From The Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The students have been working very hard on their Oral Presentations. They are looking forward to having lots of families in the audience. If you have 30 minutes or more, I encourage you to come and celebrate the student learning. The timetable for each class is later in the newsletter.

The teachers have been very busy in discussions about the best possible way we can change 7 classes into 6. The needs of all the students have been at the centre of all the decisions. For this reason, we are planning to have a Kinder (Possums), Kinder/Year 1(Koalas), Year 1/2 (Wallabies), Year 2/3/4 (Bilbies), Year 3/4 (Quolls) and Year 4/5/6 (Dugongs). Our student numbers do not fit easily into class groupings and the teachers have looked at social groupings, academic groupings and the special needs of individuals. Class lists will be in next week’s newsletter and I will be available for any parent enquiries next Thursday and Friday. The students will begin their new class groupings on Monday 10th March.

Our Rutherford Learning Community has been working together to provide professional learning in Leadership. Mrs Madden and Mrs Penton are attending tomorrow and I will be attending on Monday. We then have follow-up sessions with leading teachers from Rutherford High, Telarah, Lochinvar, Rutherford, Greta and Branxton Public Schools.

This Friday our school will be contributing to the Clean Up Australia Day by having an “emu parade” around the school. It shouldn’t take very long to pick up the rubbish around the school and hopefully it will encourage students to be more mindful of where their rubbish goes.

- Karen Johanson

This week is Dr Seuss week at our library. Many parents will recall the famous Cat in The Hat and all his strange friends.

The special week marks the birthday of the famous author and children are encouraged to come and read their favourite Dr Seuss books and share them with friends.

... The Premier’s Reading Challenge starts next week.
Classroom Capers

**Bilbies** By Zaine, Dom and Riley.

We are researching natural things, big things and dangerous things that are found in Australia for our posters.

We are writing our information for our poster to show our parents next Thursday. We look forward to seeing lots of parents visit our room.

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**Wallabies and Echidnas** By Lara and Ricky.

The Wallabies and Echidnas can’t wait to have our visitors next Thursday morning. We are very keen to show off our quality work - as well as presenting our special song to those who can attend.

We hope to see you then.

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**Quolls** By Zaine and Rory.

We would like to invite all parents and friends to come along and have a look at what we have been doing so far this year.

We have artwork to show you. We have oral presentations about our super six reading strategies and power point presentations about Australia to show you.

Please come and see what else we have been doing. We have been learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks.

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**Download the School App**

Don’t forget to download the school’s helpful App onto your smartphone. *Skoolbag* is an easy-to-use app allowing you to send in an absentee note or a change of details message to the school... Handy!
Echidnas (Stage 1) By Kayla and Xander.

In class we went on the thinkpads and we learnt how to log onto the computer. We have been writing very funny stories.

I never thought I would see a sheep with little cat legs and it went fishing at the beach. - Lilee

I never thought I would see... raining ice cream, a kid flying, a tree flying, clouds on the ground, a sheep riding a motorbike or a dragon under my bed. - Cameron

On the Buses - Follow the code...

The following code of conduct sets out acceptable Standards of behaviour for students.

Students are expected to follow these simple rules for the safety and comfort of all the passengers, including themselves.

Disobeying these rules may lead to the withdrawal of travel passes for subsidised travel, a ban from travelling on buses, and may even lead to Police prosecution and court action.

Code of Conduct For Students Travelling on Buses

It is every student’s responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers. This includes:

- Behaving appropriately
- Respect the need and comfort of other passengers (eg: no offensive, racist language. No fighting, spitting, placing feet on seats, throwing things in front of the bus, eating or drinking - except water - unless the bus operator gives written permission.)
- Give up seats to all adults and any disabled passengers.
- No smoking on buses.
- Obey reasonable directions from the driver - (eg: where to sit or remain in the bus.)
- Keep arms, legs and heads inside the bus.
- Refrain from attracting the attention of the driver except in the case of an emergency.

Respecting Property

- Protect bus property
- Ensure buses are not vandalised
- Report any vandalism eg: graffiti and window etching

Holding Passes

- Show travel passes or tickets to the driver on boarding and when requested.
- Use the travel pass only for its intended purpose
- “swipe” or “dip” passes in ticket readers if available when boarding.
- Keep your pass for your own use - You should not lend your pass to other students or borrow one from them.

Dugongs

This week we have been learning about warm and cool colours. We sketched a picture of ourselves, then used oil pastels to colour the face and hair in warm colours and the background in cool colours. In Peer Support the leaders are feeling better about leading a group of students through their activities and are noticing that the role of being a leader is getting easier. Our focus this week was about “Achieving Success.” How do we become good at some things but other things are harder for us? Answer: We keep trying!

Gaming Incursion

The date for the incursion is the 20th March. We still have a couple of places available if you wish to attend money is due to the office. Students in year 3-6 are invited.

Public Speaking/Debating

Stage 3 students have been invited to attend a training day on Public Speaking/Debating. Some of the students have expressed an interest in taking part. The proposed date is the 11th March at Maitland East PS. The times are 9:30-2:45pm. There is a cost of $25 per student.


**Attendees:** Stan Mikolajski, Jody Mikolajski, Simone Winter, Tammy Chang, Natalie Shoesmith, Nardi Fuller, Kristy Talty, Alexandra Bellamy, Rebecca Asimus, LeeAnne Way, Melissa Hibbit, Kate Mellross, Tanya Cassar.

**Apologies:** Jodi Wells, Geoffrey Mowbray

**OH&S:**
The holes in the ground left by the fencing being removed.
Children are stepping into them.

**Inward Correspondence:**
Parmalat Invoice
Australian Fundraising
Paddys Markets
Mothers Day stall order books x3

**Outward Correspondence:**
Parmalat Invoice Paid via Internet Banking
Bidvest Invoice paid via Internet Banking
CDM cheques
LW Reid Cheques

**Business Arising:**

**Treasurers Report:**
Canteen Balance at $1000.01 (.01 interest)
P and C Balance at $7661.38

**Principals Report:**
Upgrading of Septic System completed over the break.
Upgrade of power to school also completed over the break.

**Fencing being done now. Mystique Fencing of Gillieston doing the work**
We are having a few fibre optic issues that were holding up the fencing being completed over the break.
Laptops for whiteboards have been purchased, but need to be programmed to suit the whiteboards.
iPads purchased, being programmed for multiple users now.
Class numbers are at 149. We will not have the numbers for the extra classroom. Mrs. Bennett will be leaving at the end of February. Class configurations are underway now. There may have to be a 4/5/6 class.
Newsletter format has changed. Good response so far.

**General Business**
Fridge in Wallabies classroom not working. Look at repair.

**Meeting Closed:** Stan
Time: 10.00
Next Meeting: Thursday 20 March 2014 at 9.15 am - AGM

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**Reading Bug Awards**
Students can receive awards by recording their reading each night on their Reading Bugs sheet. After 25 nights they can hand it in to Mrs Hennen in the Library or at the office.
**Big Red - Boss of the Chook Shed** By Shaye and Chase

We are lucky to have a chicken shed at our school that has ten chickens including a rooster named *Big Red*.

The chickens lay lots of eggs which are sold.

All the chicken have names. The babies are *Midgit, Daza, Black Beak, Snow White, Shabrea* and *Lightning*.

Before Christmas last year, foxes killed seven chickens. Five survived and then two of our hens had babies.

Year 5/6 take good care of the chickens. They make sure that there is plenty of food and water for the chickens and also clean out the pen.

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**Canteen News**

The canteen is slowly beginning to pick up. We are only open Monday, Wednesday and Friday for now as volunteers are at a minimum.

This year all persons who volunteer at the school in the canteen/classrooms, etc. need to have a Working With Children Check. I have provided the web address below. It is free if you click on volunteer. Fill out the questionnaire online, print out the results and take it to your local RTA office and they will lodge it for you.

There is NO cost to you, and if you want to help at the school it must be done. I did mine last year and got my certificate emailed within a week. They are saying now it is taking a bit longer. So you might want to get it started ASAP.


Once the AGM in March is over, I will no longer be available on the Monday and Wednesday for the canteen. The P and C fought hard to get this canteen for the school.

Hopefully there will be some parents who can come up and give a hand to run it, even 3 hours a week or even a fortnight is all we need. A commitment of 3 hours isn’t all that much to ask for the kids who love to come up and get their lunch or a snack or a drink at recess time. It is the highlight of my day to see your kids smiling faces.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the Canteen Monday and Wednesday mornings or on 0490012849. I will get back to you.

Thank You!!!

- Jody
School Uniforms...

School photos are going to be held on March 17th, 2014 which is not that far away. If your child/children require a logo shirt, shorts or skorts please come and see me at the uniform shop on Wednesday between 2-3pm or fill out the order form. Order forms need to be placed in an envelope with money and passed on to your child’s teacher or the office.

Stock is limited so be quick. It does take around a week to get more stock.

Uniform Co-ordinator

Tammy Chang

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Want to work in Forestry or learn more about arranging flowers?

**Free Course**

**This free course covers**

- Hygiene practice in a range of service industry operations
- Preparation and serving of a range of teas and non-alcoholic beverages
- Extraction and serving of espresso coffee using commercial machines
- Providing customer service and advising customers on espresso coffee
- Storage of coffee and related ingredients
- Cleaning, care and maintenance of coffee machines

"I love to help my students develop the tools they need for their career"

Google Hunter TAFE  Call 131 225

**Details**

This 6 week course will help you consider pathways to further training and employment

**Course starts:**
Monday 3 March 2014
9:30am to 12:30pm

**Venue:** Kurri Kurri TAFE Campus

For further information and registrations for these courses, please contact:

Kurri Kurri Campus
Outreach
(02) 4036 0382
patrick.murphy@tafensw.edu.au
huntertafensw.edu.au

Want to work in Forestry or learn more about arranging flowers?

**Free Course**

**This free course covers**

- The theory and practice of naming and caring for a wide range of flowers
- How to make stunning floral displays
- Creating arrangements for different events including weddings
- Gift wrapping techniques
- How the floristry industry operates
- How to pursue a career and further training in the industry

**Introduction to Floristry**

Environment, Horticulture and Primary Industries

**Details**

This 14 week course will help you consider pathways to further training and employment

**Course starts:**
Friday 7 March 2014
9:30am to 1:30pm

**Venue:** Kurri Kurri TAFE Campus

Google Hunter TAFE  Call 131 225

**Contact details**

For further information and registrations for these courses, please contact:

Kurri Kurri Campus
Outreach
(02) 4036 0382
patrick.murphy@tafensw.edu.au
huntertafensw.edu.au
**Diary Dates**

6th March  
Student Oral Presentations

14th March  
Maitland Zone Girls Soccer Trials

17th March  
School Photo Day

21st March  
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

21st March  
School Cross Country Carnival

**BANKING DAY**
Please note the new banking day is Tuesday

**Friday Assembly**
9.15am - Parents and Guardian’s welcome

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**Wedding Fashion Parade**
**MBC Community Event**
*SATURDAY MARCH 29 2014, 2 - 5pm*

**Maitland Baptist Church**
Weblands Street, Rutherford

*All funds raised will benefit the Kim Jones Children’s Home in Africa*

This is a great opportunity for you to participate in a fun event –
... as a Bride, Bridesmaid, Flower Girl or Page Boy.
You may even wish to re-create your special day by getting your original Wedding Party together just one more time. Dresses of all types can be worn by owners or donated for others to wear on the day, or for display only.

**ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE**

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**Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to**

**Come and Try Guides!**

**At your local Girl Guide unit**
For girls aged 7-18 years

Guides enjoy challenging and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities:
games, leadership and life skills, craft, badges, cooking, camping and community events

*For information on the location and available meetings in your area Please email Region Membership Advisor Helen, on helenEG2@live.com.au*

Or visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au

HAVING FUN TODAY - LEADING THE WORLD TOMORROW ..

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**Student Oral Presentations**

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<tr>
<td>10:30am - 11am</td>
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<td>Quolls</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm - 1pm</td>
<td>Echidnas</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:05am - 2:35pm</td>
<td>Possums</td>
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**Clean Up Australia Day**

Clean Up Australia Day will be taking place on Friday 28th February at the conclusion of lunch play.

All classes have been assigned an area to tidy in an “emu parade.” Students will be working with their class teacher to pick papers/rubbish and clean up the school.

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**National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence**

*Friday 21 March 2014*