Dear Parents and Carers,

As this is our first newsletter for 2016 I would like to welcome all new families to our wonderful learning community. I also would like to welcome back those of you who have been with us previously. I hope the start to the school year has been without too much drama or too many tears. From what I have seen the classes have settled in quickly and, whilst many new students have started with us this year, our class structure seems to be accurate.

I also welcome our new staff members, many of which have been added to the wonderful team of School Learning Support Officers. I welcome back Mrs Johanna Presgrave as Assistant Principal after her teacher exchange to Canada, as well as Mrs Sue Meehan and Ms Katrina Crowhurst who have returned as Learning Support Teachers this year.

2016 will see Ballina PS continuing to initiate and refine learning programs across the school so that the needs of your children are met, under our strategic directions of Student Learning and Wellbeing, Teaching and Leadership and Our School and the Community.

I look forward to a fantastic year at our school and I urge you to become involved in your child’s learning in whichever way is possible.

Our New Space-Net
No doubt your child has spoken of our new playground equipment – the Space Net! In the couple of days that students have been allowed on it, they have really enjoyed the climbing and exercise involved, and this has been done safely. As is standard practice, a risk management plan has been developed with the following key points:
- The equipment is designed for any age group, but the plan is for groups of students to be allowed on it at various times.
- The softfall (bark underneath equipment) is certified to Australian standards.
- The boundary of the softfall is supposed to be 2m from the equipment. Ours is 2.5m.
- The depth of the softfall is supposed to be 200mm. Ours is 250mm (with some parts over 300mm).
- As part of our playground duty roster, an adult supervisor will be at the equipment at all times. Students are not allowed on the equipment unless supervised by a staff member.

School Newsletter and Communication
While many families use the school newsletter as the main source of information from the school, it is actually quite inefficient as many newsletters do not make it home or are not read. I would like to inform you that we will be gradually moving away from a printed newsletter this year, so I urge you to contact the school and provide your email address for future correspondence.

Come and say Hello!
We have our traditional Welcome BBQ next Tuesday 9th February from 5pm. Please come along, join in the sausage sizzle and meet your child’s teacher and some of the other families and staff. We also have the first P&C meeting of the year on Monday 8th February at 6pm. These meetings are always positive and informative, and I encourage you to come along.

Regards
Peter Flannery
PRINCIPAL
**New Combined High School Update**

2016 promises to be an exciting year as we begin the transitioning process for the new school, which will open 2019. I am sure that many of you share the same questions that the staff at both schools have including:

Who will be the Principal?

What will the school be named?

What will the uniform look like?

What will the buildings look like?

How will the learning take place?

How will the build impact on my child?

How will the transition take place?

Over the year we will endeavour to seek clarity around these questions and more. In the next newsletter message, there will be two survey monkey links. One will be to continue the naming process for the school and the other will be to begin the process for designing the uniform.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Suzanne.page@nsw.edu.au or ring Southern Cross School on 66860503.

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**Canteen Roster**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Preparation 9.15-11</th>
<th>Lunch 11.15-12</th>
<th>Recess 2-2.30</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Deb</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Alison</td>
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<td>Karen O</td>
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**House Captains**

Last Friday, our student body and teachers held meetings to elect House Captains for 2016. Congratulations to:

Russell: Captains Lara and Hamish; Vice Captains Ellie and Dylan
Rous: Captains Jacob and Abbey; Vice Captains Brock and Eloise
Eyles: Captains Kaleb and Summer; Vice Captains Mikayla and Takhobi
Sharpe: Captains Deon and Milly; Vice Captains Tyrell and Jemima

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Welcome to the new families and students at our school. It was wonderful to meet the new kindys on their first day, they came over and visited us on their tour of the school. They have probably already come home wanting money to buy something from the canteen! Sorry about that!

**2016 Menu** will start next week, hopefully everyone received a new menu with this newsletter (additional copies are available from the Office or Canteen). Please check it, as there has been a few minor price changes from last year. All orders must be placed in the morning before school. The Canteen is open from 8.45am.

**Next Weeks MEAL DEAL**—"Chicken Meal", Fresh crumbed chicken fillet & salad, mini water, a brownie, Plus a surprise. Only $5.00.

**Did you know** The canteen needs people to come and help out. It’s a great way to meet your children’s friends, teachers and other parents. Most children get a kick out of seeing their family members at school.

If you think you would like to help out, come and see me, call or text. It would be great to hear from you.

Colleen 0457 641431
Kindergarten 2016 is off to a great start, the children are settling in well, and we are all looking forward to a great year!
Amanda Taylor and Marion Thwaites
Kindergarten Teachers

Swimming Carnival
On Wednesday, years 2 to 6 participated in our annual Swimming Carnival. As always, the children had a great time both participating and cheering on their house teams. Thanks to all the teachers and staff for their organisation on the day.
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Training and games at Lennox and Byron
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or contact
Nicky 0412 244 325 or Leiah 0423 863 221
byronlennoxfjr@gmail.com

Rainbow Children’s Centre Inc
Before School Care 7am-9am
After School Care 3.15pm-6.20pm
Vacation Care 8am-6.00pm
Operating from Ballina Public School
5-12yrs olds
Phone Jan or Jodi for Information (02) 6686 6621
Government Child Care benefits and rebate available
Website: rainbow@nsw.edu.au

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LENNOX HEAD NETBALL CLUB 2016 SEASON
COME AND JOIN THE FUN - NEW PLAYERS WELCOME !!!!!
Register and Pay online at www.lennoxheadnc.nsw.netball.com.au
Lennox Head Netball Club sign on Day
Saturday 13th February 2016
9.00 am – 12.00 pm
Ballina Netball Courts

For further information see:-
Webpage - www.lennoxheadnc.nsw.netball.com.au
Facebook - www.facebook.com/LennoxHeadNetballClub
Contact - Leanne Rodgers - l.rogers@bigpond.com

Come and Try Netball
Ballina Netball Association is hosting FREE Come and Try Clinics
for participants aged 10 years or older.
If you are interested in playing Netball and would like to see what
it’s all about, come down and give it a try for FREE
Clinic dates: Thursday Feb 4, 11, 18 from 5.00pm - 6.00pm at the Ballina Courts
Kingsford Smith Park, Owen St, Ballina.

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