Welcome back to what will hopefully be a bit of a normal week following the rain event that never really eventuated but at least we had plenty of warning of the impending deluge heading our way.

SWIMMING

Congratulations to Alex Schulz who has qualified to compete at the Mid North Coast Swimming Carnival to be held in Coffs Harbour on Thursday 26th. Alex will line up in the thirteen years boys 50m freestyle and we wish him all the best of luck.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Last week we added some additional cameras to the school’s security system. Cameras have been installed in Mr Simpson’s room and other areas around the school. The cameras have proved very useful in the past and we hope they continue to do so.

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISER

Ms Cross and 5/6C have started planning fundraising activities for the end of year activities already. The first of which is planned for Wednesday 18th March with a BBQ and Disco to follow. More information will be coming home shortly but if parents/carers could please mark that date on the calendar.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE CENTRES

A number of people may have heard about the Department of Education and Communities involvement in setting up a number of traditional Aboriginal language nests throughout the State. Mr Simpson and Mr Duroux attended a meeting yesterday with Mr Michael Jarrett the language nest co-ordinator for this area. As a follow up Mr Simpson will be meeting with Mr Jarrett at the end of this week to discuss the possibility of having the Gumbaynggirr language taught at Gillwinga. This is a great opportunity for the students at our school. A note went home earlier this week seeking feedback from the community.

The finer details have yet to be finalised and we hope to provide more information following the meeting at the end of the week.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is an allergic condition that affects a number of people in our community. All parents/carers should be aware that staff at Gillwinga have undertaken the mandatory online training presented by the Department of Education and Communities. As we have some students and staff members with a diagnosed
anaphylaxis condition, all staff will be undertaking face to face practical training organised through the Westmead Children’s hospital in the next few weeks.

HEALTH CHECKS

Parents/carers of Kindergarten and Year One students were recently sent home a form regarding Health checks that will be happening here at school in the near future. If any families have yet to return these forms could they do so by the end of this week. If the forms have been misplaced and families require a new form could they please contact the front office as the community nurse would like to set a screening date. Please note these screenings are conducted free of charge and parent/carers are notified of the results.

ASSEMBLY

This Friday 27th February year 4/5S will be running our assembly. All parents/carers and community members are invited to attend. This week we will be handing out ribbons and trophies from our recent swimming carnival.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Start with what is right, rather than what is acceptable” – Frank Kafka

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The uniform and canteen price lists can now be found on our web page and facebook page. Don’t forget you can like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/gillwinga

The canteen AGM is on Monday 2nd March at 2.30pm at school. All are welcome to attend. We would love to have any new parents/carers attend.
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A number of changes have come through from the Department of Education and Communities in regards to attendance of students at school.

Parents have the following responsibilities to ensure:

- Their children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a government or registered non-government school or, registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Home Schooling.
- Their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for instruction.
- They provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone call, written note, text message or email. The 7 day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act (1990).
- They work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school. This includes communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child’s attendance or engagement with school.

Under the changes parents need to be aware of the following.

1. Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven school days to the school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence.

2. The school is required to make contact with parents if an explanation for an absence is not received.

3. Where principals have concerns about the medical certificates being produced for absences they can ask the parents to request that the medical certificate states “the child is unfit for school” on specified dates.

4. Exemption can no longer be granted for Students travelling for reasons such as the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons during school terms.

Parents/Carers need to take particular note of point 4.

If families are travelling during school terms they may apply for extended leave but it is the responsibility of the parents/carers to apply for the leave before they commence their holiday. In cases where leave has not been applied for or granted, students will be marked as absent.
Dental treatment for children under 18 years of age is free at NSW Public Dental Health Clinics.

NORTHERN NSW CLINICS  Phone: 1300 651 625
Tweed Heads, Pottsville, Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Ballina, Goonellabah, Casino, Nimbin, Maclean, Grafton, Yamba
South Grafton Junior Rugby League

Come & play League with the "Rebels"

AT: MCKITTRICK PARK, SOUTH GRAFTON

All players are welcome, as we cater for
Under 7’s right up to Under 16’s.

TRAINING: Starts Tuesday 3rd March, 2015 at
JJ LAWRENCE FIELD, SOUTH GRAFTON

REGISTRATION: This can be done at training. All
new players need is a birth certificate and a legal
guardian to sign for you, give an address and an
emergency contact number. Plus your fees.

FEES: $80 per player
(which includes new shorts and socks for all NEW players)
Existing players may purchase socks for $10 and shorts for $20.

Home of the Mighty Rebels
Understanding Your Child’s Brain

Wednesday 4th & 11th March
9.30am-12.30 pm
Community Centre
Treelands Drive, Yamba

Thursday 19th & 26th March
9.30am -12.30pm
Maclean TAFE, Room A1.10
Woombah St, Maclean

Understand why children choose tantrums, talking back and disobeying rules as part of their behaviour.

Learn ways of communicating and connecting with your child that use the whole brain to help build self-esteem and resilience.

Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Program

Developed by The Australian Childhood Foundation

6 Consecutive Tuesdays:
24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March
9.30am-12.30pm
Cranes’ Pullen Centre
Prince St, Grafton

Explore messages you received as a child and examine the messages you pass to your children.

Learn mindfulness and how to look beyond behaviour and understand your child’s needs.

“Time to think about why you parent in the way you do?”

Confident Parenting

Wednesdays 18th & 25th February
9.30am–12:30pm
Cranes’ Pullen Centre
Prince St, Grafton

Fridays 6th & 13th March
9.30am–12:30pm
Community Centre
Treelands Drive, Yamba

Fridays 20th & 27th March
9.30am–12:30pm
Maclean TAFE, Room A1.10
Woombah St, Maclean

Identify the values you wish to teach your children and use them to develop simple family rules.

Confidence
Consequence
Consistency

“Don’t have a rule without a consequence. Don’t have a consequence if you don’t follow through.”

No Cost to You!

Our courses are available free of charge to families in the Clarence, Bellingen, and Nambucca Valleys and Coffs Harbour area with no referral necessary.

Free childcare is also available.

If you have questions about the program feel free to give the friendly FRSP team a call.

We strive to ensure that courses are relevant to the needs of families. If you have ideas about courses that would better suit your circumstances we would be happy to discuss them with you.

Contact FRSP: 6642 7257
Bookings are essential

Let us help you be the parent YOU want to be!