Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Classes are all now settling into their routines and teachers are working hard to get to know all their students. We have a P&C Meeting tomorrow in the Library—all new families are very welcome.

Our OSHC looks like starting at the end of this month. Ms Kylie Parks from Camp Australia will be talking at this Friday’s assembly, in case you missed last night.

Teachers have expressed their concerns about ensuring children are going home safely each day. They ask that parents do not take children from lines under the COLA as it makes it difficult to know who is taking who. Staff are escorting students to the back gate as soon as the bell goes. Please encourage them to stay in these lines until they get to the gate.

Mrs Karen Johanson - Principal

From the Principal

Paul and Mindy from Sport for Life have been providing gymnastics lessons as part of our Sports in Schools Program. Each Thursday classes will take turns.

9:05 Magpies, 9:50 Rosellas, 10:35 Owls, 12:05 Finches, 12:35 Penguins, 1:05 Kookaburras and 2:00 Eagles.

Gymnastics is part of our NSW Syllabus requirements and these fully qualified instructors enable our students to receive the highest quality of lessons. Basia will be replacing Paul this week.
PENGUINS

The Penguins had a great start to the term. It was a busy week of learning about routines and participating in whole school activities. The new Kindergarten students spent some time with their buddies in the classroom and in the playground. Some of our highlights this week “gymnastics”, “playing in the kitchen”, “playing in the sandpit, except I lost my shoe” and “learning how to write”. One child said “I know everything about school now”.

KOOKABURRAS

The Kookaburras have made a wonderful start to the year. Our Year 1 students have been helping Kindergarten settle into class routines and demonstrating excellent group work behaviour. Our focus for the week has been on how we learn in our small group rotations and expectations for moving sensibly between activities. Well done on a great start Kookaburras!

FINCHES

The Finches have settled in beautifully to their new class, and we've had a lovely time getting to know each other. We're even learning about the experiences of our new friend, Peter, who has been surrounded by his rich Kamilaroi Aboriginal culture since he was born. We're starting a story writing unit this week, and we're excited about sharing our writing with you. Watch this space to see what spectacular authors we are set to become!
The Rosellas are excited to be in their new classroom and are settling in nicely. We put our heads together to come up with our classroom agreement which stipulates the expectations we have for ourselves and our peers.

We already have had 3 Super Students this week. The Rosellas know how powerful a great imagination can be, especially in the classroom! We based our first creative arts lesson on bringing our imagination to life. We experimented with combining photography with drawings to create our masterpieces. We are very proud of our work and are excited to say that we have a classroom full of talented artists.

It is exciting times for the Magpies as this week we begin our Literature Unit on *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl. Last week we researched information about foxes in Australia and discovered that they were an introduced species and considered a pest especially to farmers.

This week we will become acquainted with the characters in the story and be writing our own imaginative text. Roald Dahl creates the most wicked and colourful of characters in his stories we look forward to our journey to the farms of Farmer Boggis, Bunce and Bean and meeting them all!

In our classroom we have been learning new routines and our PBL expectations. We even managed to create some owls to decorate our classroom with.
EAGLES
Our class are working hard every day practising our fast recall of number facts and developing our individual learning goals. Thank you to all the parents who have been part of the student led conferences.

PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our Primary Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 16th February at Beresfield Swimming Centre. Travel for all students will be by bus. Please note these details:

- Normal arrival at school by 9.05am.
- The bus will leave school at 9.30am after roll call, to arrive at the pool by 9.50am.
- The bus will leave the pool at 2.00pm to arrive back at school by 2:30pm.
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST COME TO SCHOOL AND TRAVEL TO THE POOL ON THE BUS.**
- Parents will need to arrange their own transport to the pool. Students can go home with parents or return to school on the bus.
- All children are to wear a coloured wrist band to indicate their swimming ability.
- Children may wear their house coloured T-shirt with their school shorts and hat.

INFANTS WATER DAY
Next Tuesday while the primary students attend their Swimming Carnival, Infants students will participate in a Water Fun Day at the school. The day will begin with a visit from the local Fire Service at roughly 9:30 followed by an early recess at around 10:30. After that students will be involved in a number of activities where our students can have fun with water and learn about the importance of water safety.

We would like to warmly invite you to join us for a late lunch at **around 1pm.** (Please note the change in time!)
**PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

One of the Peer Support activities this week involved the leaders taking the group outside for a game. The playground was filled with the buzzing, happy sounds of children organising and playing with other children. It was fantastic to see and hear.

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The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child’s performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us identify potentially gifted students and those who may need more focused and purposeful teaching to achieve their best.

Entry forms will be sent home in the next few weeks for all of those students interested in participating in the ICAS assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICAS Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ICAS Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
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<td>Tues 5 April</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>2-12</td>
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<td>Tues 3 May</td>
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<td>2-12</td>
<td>Tues 16 August</td>
<td>Tues 21 June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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**SKOOLBAG APP**

Did you know you can send an absentee note through this App. Use the Parent eForms.

“Save time do it online!”

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**ALL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**

*need to have completed the new Working With Children Check.*

Award-Winning In-School Theatre Performances

The H Team

On Thursday 10 March Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing program ‘The H Team’ for all students K to 6.

The H Team, a live educational theatre program, will encourage children to make good decisions affecting their health and happiness. They will learn strategies to resist the lure of advertising, peer pressure and inspire them to be kind to themselves and others. They discover that what they’re looking for can’t be found on social media, the internet or playing video games. This powerful live theatre experience helps students understand why they can become stressed, or depressed, and how to achieve physical and emotional balance and wellbeing.

The H Team is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe, supportive and nonjudgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

More than 350,000 Australian students have already benefited from Brainstorm Productions multi award-winning educational theatre programs over the past twelve months. Their programs cater to the specific wellbeing needs of students, helping to create a healthy and harmonious school environment. If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au

From the P&C

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be on Thursday 11 February at 9:30am in the school hall. All new families are welcome. The membership fee is $2 that will enable voting rights at the next month’s meeting, the AGM.

Our P&C have worked very hard over the years, raising money for our children. The current goal is to purchase shade over the concrete area in the playground.

A fundraising opportunity is available for our P&C to volunteer their time with Maitland Lion’s Club at this year’s Maitland Show. Please contact the school if you are available to support this at any time on 19, 20 or 21 February.

Our school canteen is still currently closed. Announcements will be made on Facebook and Skoolbag when it will be open.

We are hoping to open the canteen on Friday. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered. We are now waiting for Working with Children Checks to be completed to ensure we follow the wellbeing protocols.
Earn these exciting rewards with School Banking

Don’t forget that Monday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their regular savings habits.

Week 6 Award Winners

**PENGUINS**
Lewis  
Chloe  
Joseph

**OWLS**
Jacob K  
Maddison P  
Toby B

**ROSELLAS**
Makaley  
Hayden  
Jayden

**KOOKABURRAS**
Zalia R  
Ruby D

**MAGPIES**
Skye B  
River A  
Madi P

**FINCHES**
Maddison L  
Riley H  
Donyae D

**EAGLES**
Fiona  
Connor  
Jordan Mc
# Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 AECG Meeting</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 P&amp;C Meeting 9:30 am in Library</td>
<td>12 Camp Aust Talk @ assembly</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>OSHC Meeting with parents 6pm</td>
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<td>16 Primary Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Infants Water Day</td>
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**Just For Fun!**

We are safe, respectful learners.

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**TEACH YOUR KIDS TO SWIM...IT’S GREAT!!**


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