Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to those parents and community members who were able to attend our assembly last Friday to support the student leaders for 2013.

At this week’s assembly students will receive their ribbons and age champion trophies from our recent swimming carnival.

This week we commenced our morning breakfast program which will be happening on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students will be able to get toast from the canteen free of charge. Please note this in no way replaces a substantial breakfast that students should be having before attending school each day.

Also this week we recommenced our uniform draws for each stage. Students are encouraged to wear their full school uniform each day including their hat. School shoes are either black shoes or predominately white joggers and white socks. We will also be commencing a once a week draw for those students who have demonstrated 100% attendance for the previous week. Those students who are late will be considered to have a partial absence and will not be eligible for the draw.

Congratulations to Lex Bagster who has qualified to compete at the Mid North Coast Swimming Carnival in Coffs Harbour which will be held on Thursday 28th February. Lex has had some very pleasing results at a number of carnivals over recent weeks, one of which was winning the overall Senior Boys Championship at the Clarence Small Schools carnival.

Parents and carers are reminded about the voluntary school contributions for this year which has been set at $40 per child up to a maximum of $120 per family. These can be paid to the front office. If they present a problem financially to any families please discuss a payment plan with the staff in the office.

A reminder about the P&C Annual General Meeting which will be held on Monday 4th February commencing at 2:30 here at the school. Please come along and assist our small band of helpers who do a fantastic job supporting all the students throughout the school.

Our scripture lessons have commenced for this year. It is important for parents and carers to understand that all students are required to attend scripture lessons unless we have been provided with a note signed by the parent or carer stating otherwise. If you don’t wish your child or children to attend please provide a signed note to the class teacher concerned.

Thank you to Ms Bryen who has completed ordering the first round of books for all students as part of the Books for Homes program. This is a great opportunity for students to receive a number of books throughout the year. The school is extremely grateful to the P&C and Canteen committees for their support of the project throughout this year.
Congratulations to Kayla Kaptein and Griffin Wheatley who recently received silver and bronze certificates for their entries in last year’s NSW RSL’s ANZAC colouring competition. Well done to both those students and thank you very much to Mrs Magarry for organising the entries.

School attendance is something which the NSW Department of Education and our school takes very seriously. Some things we get asked are:

**Must I send my child every day?**

**YES.** While education is not compulsory until your child turns six, we require you to send your child on every school day as a condition of enrolment. This is for a number of reasons. First, the learning in kindergarten is essential preparation for your child’s whole educational career. This is a time where your child’s teacher can focus carefully on your child’s learning needs for the future. Kindergarten also provides a chance to sort out any difficulties or problems as they arise. Secondly, having a good routine and being punctual are important skills for your child to develop. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

**Why is regular attendance at school important?**

- Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.
- Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children.
- If your child misses learning the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.

**What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?**

- It is important to let the school know when your child will be away and the reason for your child’s absence.

- All absences must be explained to the school at which the child is enrolled no later than the day of their return following an absence. The principal of the school has the right to question parents’ or carers’ requests for their child to be absent from school, or an explanation given for a child’s absence from school.

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

- Establish clear morning routines and explain these to your child. Stick to them as much as possible.
- If the problem persists you should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help.

**Here are some suggestions which are based on ‘setting regular routines’**

- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting/ending breakfast. A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child’s hand into that of a teacher and then leave.
- Don’t allow your own anxieties show to your child. Confident parents usually have confident children. If you are upset or anxious, your child will pick up on it and separation becomes an issue. Say cheerful goodbyes and leave before the bell.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”

— Helen Keller

Mr Phil Cavanagh
Principal
Important Information to Remember

- All visitors to the school must report to the front office first.
- Parents/carers must sign students out at the Front Office if collecting them early. Please remember if you are rushing to an appointment to give yourself time to do the sign out.
- Students, parents, and school staff agree to a Code of Behaviour within the school premises, treating each other with respect. (You are always welcome to make an appointment to discuss issues which may arise. Under no circumstances are students to be approached in the playground).
- Changes in arrangements for students must be notified to the class teacher in writing (especially bus or pick up arrangements). We will keep to the same arrangements unless notified otherwise in writing by the carer.
- All money is banked daily. No change is kept on the premises. When paying for uniforms, and other items please have the correct change.
- School fees are due this term. $40 per student or $120 maximum per family.
- P&C meetings are held monthly at 2.30pm. New parents are most welcome.

School Banking
When sending in school banking please ensure you complete the deposit slips in your child’s bank book. School banking is Monday.

School Uniforms
Please label all your child’s uniforms and belongings so they can be returned to your child if misplaced.

Sporting Achievements
Congratulations to Madison Beilby who recently competed at a State Ten Pin Bowling Championship in Sydney. Madison came 1st in her division in the singles. Well done Madison!

Contact information sheets
If you have not already done so, please return the green contact information sheet that was previously sent home. It is important that we have up to date information in case of an emergency.

School fees
This year our voluntary school contributions were set at $40 per child (this equates to $10 per term) with a maximum of $120 per family. This can be paid at the front office. If any families are having difficulty with this please contact the office to discuss a payment plan.

Canteen
The canteen is looking for volunteers. If you can help out please contact the front office.

Dates to Remember:
Mondays: School banking
4th March: P&C AGM

Canteen Roster
Mon 4th March: Sharon Wright, Suzanne Lowe
Tues 5th March: Michelle Tainsh
Wed 6th March: Kylie Chalker, Terri Duroux, Kylie Kelly

COMMUNITY NEWS

Camelia Cottage
Kids club starts Tuesday 26th February from 3.30-5pm. Come along and have some fun making arts and crafts, playing games and eating some yummy treats. Held every Tuesday afternoon except when raining.

GRAFTON NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Sign On Day
For players 5 years to senior, interested in playing in the Saturday Competition.
Any enquiries please call:
Cathy Walls on 6642 7518
Brooke Burton on 6642 6070
Saturday 2nd & 9th March 10am to 2pm
www.graftonnetball.sportingpulse.net
Sailors Men’s Hockey Club is seeking players for its U7’s age group.  
All new players receive a $30 voucher to help in the purchase of hockey playing equipment.    
Come and try out great sport, games are played Saturday's at 11.30am.    
Please contact Darryl on 0427431490 or email sailorshockeygrafton@gmail.com

The South Services Gunners Soccer Club will be holding our **FINAL** sign on day on **Friday March 1st at Rushforth Park from 3pm-5:30pm.**
Team nominations must be in by next Monday so this is your last chance.
All players from age 5 to 16 welcome to register for juniors and players 17+ can sign up for seniors.    
Our focus is on **Fun-Health-Development-Respect.**Please contact the club if you would like more info or would us to sign you up online. Phone **0420907629.**

**Clarence Valley Conservatorium**
“*The Idea of North*” is one of Australia’s best known vocal groups. They have won several international awards and the 2010 ARIA award for best Jazz album. They are performing at South Grafton District Ex-Servicemen’s Club, Wharf Street, South Grafton on Friday 15**th** March at 7.30pm. Tickets available from the Conservatorium.

**Grafton Junior Rugby Union** sign on for 6 to 17 year olds on Friday 1**st** March from 5pm

**Con Kindy Concerts:** Age 18months to 5 years. $6 per week Thursdays 10.30am-11am. Contact the Conservatorium ph66433555