What’s Happening:

**MARCH**

11  P&C Meeting—5.30pm all welcome
19-20  Brisbane Leadership Yr6

**APRIL**

2  Last Day Term 1
3  Good Friday
20  Staff Development Day—Term 2
21  Students Return to School—Term 2
23  Anzac Day Service @ School

**JUNE**

8  Public Holiday—Queens Birthday
11  School Photos

Principal’s Message

Thank you to the parents that were able to attend parent / teacher interviews last week. They have been very valuable for all of us. Communication and partnerships between home and school are vital for the success of our children.

Our School Plan for 2015-2017 is nearing completion. I will be travelling to Orama Public School on Friday to work with Principals from other small schools in our Bellinger Dorrigo Learning Community, as well as our Principal School Leadership in order to work towards further completing our School Plan.

During this week Years 4, 5 & 6 students will be completing a survey called Tell Them From Me. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve in these areas. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys. The purpose of the survey is to give schools an insight into student engagement and wellbeing, as well as the impact of teaching practices.

Over the next few weeks, we will be working with the Cascade Environmental Education Centre from Dorrigo. They will be visiting us to do some professional learning with the staff, followed by a waste audit and some lessons from Kindergarten to Year 6, in order to improve our current waste systems. Our aim is to improve our current waste management and sustainability practices. I am sure that they will have some useful suggestions for us and we are looking forward to working with them.

Our next P&C meeting is tomorrow – Wednesday 11th March at 5.30pm. I will be sharing and gathering feedback on our School Plan.

We hope to see you there.

Jane Martyn

Tom Harding's Samba Experience

As part of Repton Public Schools commitment to providing a rich and diverse learning environment, we have organised an afternoon Samba Music workshop. Visiting 'award winning' community musician, Tom Harding, will engage students through his infectious enthusiasm for music as we explore different rhythms, tempos and melodies. The afternoon session costs $5. Permission notes were sent out last week and it would be appreciated if these notes could be returned as soon as possible.

Matt Neal - Event organiser.

Sports Report

Our girl’s cricket team will play against William Bayldon tomorrow in the PSSA Knockout Competition. They have been practicing well and we wish them lots of luck.

This Friday, Joe M. will be trialling for the District Opens Rugby League squad. Good luck Joe, we know you’ll do us proud.

Sponsorship forms have been handed out for our
Term 1 Week 7

10th March, 2015

4/5/6 Merit Certificate—Maya & Jacob

Win Bin Awards—Jacob / Kai & Bronte

1/2/3 Merit Certificate—Rani
Student of the Week—Piper

Sports Award—Ace & Kirra

Kindergarten—Merit Certificate—Cydni
Student of the Week—Felix
Merit Certificate—Alisha

Library Award—Billie & Felix

Technology Award—Zen
Cross Country Fun Run day. There has been a little confusion regarding activation of online sponsorship. Please, only raise money the traditional way until we can confirm that our school’s set-up has been approved.

**Fun-Run**

We will be holding an *adidas School Fun-Run* as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on Wednesday 1st April within the school grounds.

The *School Fun-Run* is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.

All students have received a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school. The funds raised will be used to purchase additional ipads and Musical Instruments.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise just $10 or more will receive a reward for effort. In the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits like the chance to win a family holiday to Disneyland!

Finally, we would like to welcome parents and family members to attend the *School Fun-Run* event day at the school on Wednesday 1st April to help cheer on the students.

If you would like to volunteer and help out on the day please contact the school on 66554201. Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

**Matt Neal – Co-ordinator**

**Library**

Don’t forget Library for K-6 is on Wednesdays. Please encourage your child to borrow. Don’t forget students require a library bag, plastic shopping bags are not acceptable. We do have Library Bags for sale at the office for $2.00 each.

Could you please check your child’s bedroom to look for any outstanding books and return them to school as soon as possible.

**Mosquitoes**

With the rise in numbers of mosquitoes at the moment, you may wish to spray your child with insect repellent before coming to school each day.

**School Contributions**

General school contributions are to remain at $25 per child or $50 per family this year. Repton has maintained the general school contribution at this amount for the past 6 years. It is important that families pay these contributions promptly as the funds directly support the students’ learning in the classroom by providing classroom items and resources used daily. These items include paper, pencils, textas, rulers, paints and cardboard etc.

If you would like to discuss these costs, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Beverley on 6655 4201.

**Scholastic Books**

Scholastic Book Orders are due back by Monday 16th March, 2015. No late orders will be taken.

**P and C News**

Our next P&C meeting is tomorrow – Wednesday 11th March at 5.30pm.

**Shirts**

It’s great to see our centenary shirts around the playground! If you have not got one and would still like one, or perhaps another one, there is stock available – Just see Bev in the office. Items can be paid off over a period of time to help with the cost. Shirts are $25 and hats $20.

**EASTER RAFFLE**

We will be holding an Easter raffle to raise funds to support programs at Repton Public School and are requesting donations of Easter eggs or other Easter related gifts to help with our Easter Raffle may be left at the front office. The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 2nd April. The Easter Hat Parade will commence at 2pm and the raffle will be drawn following this event. All parents and families are welcome to join us for this event. Thank you for your support.

Raffle tickets will be sent home next week.

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**CANTEEN NEWS**

No Specials this week

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**Term 1 2015 Canteen Roster**

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>PARENT HELPERS</th>
<th>BAKERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>Wed 11 Mar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mala Austin /Sean Hely</td>
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<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 20th Mar</td>
<td>Vanessa Thornton/Tanya Gomez</td>
<td>Vanessa</td>
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<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 27th Mar</td>
<td>Christina Rixon/Jenny Nisbet</td>
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<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>Wed 1st April</td>
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<td>Mala Austin/Ashleigh Chelman</td>
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If you are unable to do any of the above dates please call Jo on 66554832 or 0408 823 299 as soon as you can. Also please let Jo know if you would like to make a special lunch on your day. If you are new to the school and would like to help out please call Jo on 0408 823 299. Anyone wanting to help but cannot due to work commitments?? We need bakers to make yummy, healthy snacks for recess – eg muffins, banana bread, yum balls etc. Please let Jo know – your help will be much appreciated! Parents please also let the office know if there are any dietary restrictions for

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**Student Banking**

Student Banking is done on a Wednesday.

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Well done to our consistent bankers

Aaliyah, William, Riley and Marlee

with their prizes
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?
Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day as it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time
Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?
On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principal may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel
Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year of school.

My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

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

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

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

Policy, information and brochures:
http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/policieschool/a-z/attendance.shtm

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 0244 5129

www.dde.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities