Welcome Back

It has been lovely to see everyone back at school after having a safe and happy holiday. We welcome back Mrs Pearson and Mrs Oram to our school. It is great to have them working in our school again.

Classes and Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Mrs Shields and Mrs Carroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3/4</td>
<td>Miss Currey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Mr Hynds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Teacher</td>
<td>Ms Wheen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Ms Wheen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Mrs Oram</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFF</td>
<td>Mrs Pearson</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administration Manager</td>
<td>Mrs Chapman</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administration Officer</td>
<td>Mrs Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Assistant</td>
<td>Mrs Hulbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLSO</td>
<td>Mrs Vaha</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Assistant</td>
<td>Mr Eugene</td>
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Once our numbers go in to the Department in Week 3 we should be able to form our fourth class starting Week 4. This class will be shared with Mrs Oram and Mrs Pearson. Our classes will then be K/1, 2/3, 4/5 and 6. This configuration is how the numbers fall to have similar numbers in the class and no split grades.

School Swimming Carnival

Our school swimming carnival is on Monday 4th February. Details of the champions will be in the next school newsletter. Thank you to the parents who were able to bring their children along and those who assisted on the day.

Library

Library will be held on Thursdays this year for all classes. Library lessons will be with Mrs Oram this year.

Sport

Sport will still be conducted on Fridays as normal.

Active After-school Communities Program

We are participating in the Active After-school Communities Program again this year.

We will be having gymnastic lessons on Fridays and the students will be learning gymnastic skills. We have a gymnastic coach coming to instruct the students. This program will be held every Friday for 7 weeks. The starting date is yet to be confirmed. There is no cost involved for the students to participate in this program.

Posting Photographs to Facebook and the Web

Parents are reminded not to post photographs taken at school to Facebook or the web as they may contain images of other students. Many parents do not wish to have images of their children posted on the web and their privacy must be respected. In order to publish such images written permission is required from the parents of every student in the photograph.

It is also timely to remind everyone that even though the use of social networking sites is integrated into our everyday lives, comments posted on sites are available for everyone to read. Hence, users need to be aware that there are legal risks involved in regard to privacy, disclosure and breach of confidence and also defamation. We would strongly advise that comments and the use of the school's, student's, parent's and teacher's names may place you at risk in this regard and suggest careful consideration to be taken before any postings.

P & C Meeting

The February P & C meeting will be held this Tuesday 5th February at 7.30 pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend.
Class Equipment

Listed below is the equipment we would like each child to have to assist with their class work this year. It would be appreciated if all items are labelled with your child’s name.

Kindergarten -
- Art shirt (t-shirt)
- Change of underwear

Year 1 -
- H Pencil x 6
- Coloured pencils
- Rubber
- Sharpener

Years 2/3/4 -
- H pencils x 6
- 30cm clear plastic ruler
- Sharpener
- Rubber
- Glue stick
- 2 Clip folders
- 1 A4 Display book
  (spiral bound with plastic sleeves)
- Art shirt
- Coloured pencils
- Highlighters
- Textas (optional)
- Scissors (optional)

Years 5/6 -
- Coloured pencils
- Textas
- H pencils x 6
- 30cm ruler
- Sharpener
- Rubber
- Compass set (optional)
- Calculator (optional)
- Red/Blue ballpoint pens
- Glue stick
- Scissors (optional)
- Pocket Dictionary (optional)
- Highlighters (optional)
- 2 Clip folders
- 1 Loose leaf folder

**** NOT NEEDED - Liquid paper

Clothing and Equipment

Please label all clothing, equipment and personal belongings with your child’s name. This makes it much easier to keep track of personal property.

General Information Form

Attached to the newsletter is a green General Information Form. We need this to be completed for every child attending our school so we can update our information. It is extremely important to include a mobile phone number in the rare event that we need to contact you in an emergency. We need to have this form back to school by this Friday 8th February.

Permission To Publish

Attached to this newsletter is a General Permission to Publish form. Please read through the form and return it to school by this Friday 8th February.

Medication at School

If your child needs to take medication at school a medication form needs to be filled out and handed into the office. The form tells us the type of medication, when it is needed to be taken, how it is to be stored and if it needs to go home each day. A medication form is attached to the newsletter for your files. If you need another one at any time please contact the school office.

Student Workbooks

The students will be using workbooks in their classes in Maths and Handwriting. An order form for the maths workbooks, mental homework books and handwriting is attached to the newsletter. It lists the requirements for each grade and the cost.

Students will be issued these books once they have been paid for. If you require a receipt for the workbooks for tax purposes please let us know by either indicating on the order form or contacting Mrs Chapman in the office.

Voluntary School Contributions

Voluntary School contributions are set at $30 per child or $60 per family for each year. The contribution is used to purchase photocopying paper to reproduce work for classes and materials needed in the classrooms.

Mobile Phones, Ipods & Games

As is our normal school policy, we would ask that mobile phones, ipods and electronic games be left at home as we do not take responsibility for their loss or damage. If children need them for activities after school or for news items we ask that they are handed to their class teacher in the morning to be returned at the end of the day.

Hats

A reminder that all students need to bring their hats to school everyday. If they do not have a school hat then children need to bring a hat with a broad brim that protects the ears and the neck. This is part of the Sun Safe Policy and we want all the students to have the opportunity to play. “No hat no play”.

An Akubra hat may be purchased from the school office for $30. If paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to “Bilpin Public School P & C Association”.

Morning and Afternoon Arrangements

Students should not be dropped off at school before 8.45am unless it has been arranged with staff. Emergencies do arise and we understand that your children may need to come to school early, but it would be appropriate to ask if there will be any staff at school at that time.

If you have to change arrangements for after school, please send a note to the class teacher or ring the office before 3.00pm.

Absences

The students are required to be at school every day of the school year. There are times when students are sick or have appointments or have unavoidable family reasons for being absent from school. All absences must be explained either by a note or a verbal explanation. Please note that the school should be informed of long absences like family holidays before they are taken. Attached to the newsletter is a sheet of absences notes that will make it easier for you to fill in and return to school on the next day after the absence.
Canteen News

Welcome back everyone. Hope you all had a lovely holiday. The canteen will reopen on Thursday 7th February. A new menu and price list is attached to this newsletter.

A volunteers roster is attached for parents who would like to help out for Term 1. A big welcome to all of the new Kindergarten parents. If you and/or a friend would like to volunteer, please fill in the roster and send it back to Mrs Chapman in the school office. I would be happy to help guide new volunteers through the processes and answer any of your questions. The kids love to see their parents helping out in the canteen and it is a wonderful way to meet other parents and join in the school community.

Angie Pirie

Commonwealth School Banking

An application for school banking has been attached to this newsletter, for those students who currently do not bank through the school.

Banking day is each Monday. Bank books will be returned to your child by the end of each week in time for banking the following Monday. If you need any further information please see Mrs Chapman in the school office.

Before And After School Care

Before and After School Care is available utilising the service of the Kurrajong and District Before and After School Care at McMahons Park Kurrajong. Parents wishing to utilise this service for their children can pick up applications from the school office. A bond of $100 is required and there is an annual $20 admin to the maximum cost of $40 per family. Each application must include a Centrelink Registration Number (CRN). Students utilising after school care will be dropped off and picked up at our school by the Before and After School Care bus. A reminder that applications will only be successful if there is space available.

Scripture

Scripture will commence on Wednesday 13th February. Please make sure you have completed the green General Information form with your choice of scripture classes for the year. Once Scripture begins for the year there will be no changes made to the choice of class as this causes disruption to the classes.

Kindergarten/Year 1 Information

Welcome to school for 2013!

K/1 children will need a Library bag each week for borrowing books. Library will be on Thursday.

Generally in class we share coloured pencils, glue and scissors.

A change of underwear is also handy to keep in school bags.

Could each child please bring in a photo of themselves for Star of the Week. These photos will be returned later in the year.

News days this Term are as follows:

Monday - Ryley, Damon, Ariarn, Harry B
Tuesday - Beau, Abby, Harry E, Lachlan
Wednesday - Jahvis, Sasha, Zak
Thursday - Mitchell, Aliza, Zane
Friday - Nikola, Alana, Joel, Dion

Kindergarten will start the Jolly Phonics program this week. In the Jolly Phonics program we start with a short story about the sound. Then we learn an action to go with that sound. Our first sounds are s,a,t,i. We will also send a set of sound cards for these sounds so they can practise them at home.

Year 1 will also be starting Spelling this week. Each night they need to practise their words using Look Cover Write Check in preparation for a test each fortnight

Mrs J. Shields and Mrs S. Carroll

How to place a lunch order :-

Please use a dark coloured pen and write your child's name and class on the bottom of the paper lunch bag.

Please list all items and prices and total. Include the amount enclosed in the bag and change if required.

Please notify your child if there is likely to be change so that their money is not thrown out.

Lunch money is to be placed inside the bag and the bag folded to secure. If you are using a large amount of coinage please wrap in glad wrap, foil or place in an envelope or small plastic bag. Please no staples or tape.

Please note that ice blocks and recess items are not to be ordered on the lunch orders.

WILLOW MAINTENANCE ENTERPRISES

Local stump grinding and chain saw sharpening

No job to big or small.....

‘you find em—I’ll grind em’

Call Dave Wilson for a obligation free quote on 0417 671 015

UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY

University of Western Sydney - Great Western Highway, Werrington North (Building AO)

FAMILY ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

Saturday 9 & 16 February – 8pm – 10pm

These nights will include a multimedia presentation, a 3D movie and stargazing through the University’s computerised telescopes (weather permitting).

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family.

Bookings are essential:

Book online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What’s On

Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au
7 ways to make this year your child's best year ever at school

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are seven ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time.** One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well.** A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work & study habits.** The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep.** Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their well-being and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assist future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bed-time and get-up time each day. Have 45 minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. **Encourage kids to exercise.** Kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage kids to play sport, promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

6. **Focus on being friendly.** Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social situations each day. Encourage kids to be open and tolerant; to be friendly; to be involved in plenty of activities and to be social risk-takers.

7. **Develop self-help skills.** Successful students are often well-organised, self-directed and self-motivated. You can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-appropriate self-help skills related to their every day lives. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and organising after school schedules can be great lessons that impact on how kids perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are more likely to adopt changes than at any other time. Make the most of the opportunity by focusing on two or three areas to really focus on and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place.