Dear Parents and Carers,

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

I am delighted that 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. Only students in Years 4-6 complete the survey. More information about the survey is available at:


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide the 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 16 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 today. If you *do not* want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 13 March**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**P&C Meeting – 9th March**

Our wonderfully supportive P&C Association are holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 9th March at 6pm in the school staffroom. I hope we can get many parents to attend.

Regards
Peter Flannery
Principal
**Boys PSSA Cricket**

The boy’s open cricket team played their first round PSSA game last Friday against Lennox Head Public School. The team was led by Jordan (C) and Marley (VC), who both showed great leadership in encouraging all players in the team as well as placing fielding positions and the bowling order. Damon was the teams opening bowler and ended up taking 3 wickets with his fast and accurate bowling. Byron also ended the day with 3 wickets with his very accurate bowling and was unlucky not to get a fourth. The team fielding was outstanding, stopping a number of fours with sliding saves. Jacob took a marvelous juggling catch in the second last over. The boys managed to restrict Lennox to a total of 114. The boys were very excited to get in and bat. The opening batters of Will, Marley and Jordan did very well in supporting Damon who smashed their opening bowlers to all parts of the field, he ended up with a total of 33 which included 7 fours. At the end of the second innings Ballina P.S had a total of 55. The boys are to be commended for the great sportsmanship and enthusiasm they displayed on the day. Thank you to all the parents that came along and cheered the boys on during the day and to Lee who was our scorer.

Ian Hardy, Sports Co-ordinator.

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**Band and Choir News**

The year has started well with some clever children almost making music on their new instruments! Thank you parents for your patience while your children are figuring out the intricacies of their instruments. They are still learning how to get the best sounds out of them. Please continue to be patient as it will all be worth it soon when they can play you some recognisable tunes! If you are concerned that there might be an issue with your child’s instrument (ie. Not working properly) please encourage them to bring the instrument in THAT DAY so that I can check it – many of these instruments take a little time to learn the correct technique for making a nice sound, but if you are unsure it is no problem to send it in so that I can check it. Please note also that the instruments are not to be played by little brothers and sisters or friends, they are not toys and need to be treated with respect and only played by the person who is learning to play them properly.

Thank you to the many senior band and choir families who are busy selling chocolates to fundraise for our Canberra/Sydney trip later in the year. Remember, if your child is attending, each box that you can sell takes $30 off their ticket price. For those of you selling chocolates who don’t have children in year 5/6, your fundraising efforts are really appreciated too because this money will help others attend this trip.

The choir fees are now due ($25 for the year). This covers the cost of buying new repertoire as well as making books and CD’s. This year I will be working with the team who looks after the school website to see if I can create a link to a drop box where you can download the music files which might be more convenient for some students. Because of copyright rules, I will not be able to do this with the sheet music unfortunately so each student will still be given a hard copy of the sheet music. I want to introduce a few of the songs before I hand out the CD’s/access to the drop box, so all students should have their choir book by the end of term 1.

Senior Band students, your fees are now due at the office – please consider paying the fees for the whole year as we will be offering a discount to Senior Band students (those attending Thursday morning rehearsals) of $150 for the full year if paid by the end of term 1.

Senior Choir (year 5 and 6) and Senior Band students have been given a permission note for the Southern Cross High School Production which will be on at Players Theatre on Thursday 26th March. We will be walking to and from the Theatre (on Swift Street) and there are limited seats available which means a permission note returned without the money will not secure your child a seat. Please return the note and money as soon as possible to ensure that your child gets to be a part of this great experience.

If parents have any concerns or wish to contact me regarding band or choir, please don’t hesitate to email me at amanda.drinkwater1@det.nsw.edu.au.

Amanda Drinkwater, Band and Choir Leader
Banking News

Banking continues as usual every Wednesday, with the bank books being collected of a morning near the school canteen. Please get the books to the banking team as early as possible.

If you are going to be away, your child can still make a deposit. You can arrange this by leaving books with the deposit slips filled in, and the money with Joan.

If you have younger children at home, and you would like them to start banking with us, we would be happy to add them to our banking list. However, they do not qualify for the rewards (prizes) that are available to our enrolled children. Sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

Thank you for banking,
The Banking Team.

Next Weeks Meal Deal ~ ‘Rice Power’
Fried Rice, Nudie Juice Popper, Home made Cake or Slice, Plus a surprise. Only $5.00.

Did You Know ~ Nudie Juice Poppers are 100% Fruit in a Popper, no added anything!!!

Reminder ~ If your child has a lunch order, remind them to hand it in as soon as they come to school. It’s difficult to provide what they want, if they bring the order in at the start of lunch time.

Donations ~ If you would like to help the canteen, but can’t find the time, you can always assist by donating goods to help reduce running costs. Items such as margarine, vegemite, flour, sugar, eggs, fresh produce from your garden, plastic spoons/forks/cups are some suggestions. Any help would be gratefully received.

Thank you,
Colleen. 0457 641431

Canteen Roster

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<td>Donna</td>
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ThemeParks.com.au Ticket Sale

Village Roadshow Theme Parks is offering our school community a limited time ticket offer. Simply visit ThemeParks.com.au/promocode and enter our promocode “CPC014” to gain access to these ticket offers.

Enrolling NOW in Ballina for 2015

MM Dance Studio
Ruby Collins - Makin

NOW at Ballina Public School Monday and Thursdays 5.30PM–6.30PM
Is your child bullied at school?
Lack self confidence?
Need a structure fitness program?
Need to learn self discipline and self control?
Ring Mark now to see how he can help. 0427-626952

SOCCER
AYFI Skills and Drills Development Program 2015

Monday’s & Wednesday’s (2nd February - 1st April 2015)
Age Specific Preparation Fitness Training
Times: 9.00am - 4.30pm
Age: 6 - 16 years
Skill Level: Beginners - Intermediate - Advanced
Director: Georgia Lazanou
Skills and Drills Program Sessions will include:
• First touch • Ball Control • Speed, Agility & Coordination • Ball Mastery
• Passing and Receiving • Small sided games
Venue: Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre, Pacific Parade, Lake Macquarie NSW 2281

For more information or to register please visit our website www.ayfi.com.au
Phone: (02) 9746 5303 or Email: info@ayfi.com.au

Ballina Hockey Club

Everyone is welcome at Ballina Hockey Club!!!!! We have junior teams for girls and boys, including minkey, U9, U11, U13 and U15. We also have a strong senior team contingent in Men (A, Reserve, B and C Grade) and Women (A, Reserve, B1, B2 x 2!!) so there is a place for all comers.
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH - Club sign on, uniform purchase day. 10am - 1pm at the clubhouse.
SUNDAY 8TH MARCH - Compulsory trial/grading games. Women 9-11, Men 11-1. Contact Al Porter if unable to attend. ALL players, ALL grades required to enable us to put you in a team.
WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH - U9 and U11 training starts on the turf, 5PM
THURSDAY 12TH MARCH - U13 and U15 training starts on the turf, 4.30PM
SATURDAY 28TH MARCH - Minkey muster at the clubhouse at 9am.

For more information, contact Club President, Al Porter, on 0414816603, visit our website at ballinahockey.org.au or visit and join our Facebook group, Ballina Hockey Club.

Community News and Advertising 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.