Important Information

Year 7 2017

Those students who are in Year 6 this year will receive an application for high school in March.

Bulahdelah Central School is the local high school for most of our students. Some students also fall in the Dungog High School, Gloucester High School and Hunter River High School catchment areas.

Students wishing to go to a non-local high school must complete an Out-of-Area application. This can also be found in the Year 7 application package.

Some high schools offer parent information evenings to showcase what their school has to offer students. As I become aware of these evenings I will let families know.

Parent Information Evenings

Bulahdelah Central School: There is not an information evening currently advertised. You can call the school for information on 49974329.

Dungog High School: Wednesday 24th February 2016. RSVP by Friday 19th February 2016. You can call the school on 49923022 to RSVP and for details.

Hunter River High School: Monday 29th February 2016. You can call the school on 49872306 for details.

Gloucester High School: There is not an information evening currently advertised. You can call the school for information on 65581605.

NDIS Information Session and Workshop

Our area is due to come online with the Federal Government’s National Disability Insurance Scheme or NDIS later this year.

The school has asked Leapfrog to help inform individuals as well as parents and carers of people with disabilities in our area about the NDIS and what that might look like for them.

An information session to help individuals and families make informed decisions about NDIS will be held on Wednesday 9th March. Workshops to help navigate the NDIS paperwork and outreach services has been organised for Monday 14th March. There are 2 session times for both days. Session 1 Midday till 2pm. Session 2 5:30pm till 7:30pm. All sessions will be held in the front classroom at Booral Public School.

School Organisation

Kindergarten and School Leaders Photo

Our Kindergarten students and school leaders are in this weeks edition of the Gloucester Advocate.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our small schools entry in the relay placing 2nd in the Port Stephens Zone.

Congratulations to Griffin Dunn who place 3rd in the 50m Breaststroke.

Assemblies

Assemblies for this term will be on Thursdays at 9am.

Young Leaders Day

Our school leaders will be travelling to Sydney this Sunday to attend the Halogen Young Leaders Day on Monday. Some of the speakers include; Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Ben Austin (Paralympian, Swimming), Nathan Want (Youth Speaker), Leticia Lentini (Event Magician), Scott Tweedie (Television and Radio Presenter) and Melanie Lee (Author/Illustrator).

Gloucester Soccer Day

A soccer gala day is planned for students in Years 3 and 4 on Wednesday 9th March 2016. We will require parent transport for this event.
School Organisation Continued

Parents who are able to help transport students other than their own children will be required to show their Working with Children Check to the school Office before transporting students. We also must see the registration papers for your vehicle and your drivers licence.

Sporting Schools

This term we are delighted to be able to offer two sports under the Federally funded Sporting Schools. We are currently participating in an AFL program on a Friday morning. This will continue until Friday 4th March. Then students will swap over to Athletics program from Monday 7th March 2016 until the end of the term. Students should wear appropriate clothing to participate in sports activities on these days.

Community Use of School Facilities

With an increasing number of students attending tennis each week I have received several requests for parents to bring their children to school after school and on weekends to practice.

I am happy to have the tennis court used outside school hours. There is some paperwork that needs to be completed to ensure the safety of users and the school’s equipment.

If you would like to use the school’s tennis court please contact the School Office to fill in a Community Use of School Facilities Agreement and to arrange a discussion about how this procedure works.

Extra Curricular Activities

Our school facilitates some extra curricular activities for students in our area.

Students can learn an instrument on a Wednesday. The music teacher is Mr John Locke. Parents privately arrange music lessons with him that occur throughout the day on a Wednesday.

Students who regularly have music lessons and have reached a certain level of skill development for their age and instrument have the opportunity to join the school band. The band is lead by Mr Locke and Ms Parsonage is the supervising teacher. There is a band fee which is payable to the P&C. This fee helps to cover the costs of the band.

Tennis lessons are also available through the Hot Shots program on a Thursday after school. The Tennis coach is also selecting students who demonstrate a certain level of skill for their age to join the school’s tennis squad. Squad lessons are on from 2pm Thursday afternoon.

Tell Them From Me; student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: 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 academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide 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.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students 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 them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by Friday 26th February 2016.


Anthony Pearson
Principal
Booral Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 26th February 2016.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s ..............................................................................................................

Roll class/es .....................................................................................................................

Name of parent/carer ........................................................................................................

Signature of parent/carer .................................................................................................

Date .................................................................................................................................

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EASTER FUN!
At Stroud Lodge

SATURDAY
12TH MARCH, 2016
AT 3PM

The residents invite all families and children to come along and celebrate Easter with them in the Lodge garden.

*Easter Hat Parade*
*Games*
*Easter Egg Hunt*

Free
Afternoon
Tea
Class Awards

18/02/2016

Library
Lorna - for greater focus and a positive attitude towards school
Sienna S - for great contributions to class discussions
Aiden W - for a positive and helpful attitude in class

K_1
Rachel - for her clear, confident ‘news’ presentations.
Isabella - for being a great listener and following instructions well.
Aiden W - for being a fantastic classroom helper. Thank you!

2_3
Louis - for achieving 100% in our Sight Words Spelling Test
Emalynne - for achieving 96% in our Sight Words Spelling Test
Sienna - for achieving 100% in our Sight Words Spelling Test

3_4_5_6
Matilda - for eagerly completing all creative writing tasks
Mason - for enthusiastic participation in all sporting activities
Elise - for recognising and describing the number sequence in shape patterns.
We Are Listening

This is an open forum for families to discuss their fears and concerns regarding the NDIS.

This Forum will be lead by you.

What may be discussed includes:
What is NDIS and how does this look like for me and my family?
How can we prepare ourselves?
What Tools and Resources are available?

9th of March 12pm-2pm & 5:30pm-7:30pm
Information session times (session 1)

14th of March 12pm-2pm & 5:30pm-7:30pm
Workshop session times (session 2)

@
BOORAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

For enquires or to RSVP for sessions please contact Booral Public School on 49949266
New SRC member for year 2 2016, Sienna receiving her badge.
**Canteen News**

Canteen is open each Monday and offers a range of food for the children. Orders should be written on a paper bag with recess/lunch, the child’s name, class and order clearly on the front with money enclosed. They need to be placed in the basket provided at the front of the COLA as the children arrive at school.

We really need more volunteers to help out our small dedicated group. Just one day per term would be of assistance. It is a great opportunity to see your children, meet new mums and get to know the wonderful kids in our school.

We aim to have 2 people on at once and as you can see we have lots of vacancies. Duties include preparation of the food, serving at recess and lunch and cleaning up afterwards, hours are from 9am to 2pm.

New volunteers will be placed with more experienced ones who can show them the ropes.

A canteen menu can be found in this newsletter.

Feb 29 - Lea Blows
March 7 - Jenny George
March 14 - Maree Blanch
         Ellen Jones
April 4 - Fleur Waters
March 21 - Julie Johnston
         Suzanne Strauss

Want to help, need to change a shift or need more information, give me a call on 4994 9196.

Thanks, Fleur.

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**P & C News**

**Markets**
The P & C will be once again holding Markets at school this year. Our first Market will be on Saturday 30th April. Please make a note of the date on your calendar & come along for a look.

**Canteen**

We really need some more volunteers to man the Canteen. Please consider helping out once a term. All money raised through the Canteen goes back to the school to fund many projects including Excursion subsidies & classroom learning aids. The children also enjoy the opportunity of being able to purchase their lunch & snacks once a week.

**P & C Dates to Remember**

1st March  P & C Meeting 5.30pm
24th March  Easter Raffle drawn—more info to follow
30th April  Markets
Where is the NDIS?
The NDIS has been trialled in seven locations across the country, because it is a big change to the current system and we want to get it right. The scheme will be rolled out nationally from 2016.

The most up-to-date information on where the NDIS is available can be found on our website.

For more information

- ndis.gov.au
- enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- 1800 800 110* 8am to 5pm (AEST) Monday to Friday
  For people with hearing or speech loss
  TTY 1800 555 677*
  Speak and listen
  1800 555 727*
  For people who need help with English
  TIS 131 450
- Follow us on Twitter @NDIS

*1800 calls from fixed lines are free. Calls from mobiles may be charged.

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Disclaimer
This document provides general guidance about the operation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as at the date of publication and is for general purposes only.

The NDIS is not providing professional advice and users should obtain their own advice if proposing to make decisions based on this document. NDIS does not accept any liability caused directly or indirectly by any error or omission in this document or arising from any action taken by any person in reliance upon it.
What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

The NDIS supports people with a permanent and significant disability that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

We will work with you to identify supports you need to live your life. Supports may help you achieve goals in many aspects of your life, including independence, involvement in your community, education, employment and health and wellbeing.

The NDIS gives you more choice and control over how, when and where your supports are provided, and gives you certainty you will receive the support you need over your lifetime.

It also focuses on early intervention where getting early supports can reduce the impact of disability on you or your child.

For people who access the NDIS (participants)

If you are able to access the NDIS as a participant, we will look at the supports you currently receive and how well they are working for you. This may include your family, friends, mainstream or other community services.

If required, the NDIS will also fund reasonable and necessary supports that help you achieve your goals such as therapies, equipment, home modifications, mobility equipment, taking part in community activities or assistance with employment.

An NDIS plan tailored to your individual needs will be developed to help you achieve your goals. This could include your existing supports if you are happy with your arrangements and if they meet your needs and goals.

For people who need some assistance

Anyone with or affected by disability can ask us for information and referrals, including families and carers of people with disability.

This can include better access to information about the most effective support options, links to local support groups, clubs and programs, or referrals to relevant community services and supports.

For families and carers

We work with families and carers to make sure the support they give can be sustained.

We consider the carer’s role when developing plans with participants including the support they provide, other responsibilities, and their own life plans.

We also recognise some people with disability may want the support of family and carers to make informed decisions, and we value their views, knowledge and experience.

Can I access the NDIS?

You need to meet the following requirements:

- have a permanent disability that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities
- be aged less than 65 when you first access the scheme
- be an Australian citizen, live in Australia and hold a permanent visa or hold a Protected Special Category Visa.

The NDIS is being introduced progressively across Australia.

The access checklist on our website provides more information on access requirements.

Next steps

Once the NDIS has confirmed you meet the access requirements of the scheme, a planner will arrange to meet with you.

Together, you will discuss your needs, goals and aspirations and the supports you currently receive.

This may take more than one meeting and you can bring someone with you for support.

Using this information, your planner will then develop a plan of supports that best meets your needs and your goals.