Dear Parents/Carers

Great Start!

I am very pleased to report that everyone has had a happy and settled start to the year! As I walk around the school, spend time in classrooms, and talk with families, I am even more excited about the fantastic year ahead.

Playtime Activities

After last year’s roaring success, we will again be having structured activities for our kids during playtimes. Old favourites like PCYC circus skills, gardening and boot camp will be back, as well as some exciting new ideas! More information will follow in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Sporting House Captains

Congratulations to the following elected house captains:

- Evans - Machayla, Trae
- Blaxland - Chloe, Hayley
- Wentworth - Seth, Jesina
- Lawson - Molly and Keely

Good luck and have fun at the Swimming Carnival on Thursday.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Our all-important SRC reps have also been elected. Representing their class and school with pride are:

- Owen, Will, Kai, Caitlin, Hannah, Peter, Danica, Bobbie-Lee, Glenn and Eamon. Well done!

P&C

The next P&C meeting will be held on the 24th February – all are welcome. The meeting after that in March will be the Annual General Meeting, so if you would like to take on a special role or simply lend your support, please come along. A strong and representative P&C means a strong school.

Book Club

This excellent program will once again be running in our school in 2016, organised by Mrs O’Connor in the Library. All orders for the latest catalogues must be returned by Wednesday 17th February to class teachers.

Have a lovely week,

Darren Denmead
R/Principal
Canteen News

Roster
Mon 15/2   J.Baillie
Tues 16/2   J.Baillie
Wed 17/2    J.Baillie, A.Mulligan
Thurs 18/2  J.Baillie, J.Mark
Fri 19/2    T.Roels, C.Nicholls, L.Howarth

Don’t forget the canteen is up and running and we have a great variety of food available. Orders can be placed in the mornings before 9.15 and they are delivered to the classrooms at lunch time. On these hot days the children might like to purchase an iceblock for afternoon tea. Prices range from 50c to $1.50 and the children just come over to the canteen to make their purchases. Hope to see your children at the canteen in the coming weeks.

The canteen will be operating as usual on Thursday 11th of February the Primary swimming carnival as only children who are participating in the carnival will be away from the school.

With thanks Julie

School Awards
Congratulations to -
David, Machayla, Trae, Michaela, Cooper, Isabelle, Zoe, Molly, Jesina, Charlie, William, Evie, Lorin, Sameepta

Principal’s Awards
Congratulations to -
Jesina, Michaela, Cooper, Isabelle, William

Badge Awards
Congratulations to -
Angus, Jesina, Michaela

Student Notes Sent Home This Week
- Swimming Carnival
- Voluntary School Contribution
- Year 6 T-Shirts
- Stage 1 Newsletter
- Stage 2 Newsletter
- Stage 3 Newsletter
- Bookclub
- Life Ed

GENERAL INFORMATION
Administration Office Hours - 8.45am - 3.45pm
School commences at 9.15am
School finishes at 3.15pm
Students are supervised from 8.45am
9.15-11.15   Class session 1
11.15-11.45  Play
11.45-1.45   Class session 2 which includes lunch
            Inside at 11.45
1.45-2.15    Afternoon tea and play
2.15-3.15    Class session 3
The two 2hour sessions will be split by “fruit breaks”

https://www.facebook.com/BathurstWestPS/?ref=hl

School Terms & Vacations 2015
Term 4 - Tues 6th October to Wed 16th Dec
Summer Vacation - Thurs 17th Dec to Tues 26th Jan 2016

School Terms & Vacations 2016
Term 1 - Wed 27th January to Fri 8th April
Autumn Vacation - Mon 11th Apr to Fri 22nd April
Term 2 - Tues 26th April to Fri 1st July
Winter Vacation - Mon 4th July to Fri 15th July
Term 3 - Mon 18th July to Fri 23rd Sept
Spring Vacation - Mon 26th Sept to Fri 7th Oct
Term 4 - Mon 10th Dec to Tues 20th Dec
Summer Vacation - Wed 21st Dec to Thurs 26th Jan 2017
The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?
What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent’s explanations for their child’s absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child’s attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies (“the parties”) to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child’s attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child’s attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

- Applications to the Children’s Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court’s powers.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student’s attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of $11,000.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:
Hi Kids,

Do you want to have fun playing Footy, meet new mates and bring all your family along to watch you play each week? Then why not come and play with St Pats Junior Rugby League Football Club. We are a family friendly club who loves to see its members enjoying their football and the fun events we have during the year.

We are having Registration days for new and old players at McDonalds Bathurst on Saturday 13.02.16 and Saturday 20.02.16 from 11am till 2pm. Registrations can also be made on line, which is on our website you just need to follow the links.

Please contact one of our Committee members if you need further information.

President: Leanne Ashcroft 0404 462 614
Vice President: Craig Colley 0429 179 438
Secretary: Theresa Martin 0408 423 184
Treasurer: Leah Weekes 0407 784 069
Email: stpatricksjr RFC@hotmail.com

We would like to invite you to play soccer with the Eglinton District Football Club!

You can register online at: www.myfootballclub.com.au

or come and see us in person at:

Bathurst District Registration Day
28th February 2016
10:00am – 2:00pm
Proctor Park

or

Eglinton District Football Club Registration Day
6th March
10:00am – 2:00pm
Eglinton War Memorial Hall

For more information please email us at eglintondfc@gmail.com and please like our Facebook page for club updates.

St Pats Junior Rugby League Football Club

Hi Kids,

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Email: stpatricksjr RFC@hotmail.com
2nd February 2016

Dear friends,

It is with great disappointment we announce the cancellation of Evans Crown Horse Sports Event. This event has run successfully since 2009 and in that time, we have seen over 700 competitors from both Public and Private primary schools and high schools attend our event.

Unfortunately, due to a DET overhaul in how horse sporting events can be run and, more importantly, insured, we find ourselves in a position where, as a Small School and committee of two, we are quite simply overwhelmed by the level of new documentation required in order to host this event. In addition, all volunteers (a resource we could never have hosted this event without) would have to attend a training day prior to the event or come fully certified to the event.

We have prided ourselves on keeping this event accessible to riders of all levels and indeed for some riders, this was the only event they attended on an annual basis. Each year we leave the grounds of Lithgow Pony Club with sore feet but a soaring heart on how beautifully each participant has represented their school. We wish to thank the many volunteers who gave of their time so generously and to thank the judges who shared their expertise with our young riders. We would also like to thank all the participants for joining us along the way; we thank you for your sportsmanship and we wish you well in your equestrian careers.

Kind regards,

Trish Forsyth,  Principal/Event Organiser
Sandra Gibney,  SAO/Event Admin Officer

O’Connell Public School