WELCOME
I am very pleased to be able to welcome you all to a new school year. Our students in years 1 to 6 returned today and it was great to see their happy faces and fantastic quality of school uniform. A particular welcome to new students and parents.
I again look forward to working with the staff and parents to ensure that students are provided with learning opportunities that meet their needs, are purposeful, stimulating and fun.

CLASSES
A big welcome to the 12 new students who enrolled today. We expect another 44 kindergarten students to commence on Monday. Our numbers for 2013 are just over 330 which means we have 13 mainstream classes. There will be some student movement between classes over the next few days.
At this stage classes and teachers are:
K G  Mrs Griffin              3/4S        Mr Stephens
K B  Miss Bashforth        3/4H       Mrs Hargreaves
1M    Mrs McGivern         4/5W       Mrs Woods
1 B    Mrs ODonnell        5/6C        Miss Christian
1/2E    Miss Essery        5/6L        Mrs Lengyel
2 G     Mrs Greenlaw        5/6E        Mrs Ensor
2/3J   Mrs Jordan        K/6Y     Mrs Yabsley
Mrs Cameron will be relieving for Mrs Yabsley for the first 6 weeks of term.

ADDITIONAL STAFF
Library Mrs Rologas
Learning Support Mrs Timms
Reading Recover and RFF Ms Seymour
Technology and RFF Mr Lloyd
Counsellor Jan Brownlow
Writing Coordinator Mrs Cambridge
Our current administrative staff are:
Margaret Darney, Jenny Furber and Jody Pearce
Support officers include Lelarnie O’Sullivan, Louise Carr, Jan Savage, Maria Shambler, Valmay Rutherford, Sue Lander and Karen Veselis. General Assistant is Norman Smylie and our cleaner Cosette Browning.

SCHOOL LEADERS
Our school captains for 2013 are Zoe Arias Walker and Joshua Brett. Vice captains are Cleo Heath, Lily McVeigh, Shaun Booth and Julian Dorfer. I am sure they will be marvellous school representatives in 2013. Processes will soon commence to determine other student leadership positions. These include Yr 6 Parliament, sporting captains and library and bus monitors. There will be an induction ceremony for school leaders on Friday 22 February commencing at 1.00pm. More information about this soon.

UNIFORMS
It was fantastic to see so many students in full school uniform today. I believe the wearing of uniform has a strong impact on school image and pride and encourage all students to wear full school uniform every day. This includes school hats which are required to be worn in the playground at all times as part of our “Sunsafe Policy”. Uniform items are available for purchase at the front office.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
The term calendar has been sent home with today’s newsletter. Please update as needed.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
House meetings will be held tomorrow Thursday 31 January to elect house captains and commence planning for our swimming carnival. Our swimming carnival will be held on Friday 8 February.
The carnival will take place during the day at Mullumbimby Pool. Students will leave school by bus at 9.15am and we expect the carnival to be over by around 2.00pm. The carnival involves students in years 2 who turn 8 this year through to year 6. It is a trial for the next carnival and focuses mainly on capable swimmers. Notes regarding the carnival will go home soon. We hope to have great parent support on the day.

KINDERGARTEN COMMENCEMENT
Kindergarten will commence on Monday 4 February and initially meet at 9.30am in the hall. We would like to take the time to take photos of all kindergarten students and their parents. This will be taken as soon as students are registered and receive name tags. There will be a morning tea for parents when students move off to classes. Tissues supplied if necessary.
THE P&C EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO NEW PARENTS

The first P&C meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday 12 February commencing at 7 pm in the staff room. This is a great opportunity for new parents to find out more about our school community and become involved in shaping the future of our school. The key focus of our P & C is to provide a forum in which parents can talk about needs and aspirations for their children and contribute to a developing partnership with the school. Fund raising activities have contributed towards reading materials, school welfare and special needs.

Our first meeting will focus on planning, priorities for 2013, programs to be offered, fundraising and its purpose, school maintenance issues, creative arts programs, the school canteen and upcoming school events.

A reminder that our AGM takes place on 19 March. To be able to vote at this meeting you must be a financial member of the P & C prior to the meeting. IE You need to join before the AGM. (Membership is $2)

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

The first P & C activity of the year is the annual “Teddy Bears Picnic” to be held on Sunday 3 March. This will focus on kindergarten students, year 6 buddies and parents. Please keep this date free. More details soon.

2013 CREATIVE ARTS

Music

Our involvement with the conservatorium of music will continue in 2013. If you have not yet registered with the Conservatorium of Music please do so soon so lessons can commence. The Conservatorium takes pride in providing Professional Music Teachers to deliver instrument tuition in our school. Parents, If you would like your child to learn an instrument at school this year, please enrol them by going to our website www.nrcac.edu.au and clicking on ENROL at the bottom of the page. For more information about Music in Schools or to request a new instrument at your school, you can contact Zoe at zoe.abbott@nrcac.edu.au

We will also be offering our keyboard program on Tuesdays. Contact the school for more information.

Elective Creative Arts

This K-6 program will commence in week 4. Information on electives will be sent home next week so students can be placed in their respective groups.

BIKE SAFETY

It is strongly recommended that only students in years 3 and above travel to school by bike without parent supervision. The area outside our school is extremely busy and younger students often do not have the hearing or vision to safely cope with busy traffic. All students travelling by bike must wear an approved helmet.

COMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

On Friday all parents should receive a letter from their child’s teacher in regard to classroom requirements, learning programs and planned activities for term 1. A similar letter will go home each term so that you are fully informed about what is happening in your child’s education. We will not be having parent / teacher evenings this term.

Parents are encouraged to organise individual meetings with teachers if they need to do so. This is best done by contacting the school office to organise an appointment time.

PERMISSION NOTES

General permission notes will be sent home today with the newsletter. These cover attendance at local walking excursions and permission to have photographs taken and used in newsletters, our website and the media. We are also sending out forms for parents to update contact details, phone numbers and email addresses. Please return this information to us as soon as possible.

CANTEEN

Our first canteen day for 2013 is next Friday 8 February. We desperately need more volunteers for our roster so if you are available to assist please contact the school or Mandy Borthwick on 66801158 or 0428173026.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Our school is part of a trial occupational therapy program for students in years 1 and 2. This program will commence next week. A meeting with parents of students involved is scheduled for Thursday 14 February.

SCIENCE MEETING

Science will a major focus in 2013. We have a teacher appointed to teach science two days per week and have many special events organised included the CSIRO visit in term 3. To coordinate our Science plan we will have a science meeting at 8.30am tomorrow Thursday 31 January. All interested parents welcome.

COMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Feb 4 – Kindergarten commence
Feb 8 – Swimming Carnival
Feb 12 – P & C Meeting
Feb 12 – Pancake day
Feb 15 – District Swimming
Feb 19 – 5/6L to markets
Feb 19 – Scripture/Ethics starts
Feb 19 – Creative Arts program commences
Feb 22 – Leaders Induction

Looking forward to a fantastic year.

Thanks
Chris Hauritz