Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who participated in Wednesday’s Swimming Carnival. Whilst the weather was poor, student enthusiasm, sportsmanship and effort certainly made up for it. Thank you to the teaching and support staff who worked through sometimes trying conditions to have the carnival completed. Thanks to Mrs Mary Cameron for her preparation and organisation as carnival convenor.

Those students who have qualified for the Ballina District Carnival (20th February at Ballina Pool) will be notified shortly.

School Charities
I am very interested in your thoughts on which charities and causes our school should support this year. Kindergarten teacher Mrs Amanda Taylor will be participating in Shave for a Cure this year (raising funds and awareness for cancer research) and so we will be holding a Crazy Hair Day on Friday 14th March to support this. Of course there are many other worthwhile charities, not to mention school and P & C fundraising.

If you can’t make Monday’s P & C Meeting to have your say, you might like to send me an email or post something on our Facebook page regarding school fundraising.

Welcome BBQ
Last year’s Welcome BBQ was a wonderful success, with many families taking the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher (as well as other parents) in a relaxed, social setting. We hope this year’s will be bigger and better. Details are:
Date: Thursday 13th February
Time: 5.30-8.00pm
Where: Ballina PS Hall and Playground
What: Free sausage sizzle and drinks; a quick message from Mr Flannery; meet the teachers and other parents

Friday Folders
As you are probably aware, school-home communication is vital. In an effort to improve this, the school is looking into the concept of a “Friday Folder”. Instead of notes coming home on random days (and you not knowing whether your child was supposed to bring something home or not), all notes and newsletters would go home only once per week (ie on a Friday). These would be sent home in a sturdy plastic envelope that can be reused, with the empty ones being returned each Monday. We are still in the organisation phase, so if you have any ideas or perhaps experiences from other schools, please drop me a line.

Positive Behaviour for Learning
Now that classes and class expectations are settled, our focus next week centres on Being Fair to others by transitioning around the school quickly and quietly.

I hope to see you all at our P & C Meeting on Monday night or the Welcome BBQ on Thursday evening.

Kindest regards,
Peter Flannery
PRINCIPAL
Musical News

**Festival Of Choral Music - Sydney Opera House**

At the end of last year the choir and I made an audition video to try out for a spot in the Opera House Choral Festival. On the first day of term, I received an email inviting Ballina Public School to take part. This is extremely exciting as 25 of our senior members in the choir will be travelling to Sydney in August to perform at the Sydney Opera House in a mass choir of more than 700 students.

Later this term, I will be inviting 25 members of our choir to be part of this lucky group. It is likely to be students from year 5 or 6, however there may be some spots available for year 4. Year 3 will not be part of this group. We will travel to Sydney by bus overnight and then do a day and a half sightseeing (TBA), a rehearsal at the Opera House culminating in an evening performance. Then back on the bus to head for home. We will stay at the YHA at the Rocks overlooking Sydney Harbour, and I can tell you from experience, the kids make memories they will keep for a lifetime. I can't wait.

Perhaps your child has a great voice, but has never thought to try out. Now might be the time!

**Choir News**

I have already begun auditioning interested year 3 members for choir and I should have the list finalised by next week. There are some amazing voices out there and I can't wait to get them all together and singing.

If there are some disappointed students who don't make it into the choir, please help them to understand that this is not me telling them they should never sing - just that they are still developing their sense of pitch, something that is really important when singing complex vocal arrangements. I am so proud of everyone's brave efforts when auditioning.

If your child has not yet auditioned but would like to, please encourage them to come and see me so that we can organise a mutually convenient time.

If your child was a member of the choir in 2012, it is assumed that they will continue on in the choir this year, however I may ask to re-audition them in order to ascertain their vocal range, and therefore to check whether they are singing in the right section of the choir (alto/soprano).

Whole choir rehearsals will begin in week 3 on Tuesday afternoon (after recess).

**Band News**

I have spoken with all of the Year 3/4 classes, and have passed on information to the Year 5/6 classes about how band will work this year. If you have a child who is interested in being a member of the band this year, please see the office for a band note (if they don't already have one) and fill it in and return it to the ladies in the office. The note must be accompanied by the fee in order for me to allocate your child with an instrument. A minimum of $20 is enough to get them started providing you make a commitment to continue paying their full fees as the year progresses.

*If your child was a member of the band last year,* I will assume that they want to continue - however, as above a minimum payment of $20 must be made in order for them to participate. There are still some fees outstanding from last year, please see the ladies in the office to discuss a payment plan.

*I work very hard to keep the fees low (they are at present less than half of Southern Cross's school band fees! AND their fees don't include the hire of the instrument).* **Please help me by having fees paid on time.**

A reminder that the instruments that are offered in the band are:- flute, clarinet, trumpet, alto and tenor saxophone, keyboard and drums.

At this stage, I am hoping to start Senior Band rehearsals and beginners in week 4. Please pay fees as quickly as possible to help to expedite this process.

I look forward to another year of making music with your very talented and capable students.

Warm Regards

**Amanda Drinkwater**

Choir and Band leader

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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Shortly you will be receiving a General Permission note for 2014 home with your child.

Please complete this form, and return it to the front office as soon as possible, so your child's information can be updated for this year. This information can help streamline communication between home and the school.

Thankyou in advance
Bullinah Health Checks

We are pleased to say that in 2014 Bullinah Aboriginal Medical Service and Ballina Public School are continuing our free health checks for our Aboriginal students. This is a great way for us to support your family and to help our kids grow up strong and healthy. At Bullinah we have teams of health workers, nurses and doctors to do the health checks.

If your child has had a check-up in 2013, we are very happy to see them again if you have any health concerns. You are very welcome to attend on the day if you would like to.

We also occasionally run some programs to support your children such as infection control, ear programs and healthy kids programs, but we will inform you of these before they occur via a newsletter.

We intend to have forms circulating to our Aboriginal families in the coming weeks. Forms can be left by you or your child at the front office of Ballina Public School.

We hope to start the program at the beginning of term 2 and continue through 2014.

Eli Cook
Aboriginal Education Officer

Banking

Term 1 Competition - Far North Coast schools only!

To kick off 2014, we have a very exciting “STAY COOL AT SCHOOL” promotion exclusive to schools on the Far North Coast! This means our school has an even greater chance of winning. On offer are 4 3mx3m marquees which can be used at school fetes, sports events, BBQs, etc. Each marquee is valued at $400 and yes, you read it correctly - there are 4 to be given away to my schools on the Far North Coast only!

There are also 2 $50 prizes for 2 lucky School Bankers to be deposited into their Youth Saver account.

Thankyou for banking with the school

P and C News

Our first meeting for 2014 is on MONDAY, February 10 at 7pm in the school staffroom!!

We welcome and encourage you to attend! If you are a parent/grandparent/carer of a student at our school then you are invited! We meet once each month, with Mr Flannery to discuss ways we can improve our school, to keep up to date with any changes and events and to manage the canteen. We hope to see you there, it can also be a great place to meet new friends!!

Karen Oxland
P and C President

Canteen News

The new 2014 menu should accompany this newsletter, please check it, as there has been a few changes since last years. Some items have increased in price, also some items are no longer available. If you did not receive a new menu, additional copies are available from the canteen.

Next week's Meal Deal– Small Salad tub, Flavoured Milk, Homemade Cake or Slice, plus a prize - $5.00.

Wanted: Awesome people that can donate a little of their time to help out in the canteen. Easy, Fun & Very rewarding. Your children receive a free Zooper Dooper every time you volunteer! If you would like to give it a go, you can contact me on the school no. 66862205 or ph/text my mobile, 0457 641431. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Colleen.

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LENNOX HEAD DOLPHINS
Junior Rugby League 2014!

New players and coaches wanted
Ages 5-16

Clubhouse Williams Reserve
8th & 15th February
Between 1pm-3pm.
Registration just $95,
including shorts, socks & shirt.

All existing players can simply register on line
@ lennoxdolphins.sportingpulse.net
Enjoy a fun family atmosphere!
For further information contact Andrew WEIR on
0407693217 or Leigh Isser on 0423643221
Email: lennoxdolphins@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lennox.dolphins

Bright Lights Performance School
Excellence in Performance

We excel at providing students with the opportunities for creative expression, improving
drama/dance/singing skills and stage performance.

BALLINA ENROLMENTS are being accepted NOW for ALL GROUPS
Primary years 3-4 and 5-6; Secondary years 7-11
Senior MUSICAL THEATRE GROUPS
PLACES are LIMITED so BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL

Enquiries to Brian Dale 66 841932 0422 820472 brian.dale1@bigpond.com
Or visit our web site brightlightsperformanceschool.com

The Kids Shed
Art classes for crafty kids

Places available Wednesday afternoons 4.30 – 6pm
Small Class sizes
Experienced tutor Jennifer Collins
0402 416 782
thedrawingroomonnorton@hotmail.com

ballina
HOCKEY
club

Kids n’ Sport

Come & have a go for..... FREE!

Learn Pre season skills with experienced coaches
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY;
hockey sticks supplied, just come and have some fun .......

Where: TURF at Kingsford Smith Park, Bentinck St, Ballina
When: 4/2/2014 every Tuesday for 5wks
Time: 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Bring: Hat. Sports shoes, water bottle and
MOUTHGUARD essential.

For more information contact:
Sue Hunter – Ph 66863819, Mob 0401857527
Email – egass@bigpond.com
OR
Ballina Club – website:www.ballinahockey.org.au

Tintenbar East Ballina Football Club

Tintenbar-East Ballina Football Club registrations
days for the 2014 season are being held at Chickiba
Playing Fields, Chickiba Dr, East Ballina on:

Thursday 20/2/14 4pm-6pm
Saturday 22/2/14 9am-11.30am

Registrations are now open online. Details on
how to register online are on the website:
TEBFC.com.au

For any further enquiries, please email:
titenbar.eastballina.football@gmail.com

essential
energy

These advertisements are accepted in good faith and the school does not vet them. Parents are advised to
request further information or credentials, if they seek product use or participation in the activity.