday the cost is $10 for the 5 weeks. If you pay weekly it is $3 a week.