Dear Parents/Caregivers,

**Whooping cough**
There has been a recent increase of whooping cough (pertussis) at our school. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough caught at school can spread to younger brothers and sisters at home and can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and is worse at night. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children.

- Children with symptoms should see a GP.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken five days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades. If your school-aged child has younger siblings, it’s a good idea to check that they are up to date with their vaccines.

**State Champion**
Congratulations to Hannah Jarvis who competed at the State Athletics Championships last week. Hannah ran in the 800m junior girls’ event. Hannah placed 27th overall and 4th in her heat. Well done to Hannah on such a great effort. We are all very proud of your achievements.

**Selective High School Applications for 2017**
If you are interested in applying for your child to sit the selective high school testing please see the office staff for an information pack. All applications need to be completed online by parents and guardians before Monday 16th November.

**Intensive Swimming**
Our Intensive Swimming program will run from the 16th – 20th November. Students in years 2 & 3 who cannot swim are invited to participate in this program.

**Staffing**
I am pleased to announce that our new librarian for 2016 is Miss Ellen Harris. Miss Harris will start at the beginning of next year.
Food Drive
All non-perishable donations for our two families that have lost their mums will continue this week. Please send in all donations to the office.

Stage 3 Excursion
Stage 3 students will be leaving for the Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Jenolan Caves this Wednesday. Students need to have returned the Behaviour Contract, McDonalds money, medical and permission notes. Students need to be at school at 6:40 am.

Stage 2 Excursion
Stage 2 students will be going to Sydney next Thursday. Students need to ensure that they have made all payments and have returned all permission notes.

Kindergarten excursion
Kindergarten will be heading to Sydney on the 5th November to visit the Sydney Aquarium. This excursion is part of the “Under the Sea” unit that the students are studying. The cost of the excursion is $30.00.

Kindergarten 2016
Enrolments are being taken for Kindergarten next year. If you have a child or know of any children who are coming to Kindergarten next year could they please see the office staff for enrolment forms. Our first orientation day will be on the 28th October at 12:15 – 1:35pm. Mrs Blishen and Miss McNamara will be our Kindergarten teachers next year.

Leadership positions 2016
Congratulations to the 8 students who are running for a leadership position in 2016. You all presented great speeches last week at the whole school assembly. The interviews, volunteer hours and voting will finalise the leadership process.

Canteen
Could all canteen survey forms please be returned to the office ASAP. There will be a new menu commencing next week. Thank you to Anne Johnson for creating our amazing new signage for the “Snack Shack”. Snack Shack will be closed tomorrow due to the Stage 3 camp.

Surfing
Surfing started last Friday and it was a fantastic morning at the beach. We will still be going this Friday even though Stage 3 students will be at camp. We’ll be at Blacksmith again, departing school at 9:00am. A huge thank you for all of the help with transporting the students to and from school. Parents are invited to stay and watch the lesson if they wish. It is important that all students return to school after the surfing lesson has finished.

Preschool
Thank you to Belmont Community Preschool for having our Year 5 students visit last week. The students learnt important skills about how to interact with younger students.

Red Day
On the 30th October all students are encouraged to wear red to help raise awareness about child safety. Students will be participating in safety awareness activities and stranger danger lessons. This is part of a national program set up by the Morcombe family.
**Friday Sport**

Friday sport has a new face with Mr Ennis teaching fitness classes to each class. The students and teachers have loved having Mr Ennis teaching them important skills to keep themselves fit and healthy.

**Pink Grandparents Day**

We will be celebrating Grandparents day in conjunction with our SRC fundraiser for breast cancer this term. Students, parents and grandparents are invited to wear pink on Tuesday 2nd November and bring in a gold coin. All money raised will go the McGrath Foundation. Grandparents are also invited into the classrooms in the morning of the 2nd November to participate in a variety of fun activities.

**Important Dates**

- **21st – 23rd October**: Stage 3 camp
- **27th October**: Whole School Assembly
- **28th October**: Kindergarten Orientation Day 12:15 – 1:35pm
- **29th – 30th October**: Stage 2 Excursion to Sydney
- **29th October**: Music Count Us In
- **30th October**: Day for Daniel RED DAY
- **3rd November**: Pink Grandparents Day
- **5th November**: Kindergarten Excursion

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**Kate Foley**

Principal
Canteen Roster:

Wed Oct 21: Christie C, Ruth
Thurs Oct 22: Kath W, Christie A
Fri Oct 23: Victoria, Jody
Mon Oct 26: Ian
Tues Oct 27: Mark W, Sally
Wed Oct 28: Jude
Thurs Oct 29: Christie A, Sally
Friday Oct 30: Jude, Mark W

Chocolate Fundraiser:

A huge thank you for all who have taken boxes. Please return money and unsold boxes by Friday, October 30. If you would like a box or could sell some more, please come and see the canteen staff.

New menu:

Following on from our recent survey we will have a new summer menu out to you this week. Please note there will be some price increases, in particular cheese and bacon rolls which have had to increase to $1.50. This is due to the canteen absorbing previous supplier price rises which we can no longer do. Thanks for your understanding. The new menu will start this coming Monday.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate Morgan for organising our Movie Night at Reading Cinemas. It was a fantastic night and there were many laughs throughout the movie. Thank you to the family and friends who attended, we raised $250 for our school!

Some of the monies raised so far this year by the P&C, will be used for the following items this term:

- Repairing the Slushie Machine ready for Summer!
- 48 new guided reading books for the Stage 2 classes.
- New hats for all of our new Kindergarten students starting in 2016.

There are two exciting P&C events this term too, so save the date for:

- **Cray-Cray Sock Day 12th November 2015** (full uniform to be worn but go crazy with your socks!)
- **Whole School Christmas Disco 2nd December 2015** so get your dancing shoes on!

The P&C will appreciate any donations of bags of individually wrapped lollies for our Christmas Disco. No nuts please. See the P&C sandwich board at the school office for more information.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 6.00pm**, due to surfing on Friday mornings for the next few weeks.

If you have some ideas to share, would like to know more about what we do or discuss important items about our school, come along & have a coffee, meet the P&C committee members and help us to grow our school.

Vicki Mettam
P & C Secretary