EDUCATION MINISTERS VISIT

We are very excited to announce that we will have a special visit from the State Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, next Thursday 20 August. We will have our school Captains meet and greet with the Minister, along with Gina Brough as our P&C representative to help showcase our beautiful school with a walk and talk tour. Mr Piccoli is a huge supporter of our public schools and loves nothing more than getting the chance to visit with the kids in schools across the state. We will all love the chance to show off our small part of the world at Ocean Shores.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM

2016 Kindergarten students are invited to come in to participate in our Coming To School Transition Program which consists of our introductory Teddy Bears Picnic and half day Kindergarten Transition Day Program with Parent Information Sessions, to best prepare students and families for the exciting move into Kindergarten.

Firstly, our Teddy Bears Picnic will be held on Monday 24 August, 9.30 – 12.00, which will feature a special performance assembly, classroom activities and then an exciting Teddy Bears Picnic with our current Kindergarten students. Don’t forget to bring your favourite teddy bear!

Our Kindergarten Transition Program is five half day visits to our Kindergarten classrooms with our 2016 Kindergarten teachers to enable students to experience all that our amazing school offers. This will commence in week 4 next term. Students will attend school each day to participate in many wonderful activities to better prepare them for their start next year. This will ensure that your child is given the best start to their school life, preparing them for success when they commence school next year. The program will run on the following days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session #1</td>
<td>Monday 26 October</td>
<td>9.30 – 11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session #2</td>
<td>Monday 2 November</td>
<td>9.30 – 12.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session #3</td>
<td>Monday 9 November</td>
<td>9.30 – 12.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session #4</td>
<td>Monday 16 November</td>
<td>9.30 – 12.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session #5</td>
<td>Monday 23 November</td>
<td>9.30 – 12.15</td>
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Parent Information Sessions will be held on the first two days to provide parents with vital information about our school and for your child to start school, so please book these dates and contact our school office on 6680 2766 to register your child to attend. We cannot wait to meet all of the new kiddies who will start school next year.

FAR NORTH COAST ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

We wish our 21 competitors who will attend the Far North Coast Athletics Carnival tomorrow, Friday 14 August. I know they will run and jump and throw their best to ensure they can continue to compete at the next carnival. The kids will be accompanied by Mr Stephens and Mr Robinson. Thank you to our parents for supporting the kids. Good luck everyone.

TOUCH FOOTBALL KNOCKOUT

Our boys Touch Football team played the round 5 match of the State Touch Football Knockout against the team from Centaur PS. Despite playing very well, our boys lost the game 7-4. I know that Mr Stephens was very proud of the effort and style that the boys played with. They are a credit to themselves and their families. The photo below is of both teams after the match. Well done boys!

CANTEEN OPEN TOMORROW

Please be reminded that our canteen is open again tomorrow, operating with a limited menu. Thank you again to Michelle and our other volunteers for giving up your time to provide the canteen for our kids.

P&C MEETING

An early alert for community members that we have our next P&C meeting coming up in 2 weeks time, on Monday 24 August, commencing at 7.00pm. We hope you can make the time to come in to have your say in your school.

OOSH UPDATE

Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of an information letter inviting interested community members to attend an information session about our new OOSH. We will have staff here from Camp Australia here to provide some details about the establishment of our new After School Care, which is due to commence operating on the first day of next term. We hope you are available to attend this public meeting in our school library commencing at 6.30pm before we start our P&C meeting. We hope to see you there.
SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

We have recently had a spate of tragic house fires across the region, resulting in the loss of all personal belongings for many involved. Our school community has also been directly affected by recent house fires with 3 of our students having lost everything in two different house fires.

Late last term we had the Chilcott family lose everything in a house fire at Sleepy Hollow, with the family still struggling to find suitable accommodation here in the Ocean Shores area. I have spoken to Richard who has passed on that they are keeping positive and trying hard to find a new a new place to live.

And then last Friday, we had our very own Ammie Doyle, a staff member from our support unit lose everything in a house fire that looks like it was started due to an electrical fault. Ammie and her family have been lucky to secure new rental accommodation to get settled in a new home, but they also lost everything in the fire.

I know that many within our school community have offered help and assistance to both families since the fires created chaos in their lives and I know that both families appreciate the support they have been offered. Here at school, we would like to do a fundraising activity for both families where the students get to come to school and participate in two disco’s, one this term with a regular but incredibly cool DJ, and then for something a little different, a silent disco early next term where the kids get to dance around with wireless headphones. All money raised through these activities will go towards both the Chilcott and the Doyle families to help provide needed financial support to rebuild their lives and their family homes.

As well as the discos, we will also have a donation box at the front office for cash donations to start coming in to support both of these local families. You might also have furniture or whitegoods or even kids toys in quality condition you might be able to donate. We are happy to coordinate a list of available items and contact details that we can pass on to both families. Please contact the school office on 6680 2766 if you have anything you could donate to this worthy cause.

Statistics reveal that almost half of all home fires are started in the kitchen and 43% of all fire fatalities occur in winter. The key to reducing the risk of fire occurring in your home and to surviving a house fire is being prepared. Everyone in your household should understand what risks there are in your home and what to do to minimise them. I urge everyone in our community to visit the NSW Fire and Rescue website at [http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) to minimise your risk of fire.

CHANGE OF ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS

We need to remind parents that if your child is not going to travel home at the end of the day by their usual method, we need to receive written notice of the change of routine. We try very hard to ensure that every child is safe and leaves the school of an afternoon via the method indicated by parents (bus, private transport, walking) but we often get kids telling us they are walking home with friends, or going home with a friends parent.

Please note that we are not allowed to release your child from the school unless we are aware of their pre-arranged method of getting home. In most cases, students will stick to the same routine and travel home each day by the same method. However, if you decide that for a particular day that a change of routine is necessary, then you must alert the school to this change so we are not then madly trying to contact parents to get approval to let your child go home via an alternate method. We would ask the courtesy of a written note to your class teacher at the beginning of the day to explain the change of routine for that afternoon. If organised late in the day, then a phone call to the office will provide the approval for staff to release the kids into the care of another person. Please be aware that the office gets very busy at the end of the day so please do not leave your call too late. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter as the end of day duty is seeing more and more kids explaining a change of routine without the proper authority.

THE BIG VEGIE CRUNCH

Less than half of Australian children eat the recommended 5 serves of vegetables per day, while most eat 2 serves of fruit. To help raise awareness about the benefits of eating vegies, our school is participating in the Big Vegie Crunch. This is an attempt to set a record for the greatest number of children eating vegetables at a given time

When: August 27th at 11am
What do you need to do: pack your child a vegetable to crunch on for the day. Don’t forget to encourage them to eat vegetables at home as well as at school.

OPERATION DOLPHIN

WEEK 4 – RUBBISH IN THE BINS AND KEEP THE CLASSROOMS AND PLAYGROUND CLEAN

Congratulations to the following students for being recognised for following our Dolphin rule this week: Brydie Chilcott (KG), Laurence Croft (K-6C), Jade Cooke (1B), and Asher Davidson (KG). Well done kids!