Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again I need to acknowledge the wonderful staff we have at Ballina PS, after the wild weather of last Friday. While other schools closed and asked parents to pick their children up, we chose to keep ours safe and warm in their classrooms. This meant that the teachers and support officers were looking after them for pretty much the whole day. I loved how many classes took the opportunity to do some extra learning and social activities during this time, while others thought it was an opportunity to clean and rearrange their rooms. Of course I was pleased to say that everyone (staff and students) made it home safely on Friday afternoon.

I would also like to acknowledge our General Assistant Michael Allen who worked tirelessly on Monday getting our grounds back in order.

Defiance and Disobedience

A worrying trend is emerging amongst certain students that I think all families need to be aware of. It is sad to report that the school needs to deal with students who are simply being defiant towards their teachers. With our expectations being SAFE, FAIR and LEARNERS, it is easy to see that this behaviour is having an impact on themselves and their classmates’ learning. It is important for all families to discuss this issue, and I thank you in advance for doing so.

Classroom Sound Equipment

For those who visit Mrs O'Shannessy and Mrs Franklin's classrooms you would have noticed the sound amplification equipment that has been installed. The teachers now wear a microphone, and the students are able to use a hand-held device, with their voices being projected through speakers. This will have a wonderful impact on students' receptive language skills and we are very excited about the results. All Kinder – Year 2 rooms will be having the equipment installed shortly.

Thank you to 5E who wrote some very persuasive letters about burying our 150th birthday 'Time Capsule'. Yes, it does need doing! I will talk to you and the school leaders as to an appropriate place!

Regards
Peter Flannery
HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefited from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

Canteen News

‘Specials’ -
* Fried rice is available to order, $2.00 a serve.
* Banana/Mango smoothies will be available this Friday - $1.00
* Look out for extra counter snacks, from -50c.

If you would like to help the canteen but haven’t got the time, you could help by donating items such as paper lunch bags, plastic spoons, baking paper, hand wash etc, or any excess produce from your garden or eggs from pet chickens. Any help in this matter all help to reduce running costs, which in turn keeps pricing to a minimum.

Thanks in advance for your support.

*Did you know*: Our ‘Zooper Doopers’ are in fact 99% fruit juice, Quelsh fruit sticks!

Thanks
Colleen.

**Ballina Public School Staff Profile**

Name: Dominica (Dom) Coulthurst

Position on Staff: Community Liaison Officer; Casual Teacher

How long have you been at BPS: Since 2006

Other schools/places you have worked: Lennox Head PS, St Joseph’s, Alstonville, St. John’s, Mullumbimby; Nannying in England

Favourite movie: Some Like it Hot (an oldie but a goodie)

Best holiday destination ever: Fiji

Last book I read: Jasper Jones

What I do for fun: Yoga, Surf, Ka Huna Massage

Favourite TV Show: Modern Family

Foods I can’t live without: Mangoes, Prawn Laksa

Where I went to school: Corpus Christi, St Ives

Favourite band/singer: Of Monsters & Men; David Bowie

Complete this sentence: I love teaching because: I love sharing with children the awe and wonder of learning about our beautiful world.

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**Sandpit Toys**

Thank you to the generous families who have already donated some sandpit toys. They are very much appreciated.

We are keen to get some more trucks and cars for imaginative play, second hand is fine.

Thank you
Sue Meehan
**PBL News**

This week's message is the same as last week's as we are still focusing on being respectful to all and in all areas.

In classes over the next few weeks we will be looking at a few different areas where respect is expected and the ways that we can show it. Some examples of this are:

- looking at a person if you are speaking to them.
- looking at a person if they are speaking to you.
- waiting your turn to speak.
- listening to the person speaking.

All of the above expectations are things we can practise at home.

Other areas we will be talking about in coming weeks are wearing hats at appropriate times and being at the right place at the right time.

Showing respect by speaking appropriately and listening attentively is a skill we can practise in all situations. As always we encourage our families to discuss our weekly expectations and we would love to hear from families who do this over the coming weeks. Let us know what you did at home to enhance this skill.

Our PBL team met last week and are well on the way to developing our action plan for an exciting 2013.

The PBL focus for next week will be wearing hats appropriately.

Yours in bee-haviour
Mrs Parker
PBL Coordinator

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**Banking News**

If you are going to be away on banking day, you can leave your bank book, deposit slip (filled out please) and money with me and I will bank it for you. If you need a new bank book or have lost one and would like to bank again, please see me.

Joan
Banking Co-ordinator.

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**Breakfast Club**

The atmosphere at Ballina Public School's Breakfast Club has been beautiful, with everyone sitting down together and having a lovely breakfast.

The older children have been helping out and doing a great job, thank you! And thank you to everyone involved for all your help!

Dom Coulthurst
BALLINA ON RICHMOND PHYSICAL CULTURE CLUB

Classes resume on the 11th Feb 2013. Our club has been operating in the Alstonville and Ballina area for 20yrs and advocates exercise with fun and friendship.

Classes cater for females aged 3yrs though to ladies. Physie combines a variety of dance styles designed to develop strength, good posture, grace and flexibility.

Classes are held at Alstonville & Ballina Uniting Halls and our new location in Federal.

FIRST LESSON FREE to new members.

For more information phone Katy 0437813236 or visit our website www.ballinaphysie.com