Dear Parents and Guardians,

Congratulations to Lex Bagster who has continued his good run of swimming results by qualifying to compete at the North Coast Swimming carnival to be held in Coffs Harbour on Wednesday 6th March.

Invoices for the voluntary school contributions for this year were sent home last week. 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.

The P&C Annual General Meeting which was scheduled for to be held on Monday 4th March has had to be held over until Monday the 18th of March 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.

It has become quite noticeable since the beginning of the year the number of students who are wearing brightly coloured almost fluorescent shoes. These shoes are not considered part of the uniform and students are asked to wear either black school shoes or predominately white joggers. Our uniform is designed so that students don’t have to have a school uniform and a sports uniform and as such joggers are considered acceptable. Multi coloured or fluorescent coloured joggers are not considered acceptable and students are asked to refrain from wearing them. Students are also reminded that multi-coloured hats or any hats other than school hats are not considered part of the uniform and as such students are asked to leave those hats at home and wear the appropriate hat for school. School hats can be purchased from the front office.

Last week our infants classes participated in the Responsible Pets Program run by the Clarence Valley Council and were lucky enough to be visited by Gina and Tessa the dog. This program helped students learn about the importance of looking after your pets properly and also making sure they are properly trained and use their manners around other people.
Students are asked to please remember that our canteen helpers do a fantastic job in helping to look after them. Unfortunately there have been a number of instances where students have forgotten their manners when using the canteen. Canteen workers have been advised to report any incidents of rudeness or bad manners to front office so those students concerned can be spoken to and given an opportunity to modify their behaviour. If they are unable to do so it may be necessary to stop them from using the canteen facilities.

On Thursday 28th March Gillwinga will be holding an Easter Parade and this will coincide with the launch of our Books for Homes programs. Ms Bryen is currently putting together the program and we have a number of local dignitaries (including the Mayor, the President of the AECG Mr Kerry Skinner and representatives from the Library) attending from 12 noon who will be involved in the Books for Homes Launch. More information will be sent home shortly but if parents and carers could please keep the 28th March in mind.

Finally a reminder that hearing and sight tests will be held at school on Wednesday 19th March by the community nurse. These tests are free of charge and help to identify students that may have any hearing or sight issues and allows parents and carers the opportunity to follow up on any issues that may arise. All students were given notes concerning the screening program and these notes should have already been returned to the front office, if they haven't could you please do so as soon as possible.

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time. Abraham Lincoln
Mr Phil Cavanagh
Principal

AWARDS

Times Tables Champion: Jordan Hartmann
Writer of the Week: Carter Smith

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.

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

Dates to Remember:
Mondays: School banking
18th March: P&C AGM

Canteen Roster
Mon 11th March: Lee Hodge
Tues 12th March: Michelle Tainsh
Wed 13th March: Tracey Heywood, Ron Holloway

5 Reasons to play in the school band
Playing Music.....

1. Makes you smarter: Scientific research has proven that musical training builds intellectual skill, raises IQs, increases spatial-temporal intelligence, improves memory, and develops creativity. As a result, children who play a musical instrument do better on average in school than those who don’t.

2. Teaches Discipline: Music students learn that if they apply themselves they can master a skill and achieve results they want.

3. Increases Self-Esteem: Music is self expression. Performing music in public, individually and as a member of a group, builds confidence.

4. Relieves Stress: Music helps calm the mind. It’s been shown that music students experience less test and performance anxiety than students who don’t study music.

5. Is Fun and Social: Playing music in a group teaches teamwork, ways of working together and the joys and rewards of group accomplishment.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 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 sailorshockeygraton@gmail.com

Schoolkids Bonus
The first instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus has recently been paid to approximately 1.2million families to help lighten the load of back-to-school costs. This means families will have extra funds available to help buy uniforms, shoes, stationery, books, school fees, etc. If you have not received your Schoolkids bonus and think you are eligible, contact Centrelink.