Welcome back

BPS Captains

2015 Award winners
Charles Stewart Award for Academic Achievement – Sophie W
Jessie Field Award for contributing to the harmony and welfare of the school – Jasmine P
David Taylor Award for positive role model and leadership skills – Clementine S and Daniel S
Cogswell Sports Award for Achievement and Sportsmanship – Campbell R
Apex Award for consistency and Application – Sean D

Welcome Kindergarten

Upcoming Dates for your Diary
5 Feb  Small Schools Swimming Carnival
8 Feb  Lachlan PSSA Tennis trials
15 Feb  P&C Meeting 2.30pm  Class meetings 3.30pm
19 Feb  Lachlan PSSA Swimming- Condo
26 Feb  Lachlan PSSA boys cricket trials
15 Mar  Lachlan PSSA Soccer trials
17 Mar  Lachlan PSSA 11’s & Opens League trials
25 Mar  Good Friday
28 Mar  Easter Monday
29 Mar  Lachlan PSSA touch football trials
8 Apr  End term 1
Greetings everyone.

Grab a cuppa - this is going to be a long one, and for those of you who just put this down on the table without having read it - make it two cups and enjoy!

Welcome to a new school year here at Bedgerabong. Thank you for your patience at the end of last week as we worked towards ensuring the best possible situation for all of our students.

I'd like to welcome 3 new families to our school, Eliza O'Connell and her family, Harry and Matilda Curtin and their family, Rain Terrado and his family along with Georgia Adams. I hope they find their time at Bedgerabong as fun and rewarding as everyone else has.

We've finally determined our student enrolments are have now been able to form our classes for at least term 1. Given the intricate nature of the student numbers that we do have, we had to put a lot of thought into the composition of those classes. Mrs Corke will be teaching K-1-2, Mrs Faulkner will be teaching 2-3-4 and I will have a year 5-6 class. That will obviously mean that our year 2, as a group of 13, has had to be split. We considered maturity, independence, and class dynamics in selecting which students would go to which class. I hope that you are able to acknowledge our intentions and experience and trust that we made the best decisions in the best interest of the students. If you have any major concerns over the placement of your child please ensure you speak directly to me so we can make all of the facts available and ensure we are all satisfied.

We are very fortunate to continue to have the support of other staff this year, those being Mrs Horan our Admin Manager and Tootie Fruity Chef, Mrs Pitt as our Learning and Support teacher, Mrs Isbester and Ms Mraz as School Learning Support Officers, Mrs Prow and Miss Rees as Release from Face to Face teachers and Miss Hanns GYM coordinator. Fay Green continues as our cleaner and I'm pleased to announce Mr Horan as our interim General Assistant until Mr Barton officially retires early next term.

Contacting the school.

Please read the following very closely.

We aren't able to always answer the telephone as our all of our staff are regularly working with your children. If you need to speak to a staff member feel free to phone and leave a message and we will get back to you during the next available break. Otherwise someone should be available to answer the telephone in our break times. 8.30 – 9 am, 11.10 – 11.40am, 1.10 – 2pm and 3.20 – 4.00pm.

If you have an issue you'd like to discuss with your child's teacher, please phone ahead and make an appointment. It's unfair to just show up wanting a meeting or casual conversation about a school issue. We can't assist you effectively or address any issues properly without warning, apart from our playground supervision, we have classroom preparation and lesson delivery as our focus in any of our break times, so we would not be able to give you our full attention.

Changes to afternoon bus / pickup arrangements are a constant concern for us. It's not too difficult for a little person to mishear or misunderstand conversations regarding afternoon arrangements or in some circumstances, little ones like to try to make their own arrangements to visit friends or go shopping with mum etc etc. So unless we receive a note in writing that your child’s afternoon pickup arrangements have changed THEY WILL BE PUT ON THEIR REGULAR BUS for their regular arrangements. We won't be accepting any "mum said I have to wait" or "I think I'm going with so and so". Sorry.
Labelling personal items
It is essential that you take some time to label your child's possessions that are brought to school including, hats, shirts, and shoes, lunch boxes and drink bottles. This will save plenty of anxiety and tears over lost or mixed up property. Believe it or not we have a fairly substantial pile of lost property from last year. None of it labelled.

Resolving issues
If we aren't aware of a school issue that someone may have then it is very difficult to deal with. We've been very fortunate that in the past all of our school families have been more than willing to make an appointment to discuss issues of concern at school. I encourage all of you to be open to contacting me with any issues you may have so that we can work to finding a positive outcome. I'd also be really happy to take calls or notes of a positive nature.

Vehicles in the school grounds
In the interests of safety of our students, your children, we have continued to avoid having unnecessary vehicles in school grounds. The buses will continue to drop off and pick up the children outside the school gates and the gates will be closed for the day. It would be appreciated if visitors to our school utilised the areas either side of Golding Avenue (the road leading to the school) when parking or dropping off/picking up students and not driving in and out of the school grounds. Be very aware of the bus zone signs out there. Thank you.

Family contact details
We seem to find that occasionally our school families change their email addresses or update mobile phones and emergency contacts. Attached to this newsletter is a form that I would appreciate you completing to ensure we have the most current information at school should we need to contact you especially in an emergency. Of course if you're a new family or have recently enrolled a Kindi student I'd expect that the info is up to date so you may not have the need to do this.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival
This Friday we will have our small schools swimming carnival to be held at the Forbes Pool. The day will start at 9 AM and finish at approximately 2:30 PM. It caters for all students kindergarten to year six and is expected to be attended by all students as it is a school day. Our school buses do not run on this day and each family is asked to find transport for their children to and from the pool. As it is a school event we would ask that all school students participate in the activities organised and abide by the teachers requests. It’s not a play day of leisure at the pool for boys and girls. We will require some assistance from some willing parents to help run some events and perhaps timekeep or take photographs. We will also be asking for some talented parents to assist by swimming in the parent teacher relay. We have submitted all of our student’s entries into the swimming events and would expect that those children will honour those entries on the day. The purpose of this day is not just for us to get together and have some fun at the pool, we will be selecting a combined small schools swimming team to attend the Lachlan district swimming carnival to be held at Condobolin on Friday, 19th February. Come along and have a nice day with us.

Crunch and sip
Each morning we have what we call "Crunch and Sip", some schools call it fruit break, but either way we ask that all students bring a small fresh fruit or vegetable snack to feed their bodies in the morning. The best and least wasteful way to do this is to cut the fruit or veggies up, and put them in a small container. That way we don't have half an apple or orange thrown out because it's taken too long to eat. All students should also bring a water bottle as the "Sip" part, that hydrates the brain ready to work effectively.
**Tootie Fruity**

As mentioned in our "Quickie" last week our kitchen garden program, called "Tootie Fruity" starts this Wednesday and will be held weekly. It involves the children tending to our veggie garden and preparing a cooked meal to sit down and share at lunch. This Wednesday – the kids will cook a variety of scrolls – vegemite and cheese, ham and tomato. For this week the treat will be Apple Slice.

Prices are the same as last year - $50 per term per family or $8 per week per family. Please send the money to school tomorrow. If you wish to pay for the term but don’t have the money immediately please contact the school - or pay the $8 for the week then deduct that from the term payment if you pay by Week 4. By paying up front it helps with planning and daily organization. For the $50 per term your child/ren gets to experience cooking (and cleaning) their own meal, plus sitting down and enjoying a meal with everyone else. We try to cater for fussy eaters but encourage all children to at least try the food in front of them – they don’t have to like it, just at least try it. It is amazing what kids decide they like after they have cooked and tasted it. If you have a fussy eater it might be worth packing a little something extra for them on Wednesday’s, just in case. The kids get to sample the food as they cook it and even get to make decisions as to what should or should not be added to get a different taste. Many times we cook the same dish in three different groups but get three different tastes to our meal. As last year the older children will cook the main meal and the little kids will cook the treat.

**Keeping up with School News**

At our school we are very keen to keep everyone in the loop. In this day and age, different people have different preferences for keeping in touch so we try to cater for all major avenues. Obviously we have this fortnightly newsletter that is printed and distributed to school families and to any community members that have requested a print version.

We also email the newsletter to those that provide us with an email address and it is also posted to our school website [http://www.bedgerebon-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.bedgerebon-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Our school has a Facebook page that we use to promote student achievements and school dates and events. It can be found at [www.facebook.com/bedgerabongps](http://www.facebook.com/bedgerabongps)

Late last year we invested in an app to use with mobile devices called Skoolbag. It’s a great resource for us to send information to you and it also has a function for you to submit student absence notes. You can download it for free from the App Store or from Google Play- search Skoolbag Bedgerebong Public School.

**Absences from school**

It is law in NSW that all children of school age attend school each day that school is open. It is also a requirement that absences from school be explained in a timely fashion. Absences of 1-2 days simply require a note from home explaining the reason for the absence. Absences of 3 days or more require a medical certificate otherwise your child's absence will be marked as unexplained and followed up by the Home School Liaison Officer who has the authority to initiate prosecution, as unexplained absences from school can be labelled as neglect. If you are planning an absence from school of more than 3 days, that is not medically related, please contact me to discuss it.

**Parent teacher meetings**

A parent teacher information afternoon has been set for Monday 15th February following the P&C AGM and preceding a sausage sizzle welcome. This meeting will involve parents of all three classes to inform you of the structure that will be within each room.
**P&C news**

Welcome back to everyone, and a warm welcome to new families joining our school this year. The AGM for the P&C will be held at 2.30pm on Monday 15th February in the kitchen. Everyone is welcome; we’d love to see you all there. Following the parent teacher meetings there will be a P&C sausage sizzle to welcome everyone back. Hope to see you all there.

**News from “the Top”**

Well I think we’ve got our work cut out for us this year. We have 23 students in our class and it’s packed to the rafters, but that won’t stop us from having fun and getting through plenty of work. All students should remember that as the senior students of our school they are expected to set a good example at all times including fulfilling their commitments to complete homework, doing their best in class, wearing school uniform and displaying exemplary behaviour.

All students require at least one glue stick that should be replaced regularly as well as an eraser. Pencil cases shouldn’t be too large as we don’t have much space and year 6 can start using pen, blue or black and red ball point pens. Books will come home very soon to cover, but must be at school each weekday to be used.

Home reading starts today and it is expected that all yr 5-6 students read each and every weeknight and have the home reading book signed by an adult before bringing it back to school. iPads should be at school with at least 50% charge each day. They can go home each day and are encouraged to be used with homework tasks, or stay at school to charge.

**“Stuck in the middle with you”**

Welcome back everyone! Although we started last week with a bit of uncertainty, it is great to see we are now on track heading into 2016 with the reemergence of the middle class. I’m excited about the year ahead and look forward to welcoming the new year 2 inmates who are joining the magnificent 7 (that’s years 3 and 4).

Now down to the nuts and bolts. Please ensure your child has a home reader bag/folder (waterproof is better). I expect home reading record books to come in every Tuesday - Friday (Monday is optional). Each reading night must be signed by a parent. iPads must be at school every day and should come to school fully charged. iPads may be left at school overnight. Books can be taken home to be covered but please do not keep them at home. They must return each day - covered or not. The covering of homework books is particularly important and I have noticed the plastic sleeves available at newsagencies are a simple and effective way of protecting A4 sized books. Last but not least please don’t forget your glue stick and eraser. It is not a bad idea to have a set for home and school.

**K-2 news**

It is great to see all the new faces and begin a positive year together. It would be helpful if homework books and home reader booklets could be covered at home. Don’t forget glue sticks and eraser. Also all fruit break should be cut up – it makes it easier for everyone. Look forward seeing you at the swimming carnival. Mrs C

**CWA Cooking details**

CWA cooking will again be held this year. The recipes are the same as last year. Crunchy Topped Lemon Loaf for 18yr and under and Speedway Cake for 12yrs and under. Cakes need to be delivered to school on Wednesday 10th February. Those willing to give up their lunch time on Tuesday are more than welcome to come to the kitchen and make their entry. Please note that if your child wins and goes onto Group judging the cake must be made at home. If your child wishes to cook on Tuesday they need to give their name to Mrs Horan before this Thursday.
NRL workshop in Forbes

As a part of the ‘Hogs for the Homeless’ a number of former NRL players will be touring Country NSW.

The ‘Hogs for the Homeless’ event is a charity motorcycle ride founded by Brad Fittler with its primary objective being to raise funds to support ‘Father Chris Riley’s Youth Off the Streets’.

The ‘Hogs for the Homeless’ tour will be in Forbes on Tuesday the 16th February to raise awareness of those people in Australia that are less fortunate than others. They will also use the opportunity to talk about and promote Rugby League in the bush and the benefits it has for young people.

As part of this tour the NRL is hosting a Rugby League clinic at Spooner Oval, Forbes. The details of this are listed below;

What: Rugby League skills clinic attended by Josh Perry, Nathan Hindmarsh, Brad Fittler, Matt Cooper, Steve Menzies, Steve Roach & Ian Schubert.

When: Tuesday, 16th February 2016
Where: Spooner Oval, Forbes
Time: 4.30pm to 5.45pm
Age: 5 to 12
Cost: FREE

Kids will need to register via this link:
https://reg.sportingpulse.com/regoform.cgi?formID=49770&programID=3075

Parent Helpers for morning reading

Thank you to our parent and community helper volunteers for 2015. The following roster is based on 2015 and if you would like to remain on these days then you need to do nothing, if you wish to change days or become a new volunteer please contact the school or send a note with your child nominating the day you can help. Morning reading will start in week 3 (next week). We always look forward to new members.

Monday: Mrs Nola Sams, Mrs Rae Hodges, Mrs Ellie Brown, Mrs Pat Stewart
Tuesday: Mrs Karen Stewart, Mrs Dorothy Noakes, Mrs Melissa Brown, Mrs Sally Sweetland
Thursday: Mrs Cheryl George, Mrs Katy Brown, Mrs Nadine Moxey/Mrs Tara Bird

Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

Over the next few weeks Kindergarten children will complete the Best Start assessment. This assessment determines your child’s current numeracy and literacy levels. It will allow teachers to develop and enhance learning through planning and delivering quality teaching programs.

Parents and caregivers will be provided with feedback over the next few week.
Thank you – Mrs Corke.
Bedgerabong Community Notices
Harvest Festival – 3rd Saturday in February 20.02.16 Bedgerabong Hall 7.00pm start. All welcome.
World Day of Prayer – 1st Friday in March 4.03.16 at War Memorial Union Church

FREAKY FACTS
An African elephant only has four teeth.
Parrots live longer than any other type of bird – up to 150 years.
A crocodile can stick its tongue out.

Giggle Spot
Q: Why was the student’s report card wet? A: It was below C level!
Q: What did the traffic light say to the car? A: Don’t look, I’m changing.
Q: What do you call cheese that is not yours? A: Nacho Cheese

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
" An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.” - Anon

Happy Birthday to these recent and up coming party goers.
13 Jan Maddy K 20 Jan Kate S
21 Jan Airlie B 22 Feb Sari E

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2016 school term dates
Term 1 27-1-16 - 8-4-16   Term 2 26-4-16 - 1-7-16
Term 3 18-7-16 – 23-9-16   Term 4 10-10-16 – 16-12-16

Mr Faulkner
1 February 2016