Big start to busy year

WOW- what a quick start to the new school year!!

It’s so lovely to see all the happy smiling faces of the children back at school - all 57 of them. This year sees our largest school enrolment in a long, long time and we’re really excited to see our school thriving. Obviously with increased enrolments, comes increased teething issues, especially after a break. We are doing our very best to ensure a smooth start to the year for your children so please be patient as we set the most effective and beneficial plans in place for all of our students. Currently we have 3 full time classes. Mrs Corke has Kindi-Yr1, Mrs Faulkner yr2-4, and I have the pleasure of the yr5-6 class. Mrs Horan is in the office, Miss Rees has taken on the Library/RFF job, Mrs Pitt remains our Leaming and Support Teacher, and Mrs Isbester returns as a School Leaming Support Officer. In the gardens and “spider shed” you will find Mr Horan, Mr Barton and for one more term Mr Johnston. They are the ones you can thank for the immaculate grounds.

I will apologise in advance for the length of this first newsletter, but as we have a large group of new families it’s important to make sure we pass on as much information as possible to help all of our new, and returning families feel at ease.

First and foremost I think it is essential that for us at school to be able to cater for the needs of your children - we need to work as a team. That requires open and regular communication between school and home. Please ensure that if you have any concerns, be they large or small, that you raise them with me, or your child’s teacher. If we don’t know about an issue we can’t address them.

Our happy little Kindi kids.
Collecting your kids from school
Please be aware that if you need to drop your children off later for school, or pick them up earlier, you are required to sign your children in or out. The sign in book is located on the shelf at the front of Mrs Horan’s office. It is also essential that if you are making changes to the regular afternoon bus arrangements for your child that you approve it with the bus driver and supply us at school with a note. If we don’t receive a note the regular arrangements will apply. As we are very busy with your children, especially after lunch, the phone will not be answered after 2pm - any late, last minute changes to buses will need to be called in prior to 2pm.

Parking at School
For safety reasons, we will be closing the school gates at 9am and opening them at 2pm. Please be aware of this when visiting the school in a vehicle. We have two options for visitor parking. The preferred is out the front of the gates, in Golding Ave and the other is around the back of the school near the tennis courts. We try to keep the area close to the office building for staff.

School Sport
Sport at Bedgerabong School is on Fridays. We have a sports uniform for the boys and girls for this day. In the warmer weather sport is held in the mornings. When it gets cooler sport moves to the afternoons.

School Uniforms
Please be aware that it is expected that all children wear the appropriate school uniform to school. Hats are a must as we have a “No hat no play” policy, and students must wear closed in shoes- preferably black during the week and runners for sport.

Crunch & Sip
Each morning we participate in a program called Crunch & Sip. Students are required to bring a fresh piece of fruit or vegetable to eat and have a drink of water. It is preferred that the fruit/vegetable is already peeled and cut.

iPads at school
As most of you would be aware, we have a substantial mobile technology program at Bedgerabong. It involves the use of iPads in the classroom and we offer the chance for students in years 2-6 to “lease” an iPad at a discounted rate. The first batch of iPad 2’s that we supplied to the children have almost run their lifespan and actually are no longer available. The next generation we are utilising is the iPad Air. We have opportunities for anyone who is considering a replacement or new iPad to obtain one. Speak to your child’s class teacher if you have questions about the use of iPads at Bedgerabong School.

School information
Quite often the quickest way for us to share information with you is via our Facebook page and school website. The Facebook page is updated almost daily and you can find details of daily events at school; changes to routines, reminders of upcoming events and of course our student achievements. You can find it at https://www.facebook.com/bedgerabongps
Our school webpage is updated a little less regularly and there you can find recent newsletters, copies of notes that have been sent home that you may have misplaced and a variety of information for school families. You can find it here http://www.bedgerebon-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/
**Headlice**
As with any situation where little bodies are in close contact with each other little “gifts” can be shared between children. It might be worth your while to check your children’s scalps and see if treatment is required. If you object to the school staff screening your children and if necessary, lightly treated - please let us know.

**Small Schools Swimming Carnival**
Our annual swimming carnival will be held at the Forbes town pool on Friday 13th February. School buses WILL NOT RUN this day. Parents are to make arrangements for their children to get to and from the pool. We usually start at 9am and are finished by 2.30pm. There are activities for all children Kindi to year 6 and most of the older kids should have already submitted their entries for the races. There is a parent-teacher relay at the end of the day, so bring your togs. It’s a great day to catch up with other school families. Hope to see you all there.

**Parent-Teacher meetings**
We will be holding class meetings to catch up with all of our school families on Monday 16th February at 3.45pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to speak with class teachers and to hear, first hand the expectations and arrangements in place for each class. As we have a lot of siblings, especially in the older groups, Mr & Mrs Faulkner will hold a combined meeting.

**P&C AGM**
Will be held at school in the kitchen on Monday 16th February at 4.30pm, after the parent-teacher class meetings. There will be a BBQ at the conclusion about 5.30pm’ish. Our P&C is an extremely valuable group providing financial support to the school to provide all of the wonderful opportunities that we are able to give to your children. It would be great to see you all there.

**Parenting Ideas – Making Memories that matter with Maggie Dent**
Families who like to visit different places on their holidays can still lock in the same strong memories by taking their holiday rituals wherever they go. Rituals for when we leave, rituals for when we arrive, rituals for family film nights, rituals for play time outside in the garden, and even bath time and bedtime rituals.
Later in life, your children will draw on the positive memories created by these rituals as evidence that they had a fabulous childhood. They will continue to draw on them when they become parents. In his book ‘Enriching the Brain’ (2006), Eric Jensen writes that memories are anchored much more deeply when there are strong emotions present. That is why powerful, scary memories anchor so deeply in the brain.
Schools also play an important role in creating memories that matter. Whether it is school assembly items, performances, dress-up days, fetes, sporting events or fun runs. Different students will remember different things and so offering a wide smorgasbord of positive experiences is incredibly important. Also important is having exceptional teachers who know how to connect and make learning fun and meaningful. These teachers are gold – we never forget them and how they made us feel. School ceremonies, creeds and school songs are also memory pathways that can stay with us for life. The key is to have more positive memories than the opposite.
News from K-1
Welcome back K-1. We have another year of exciting learning and activities planned in our classroom. We will continue to focus on L3 groups (Language, Literacy and Learning). Students will work in groups and rotate around activities during the literacy session in the morning.

It is vital to encourage your child to ‘have a go’ at spelling and how to plan and present their work when writing. Remember to continue to read to your child each night and ask them questions about what you have read. This also needs to be prompted when home reading occurs. Mrs Corke

Parent Helpers
Morning reading will not occur next week. Parents are invited to assist with book covering instead. Please call the school if you are able to come in and cover some books next week. These days will include; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The following morning reading days will operate; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. It is a terrific opportunity to spend time with the children in K-2 and encourage them to love reading! The session will start at 9.10 and go for about an hour.
Please fill in the following form and send back to the school

I am able to attend morning reading at Bedgerabong Public School on
Monday            Tuesday            Thursday          (please circle)

Name ______________________________________________________________

Signed ______________________________________________

Date ________________________________________________
News from ‘the middle’

It is only week two but we are well and truly into the swing of things. Our classroom has been a very busy place as we re-establish familiar routines and of course, begin new ventures. Already ‘the middle’ has seen a big change with the year 2’s now “stuck in the middle” – welcome Harriet, Jeremy and Will Moxey. A special welcome also to our new students - George, Annabelle and Harrison (year 4) and Melody in year 3. To all the current year 4’s who are in the middle class for their second year – it is great to see you all back too! I look forward to a fun and prosperous year. Keep checking Facebook and the newsletter so you can join us on our journey too. Mrs Faulkner

News from the “TOP”

“Hmmmmm”- says Mr Faulkner as he eyes the 20 students in his class this year. Certainly won’t be as easy as last year with the 12 kids we had in our class. Poor old Mr Faulkner! - well he just can’t get it right. You see the 20 kids in the “TOP” class are fantastic and have started the year on fire! All of our year 6 have stepped up into their new leadership roles and are setting a very high standard for the remainder of the school to follow. We’ve started the year reading another book from one of our favourite authors, Morris Gleitzman called Belly Flop and are really enjoying the quirky Australian slant to his writing and his use of slang. This year our class is large enough to form our own marimba group and we’ve already got 4 songs under our belt and are looking forward to opportunities to go to town to play music for community groups and at the retirement village. We are also very proud of the fact that every child in our class has nominated for swimming races at the swimming carnival next week.
Tootie Fruity resumed yesterday.
Thank you to those people who tendered to the chooks and garden over the holidays. It survived and survived quite well. Yesterday we used the produce from the garden to make Eggplant and Potato curry. We came back to a nice amount of eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes and squash, all of which we were able to use to make a delicious curry.

**Indian eggplant and potato curry**

2 teaspoons vegetable oil, 2 small brown onions, finely chopped, 1 garlic clove, crushed, 3 tablespoon korma curry paste, 6 small desiree potato, peeled, cut into 2cm cubes, 1 or 2 eggplant, cut into 2cm cubes, 1 zucchini or squash, 2 cups canned chopped tomatoes or a good sized bowl of fresh tomatoes, 2 tablespoons coriander leaves, roughly chopped, steamed SunRice Basmati Rice to serve

Step 1 - Heat oil in a non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onion and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until soft. Add garlic and curry paste. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic.

Step 2 - Add potato, eggplant, tomatoes and 2 tablespoons water. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer for 15 to 18 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in coriander.

Step 3 - Serve curry with rice.

We substituted the canned tomatoes for fresh tomatoes.

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**Oatmeal raisin cookie**

Prep Time: 10 min  Cook Time: 12 min  Yield: about 2 dozen cookies
3/4 cup margarine, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 cup packed brown sugar, 1 tsp vanilla, 1/2 cup buttermilk, 1 cup flour, 1/2 tsp baking soda, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp cloves 1/2 tsp nutmeg, 1 cup raisins, 3 cups rolled or quick cooking oatmeal

Step 1 - Preheat oven to 350°F.
Step 2 - Beat together the sugar, brown sugar, margarine and vanilla until smooth and fluffy. Add the buttermilk and mix until combined.
Step 3 - Add the flour, baking soda, salt and spices, and stir until well mixed. Add the remaining ingredients. Batter will be very thick.
Step 4 - Drop by 3 inch balls onto cookie sheet and flatten slightly. Bake 12-15 minutes, or until done. Cookies will still be slightly soft and chewy.
Bedgerabong Community Notice Board

Bedgerabong Show
Next Bedgerabong Show meeting Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm in the Hall. Discussing the organisation of the Market Day and Chook Sale to be held 12th April, so come along and have your say. The more people involved the merrier. Cheers, Nina

Bedgerabong Harvest Festival
Saturday 21st February 2015. 8pm Bedgerabong Hall.
Combined Thanksgiving Service followed by Auction. Fruit, vegetables, jams, cakes, handicrafts and interesting articles. Ladies a plate for supper. All denominations very welcome.

World Day of Prayer
Bedgerabong Union Church Friday 6th March 2015 at 10.30am. Morning tea to follow at the church. Ladies a plate please. If anyone is willing to help run this day please contact either Mrs Dorothy Noakes 68571132 or Jan Brown 68571151

Bedgerabong Playgroup
Playgroup for 2015 will commence on Thursday 5 February at 10.00am in the school kitchen. Playgroup will run each fortnight during the school term. All new parents welcome.

Aqua Fitness for Pregnant Women and new mothers
If you are pregnant or just had a baby and want to have some fun with other mums and get fitter, register now. Starting Monday 2 February 2015, Mondays and Wednesdays for 6 weeks, 9.30am - 10.30am. Forbes Town Pool. Free class and pool entry for Mums. To Register: Contact Denise or Jane at Forbes Community Health Centre on 6850 2233. Being fitter during pregnancy helps with the challenges of pregnancy, labour, early parenting.

Red Bend Junior Rugby League
Red Bend Junior Rugby League will be having Registration Days for Under 6’s, 8’s, 10’s, 12’s, 14’s and 16’s teams on Saturday 14th February and Saturday 21st February 2015.
The registration days will be held at the front of Bernardi Supa IGA between 12 noon and 2pm. Cost for registration is $65.00. For new registrations we will also require a photocopy of the child’s birth certificate.
Players who played for Red Bend last year in 2014, are able to re-register and pay online if they wish. To re-register google “Red Bend Junior Rugby League”, on Fox Sports Pulse webpage and click on registration form. There is additional paperwork that Lachlan District requires which will be available on the registration days.

Forbes Town and District Band Inc
The Forbes Town and District Band is offering musical scholarships to musicians of all ages and standards, wanting to join their community band. A new intake of learners and information sessions will be held on Monday nights, Feb 2, and Feb 9 2015 at the Town Band Hall, 165 Rankin St from 6pm to 7pm. Cost is $20 per year to join the Town Band, and there is a $50 per year instrument hire for those musicians who do not have their own instrument. Experienced musicians are very. Rehearsals are held on Monday nights, through school terms, for Senior Band, at 7pm, after the Learners classes. Enquiries to Bandmaster Justin Screen 0419884775 or Robyn Kenny 0407235326 ah or call into the Town Band Hall on Monday nights between 6 and 9pm.

Forbes Netball Association
Rep season will start Tuesday Feb 3 at 6pm at the netball courts. All players wanting to try out for rep teams and turning 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 years in 2015 should attend. First carnival - Young March 8. Any player unable to attend Tuesday must contact Coach Convenor Robyn Kenny email tnrkenny@exemail.com.au

Positive Partnerships - supporting school age students on the autism spectrum.
Free one day workshop for parents and carers of school age children on the autism spectrum.
Venue: Forbes Services Memorial Club, Wednesday 11th March 2015 9.00am to 4.30pm.
FREAKY FACTS
The Earth rotates more slowly on its axis in March than in September.
Europe is the only continent without a desert.
The Pacific Ocean is not as salty as the Atlantic Ocean.

Giggle Spot
Q: What has one head, one foot and four legs?  A: A Bed
Q: What is the difference between a school teacher and a train?
A: The teacher says spit your gum out and the train says "chew chew chew".
Q: What washes up on very small beaches?  A: Microwaves!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“The best feeling of Happiness is when you are happy because you have made someone else happy.” ~Author Unknown

Happy Birthday to these recent and up coming party goers.

6 Jan  Jess C  10 Jan  Sophie W
13 Jan  Maddy K  29 Jan  Chloe K
21 Jan  Airlie B  22 Feb  Sari E
24 Feb  Indigo C

Upcoming Dates for your Diary
11 Feb  Land Cookery Comp
13 Feb  Small Schools Swimming Carnival
16 Feb  Parent/teacher class meetings
16 Feb  P&C AGM
3 Mar  Tootie Fruity (Tuesday - note change of day)
4 Mar  Circus Arts workshop
6 Mar  Western Region swimming
19 Mar  Lachlan District League trials
27 Mar  Movie Night
2 Apr  Last day term 1

2015 school term dates
Term 1  28-1-15 - 2-4-15  Term 2  21-4-15 - 26-6-15
Term 3  14-7-15 - 18-9-15  Term 4  6-10-15 - 18-12-15

Mr Faulkner
5 February 2015