Dear Parents and Carers,

You would be aware of recent bomb threats made to local schools. As a result of this (and as part of our Workplace Health and Safety procedures) our school conducted an evacuation drill yesterday. This showed that our processes are valid and practical, so that in the unlikely event of needing to evacuate all persons will be safe.

Tell Them From Me Survey
I am delighted that again this year our school, like many others in the state, will participate in 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 student academic achievement. The focus of the survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. 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. Students in Years 4-6 will complete the survey in coming weeks. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

Future Care Mobile Dentist Services
You would have received some information regarding this last week. This program, offering dental health education, oral examinations, x-rays of teeth and gums, cleaning of teeth and fillings where needed, is funded under the Child Dental Benefits Scheme. Please complete the consent form, and send it back in to school. Please contact the school for more information if necessary.

Voluntary Contributions
Thank you to those families who have contributed financially to the school. Funds collected go towards much needed educational programs and resources. Currently our voluntary contributions are set at $30 per child or $50 per family, and I would appreciate you considering this.

Great News!
This week I was given the news that our school canteen is to be given an upgrade to the value of $110 000 as part of the Department’s capital works program. Plans are at an early stage but it is hoped for work to mostly be done over the school holidays.

Would You Like Our Sign?
We are having a new LED sign installed at the front of the school. If you or someone you know (a local pre-school perhaps?) would like our old one, please contact me at school.

Regards
Peter Flannery
PRINCIPAL
New Combined High School Update

At both Ballina High School and Southern Cross, students are at the centre of everything we do. With this in mind we are investigating the possibility of combining Year 7 in 2017 and are putting together a team of teachers who will be developing a new approach to the delivery of the curriculum. This approach will be hands on, tailored to each child’s strengths and focus on authentic real world problems. We invite all parents to an information evening on Thursday the 10th of March to find out more about this exciting initiative. The information evening will begin at 6pm and will be held in the Southern Cross gym. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

Also on Monday the 29th of February we are having the first meeting of our cross school uniform committee. No decisions have been made as to what the uniform will look like. This is your opportunity to have input into the planning process. The meeting will be held at Southern Cross library from 6pm. The agenda is as follows:

◊ Welcome
◊ Purpose of uniform
◊ Guiding principles
◊ Process
◊ Discussion of samples
◊ Next step

If you wish to attend please RSVP by Friday the 26th of February to:
Suzanne.page@det.nsw.edu.au

Remember if you have any questions please contact me and I will endeavour to find an answer.

PBL News

Be safe, Be Fair
Be a Learner

The PBL focus for this week was assembly expectations. Children understand that when they are in assembly the expectation is to show respect and listen to the speaker. There has been a noticeable improvement in this area throughout the week. Well done to all children for recognising that this is an important part of our school expectation and helping to make our school a great place to be. Next week’s focus will be expectations in the toilets.

Thank you
The PBL Team

Market Vegie boxes

Byron Bay Harvest: Veggie Boxes School Drop Off – How you can get involved

New, local organic farm Byron Bay Harvest will start selling veggie boxes from the 11th March, using Ballina Public School as a drop off point every Friday. So when you pick up the kids from school, you can pick your veggies up as well. Here's how you can get involved:

1. Register an account on our website
   www.byronbayharvest.com
2. Order your veggie box online, entering the school address for your address
3. Click check out with PayPal, this will direct you to a page where you can create a PayPal account if you don't already have one
4. Look out for our friendly Byron Bay Harvest team member at the old stage after the school assembly, tell them your name and receive your veggie box

Feel free to email us at info@byronbayharvest.com with any questions you might have.

We look forward to supplying you with some fresh local, organic produce from our farm, picked and delivered the same day!

Student Representative Council
Sausage Sizzle

Next week, on Tuesday the 23rd of February, the student Representative Council will be conducting a sausage sizzle during the lunchtime break. They will have sausage sandwiches available for $1.50, and ice cups available for 50c. The funds raised will go towards extra seating for our school.

Elise Morgan
SRC Co-Ordinator
**HSIE**

Our school is studying Biological Sciences this term, and stage 3 has been busy preparing and planting our awesome raised garden beds. We are excited to see the seeds germinate and grow! We will be thrilled to send home some produce soon!

**Pedestrian Safety**

Over the last few days, local police have attended two separate incidents where school aged children have been struck by motor vehicles, causing injury, and requiring hospital treatment. It’s a timely reminder to parents to educate your children in the safe habits of crossing the road, especially young children getting off the bus. Parents should wait on the same side of the road as the bus to avoid children having to cross the road. If this isn’t possible, teach your children to cross after the bus has gone. There is more information at: https://www.facebook.com/RichmondLAC/?ref=hl

Let’s keep our kids safe!

**Coffee Club**

All Parents and Carers are welcome to join us for a free afternoon tea, every second Thursday from 2.30~3pm, near the canteen. The next Coffee Club will be Thursday, March 3rd. It’s a great opportunity to catch up, and meet other families from our school, and to have an informal chat with our Principal, Peter Flannery. Hope to see you there!

The P&C Committee

**Next Weeks Meal Deal**

T-Rex Toastie ~ Toasted chicken or ham and cheese sandwich, a sippahh straw and mini milk, a packet of cookies and a surprise. Only $5.00

**Did you know...**

Our Vege chips are gluten free!

**We need you!!** If you would like to help out in the canteen, come and see me, call or text. It would be great to hear from you.

Colleen 0457 641431

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Mrs Murphy and Mrs Drinkwater.
Byron Bay Lennox Head Junior Rugby League Club are hosting The Hogs for the Homeless next Wednesday 24th Feb from 4pm at Red Devil Park, Byron Bay (opp high school). Former NRL greats Brad Fittler, Mat Cooper, Steve Menzies and Josh Perry will be riding their Harleys in to take part in some footy drills with the kids! Everyone welcome!

The Family Centre
123 MAGIC
Wednesdays March 9–March 23
10am–12pm
Ballina Presbyterian Church Hall, Ballina
3 week course explores a down-to-earth, child-friendly and effective discipline approach that encourages good behaviour for children 2-12 yrs.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?
Three strategies to choose from when your child misbehaves
Three straightforward steps to: control difficult behaviour, encourage good behaviour, strengthen your relationship
How your own behaviour can influence your child and how to encourage cooperation around the home
Simple strategies to practise being a calm parent. Discover how your silence can speak louder than words

Childcare can be provided.
Bookings are essential please call 9am–12.30pm Monday–Friday (02) 6686 4109 or email info@thefamilycentre.org.au