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 22 new students who enrolled today. We expect another 60 kindergarten students to commence next Wednesday. Our numbers for 2016 are just over 360 which means we have 14 mainstream classes and 3 support 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              3/4H        Mrs Huxtable
K B  Mrs Barrett               3/4J         Mrs Jordan
K L  Mrs Lengyel        3/4W       Mrs Woods
1 A   Miss Evans        4/5B        Mrs Buckley
1/2B    Mrs ODonnell        5/6G        Mr Gibbons
2 E     Ms Essery               5/6E        Mrs Ensor
2 N   Mr Nicholls            5/6S      Mr Stephens
K/6Y     Mrs Yabsley
K/6H    Mrs Hughes
K/6M  Ms Mortimore

ADDITIONAL STAFF
L3 and support Mrs McGivern
Library Mrs Rologas
Learning Support Mrs Timms
Reading Recovery and RFF Ms Seymour
Technology and RFF Miss Christian
Counsellors Jan Brownlow and Camilla Nova
Our current administrative staff are:
Margaret Darney, Jenny Furber and Jody Pearce
Learning Support officers include Louise Carr, Jan Jordan, Kristyn Stangler, Tracey Turnbull, Maria Shambler, Sue Lander, Jem McDonald, Ammie Doyle, Duncan Timms , Karen Veselis, Matt Hall and Valmay Rutherford,
General Assistant is Rob Brough and our cleaner Cosette Browning.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
The term calendar is being sent home today. Please update as needed.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
House meetings will be held tomorrow, Friday 29 January, to elect house captains and commence planning for our swimming carnival. Our swimming carnival will be held on Monday 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. Non swimmers do not have to attend but are able to come along and support if they wish. Notes regarding the carnival will go home soon. We hope to have great parent support on the day and will appreciate assistance with timekeeping and judging.

KINDERGARTEN COMMENCEMENT
Kindergarten will commence on Wednesday 3 February and initially meet at 9.15 am in the hall. We would like to take the time to take photos of all kindergarten students and their parents so please be here a bit early to allow this to happen. These 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.

SCHOOL LEADERS
Our school captains for 2016 are Mairse Fitzgerald and Aydn Bradridge. Vice captains are Charlotte Harman, Frankie Sanderson, Finley Neylan and Hugo McCallum. I am sure they will be marvellous school representatives in 2016.
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 Thursday 11 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 ‘Sun Safe Policy’. Uniform items are available for purchase at the front office.

THE P&C
The first P & C meeting of the year will be held on Monday 8 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.

Fundraising activities also take place to compliment resourcing of school programs and implementation of P & C projects.

Our first meeting will focus on planning, priorities for 2016, 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 7 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 6 March. This will focus on kindergarten students, year 6 buddies and parents. Please keep this date free. More details soon.

2016 CREATIVE ARTS
Music
Our involvement with the conservatorium of music will continue in 2016. 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 their 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.

K-2 Creative Arts
The K-2 creative arts program will commence on Monday 15 February. More information soon.

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.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS
On Friday 5 February 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.

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.

As well as a regular newsletter each Tuesday we also send out school information through School Stream, the website and on our facebook page. More details are attached.

PERMISSION NOTES
General permission notes will be sent home on Monday. 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 2016 is Friday 19 February. We need more volunteers for our roster so if you are available to assist please contact the school.

COMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY
Feb 3 – Kindergarten commence
Feb 8 – Swimming Carnival
Feb 8 – P & C Meeting
Feb 11 – Leaders Induction
Feb 12 – District Swimming
Feb 23 – Scripture, Ethics commence.

REMINDER
A reminder that Ocean Shores is a Nut Aware school. Because of the dangers nuts and nut products present to some of our students such foods are not to be brought to school. Thankyou for your support of this important safety strategy.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
This is a great service. Contact the school for more information.

Thanks
Chris Hauritz
Do Your Best