**Week 4, Term 1 2015**

**Class formations to remain the same**

Student numbers were submitted last Wednesday and fortunately no changes to classes will be required.

**Changes to Attendance policy**

The Department of Education and Communities has recently amended the school Attendance policy. One of the changes includes holidays taken by students in the school term will now be included as absences and are no longer eligible for exemption. There are new administrative procedures for schools which are effective immediately.

**The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey**

This term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**Swimming Carnival**

The final date for payment for students attending the swimming carnival is Wednesday 18th February. **We cannot accept money after this date as buses will be confirmed or cancelled depending on numbers and payments for the pool organised.** All students in Years 3 to 6 are expected to attend as it is a normal school day. Students in Year 2 who are turning 8 this year and can swim 50m are also invited to attend. Please make sure your payment is returned with the permission note by Wednesday 18th.

Students travelling to the carnival with parents who are swimming the 100m event need to have their entry fee paid to the office. The carnival is a great day so students should come dressed in house colours and be prepared for lots of cheering.

**Term Costs**

This week all parents (except Kindergarten) should receive a Term Cost sheet detailing the costs for excursions and visiting shows. Kindergarten are still waiting for one of their excursion venues to confirm term 3 booking so theirs will be finalised as soon as we receive this information. This sheet will have both the date of the excursion or show as well as the final date for payment. Parents need to organise their payments in full before the final date so that children do not miss out. **We cannot accept payments after the final date as we have administrative responsibilities to give final numbers to the provider, draw cheques etc. Your child being sick on the final date for payment is not an excuse for a payment extension as the costs are provided usually months in advance of excursions. Please make sure your payment is received on time so your child does not miss out on an activity.**

**School Policy on Refunds**

Each year teachers plan a number of excursions, guest speakers and various activities which enhance the educational programs being offered in classrooms. These activities usually have a cost associated with them. Occasionally children are disappointed when they are unable to participate in the activity because they are sick on the day etc. in such cases parents often request a refund of the fees that have been paid. In making a decision regarding a refund one issue has to be considered. **Has the school already spent money for the student to participate in the activity?**

If the school has already had to pay for the activity then a refund cannot be given. For example in the case of a live show, the seats had to be booked and pre-paid. In this case this money could not be refunded. When buses are used to transport children the total cost of the bus is divided by the total number of children expected to attend. It is therefore not possible to give refunds on bus travel. However some visiting performances charge on the basis of the children present on the day. Therefore, the school did not have to outlay any money and a refund would be possible.

The school appreciates that sometimes a student will need to withdraw from an excursion at short notice, for a legitimate reason such as sickness. In these circumstances a full or partial refund may be given, provided the giving of the refund does not leave the school short to cover the total excursion costs. A student changing their mind at the last minute is not considered an acceptable reason for withdrawing or requesting a refund. A request for refund must be made in writing, stating the reason for the student withdrawing from the excursion. Please appreciate that with some excursions a refund may not always be possible. If a full or partial refund is to be given then this refund must be in the form of a cheque drawn to the parent/s listed on the student’s enrolment form. This is Departmental Policy and cannot be varied.

**Prohibited Employment Declaration for volunteers**

The NSW DEC requires Volunteers to sign this form so anyone who works in the school in any voluntary capacity needs to sign this at the office as soon as you can.

**PBL NEWS**

The Year 6 gift towards the school last year was the purchase of 2 Buddy Benches. Students will be taught through our explicit weekly PBL lessons that if they see someone on the bench, that they can go up and ask them to join their game and play.

Last week, we had 2 Buzz days for full school uniform and on time to school and class. Well done to those students who received their Buzz rewards. Keep up the great work.
What is Mental Stillness?

* Kindness in words *Kindness in thoughts *Kindness in deeds*
As part of PBL WRAP up session all K-6 classes have a relaxation program running in their rooms after each break. Mental stillness is a meditation program that calms the nervous system and related areas of the brain to increase potentials for wellbeing and performance. Research has shown that 'Mental Stillness' has a balancing effect on physical, mental and emotional dimensions of the students, reducing the effects of stress, enhancing both resilience and total wellbeing.

For more information see: www.mentalstillness.org

Local Council Art Project
Ms Berkon and several students have been invited to participate in an Art Project run through the Local Council on Tuesday 17th February to assist with artworks to upgrade a local park.

Stage 3
Stage 3 students will be doing a new health activity in class this term called How RU travelling? This is a one week activity to support your child to make healthy lifestyle choices. Each student will receive a card to record their progress. We encourage you to support your child by helping them with these healthy choices, and signing their card at the end of the week.

Coming events for Term 1 (updated as events arise)

Fri 20th
Swimming carnival Yr 3-6 + Y2 swimmers

Wed 25th
Unit 3 & 4 Surf Fun Day

Fri 28th
Schools Clean Up day

Mon 2nd March
Assemblies this week

Doyalson RSL 100yr commemorative ANZAC day medal presentation NEW

Wed 4th
Wallarah Zone swimming Carnival

Fri 6th
Life Education final date for payment NEW

Mon 9th
Final date for payment Stage 1 Safari Day NEW

Tues 10th
P & C AGM 7pm in library

Wed 11th
Stage 1 Safari Day

Tues 17th
Sydney North Swimming Carnival

Thurs 12th – 26th
Life education program

Mon 23rd
Assemblies this week

Fri 27th
Science Fun day

Thurs 2nd April
K-2 Easter hat parade

Last day of Term 1

Congratulations to our Privilege Badge winners
KC Phoenix, KD Chelsea, KE Tahlia, KL Billy, 1K Talan, 1M Katie, 1MC Ellie, 1O Bryce, 2J Ebony, 2M Kayla, 2WB Cameron, S2A Will, S2B Ava, S2C Nakiesha, S2E Chian, S2J Slater, S2L Breanna, S3B Jonathon, S3C Natayah S3GP Jessica-Lee, S3L Jem, S3SW Chelsea, Unit 1 Deanna, Unit 2 Camryn, Unit 3 Alisha and Unit 4 Rhys

Best Attendance
Congratulations to KD, Unit 2 and 2M who had one absence last week. Well done!
Mrs Kerry Moore (Principal)

School News
Stage 1 Safari day
On Wednesday 11th March (Week 7) The Reptile Park will be bringing a selection of animals to Budgewoi Public School as part of our Stage 1 Safari Day. Students will have the opportunity to get up close to a range of animals learning how they move, feed and protect themselves in a range of habitats. Teachers will be organising a variety of activities for students to complement the Biological Science unit “Schoolyard Safari” being taught this term. The cost for the day is $8 per student with final payment due Monday 9th March.

School Banking
Just a reminder that Commonwealth School Banking has begun. Tuesday's for Infants and Wednesday's for Primary. We are waiting for more banking packs and flyers to arrive. If your child has not received these yet hopefully they should this week.

Facebook page
Don't forget to like our Facebook page for regular updates.

Hunter Sports High School 2016
A Hunter Sports Open Night for prospective students and their parents/carers will be held on Tuesday 24th February. Any student wishing to apply to Hunter Sports High School in 2016, or would like further information, please see Mrs Rich.

All students and their parents/carers can access application forms and information documents on each sport, including costs and trial dates on their website, www.huntersports.com.au

P&C News
We have been invited to host a BBQ Fundraiser at First Choice, Northlakes Shopping Village. This event will be held Saturday 21st February to support our school Environmental Club. Thanks to Mick Shelley and the P&C for arranging this. Please support the Environmental Club by volunteering a small amount of your time between 10 am and 5pm on this day. A free lunch will be provided to you in appreciation of your efforts. You can contact Mick at First Choice or leave a message at the front Office to donate your time.

If you would like to organise a BBQ to support a charity you are involved with Mick would like to hear from you. Please contact him at First Choice Northlakes. Charity fundraisers can be organised on either Friday evenings or Saturdays at either Northlakes or Erina stores.

Canteen News
Our uniform shop is open on Tuesdays from 9am till 10am. Please try to buy your uniforms at this time. Uniforms are in good supply if you have been waiting on sizes please check at the canteen to see if they have arrived.

Please remember to put your child’s new class on lunch bags when placing their orders.

New Line: Spaghetti or Baked Bean Jaffles $2.40

Roster for week beginning 17th February:
Tues 17/2/15 - Michelle Burgess, Amanda Ashton
Wed 18/2/15 – Jenny Leatham, Denise Heather, Tammy O’Neil
Thurs 19/2/15 – Denise Cuff, Kellie Falconer, Georgina A, Vanessa Allen
Fri 20/2/15 - Madeline & Dale Clenton, Megan Lewis
Mon 23/2/15 – Alison Sutton

Community News
Tennis
For-Fun, Fitness, Friendship. McDonalds Tennis Academy, Ray St, Toukley, 43 333880 or 43 965033. Free Junior Racquet For New Enrolments - $39.95 Value Tini – Tots Program – 5 - 9 Years, Tennis Australia ‘Hot Shots’ Program, Junior Squads: Junior Comps, Private + Semi Private Lessons, School Holiday Camps: Social Play.

Budgewoi Netball requires the following players in order to fill teams 4-5 u/8’s; 1 u/10; 1 u/11; 4-5 ladies for a lower division team. Ring Narelle 43929288 or see Miss Martin at school