Dear Parents/Carers,

From the teachers and support teachers of the Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 classes, thank you to all the Parents /Carers who attended the Parent Information Evenings last week. The feedback from the teachers is that they highly value the opportunity to meet you and talk with you about your child’s learning. The insights they gain are extremely valuable in supporting your child at school. It is important to have an ongoing partnership between home and school so that we are better able to meet every child’s social and learning needs and strengths.

Stage Assemblies are being held in the School Hall commencing at 2.10 pm next week (Week 5) for Early Stage 1 on Thursday, February 28 and Stage 1 Tuesday, February 26. Everyone is very welcome to join the children for their assembly.

A formal assembly will be held in the School Hall next Monday, February 25 (Week 5) for the Induction of the Student Representative Council for 2013. Parents, Carers, family members and friends are most welcome to attend to attend this special event in our school’s calendar. A morning tea will be served for the SRC and their family members following the assembly.

‘Hard to hear, hard to learn.’ Our school has recently purchased a classroom amplification system called a Redcat for every classroom. We are very appreciative of Cheryl Baxter’s, (Itinerant Teacher Hearing) work and time in unpacking and setting up a Redcat in each classroom. Redcat is a wireless microphone and speaker system that improves the signal of the teacher’s voice. Hearing and understanding are basic requirements for learning. Classrooms are often very noisy places. Many children who are not ‘diagnosed’ with a hearing loss may have difficulty hearing what the teacher says and what other children say during co-operative learning activities. These include children who may have middle ear disease (otitis media, called OM), children who have sensori-neural deafness, children on the autism spectrum who may be fearful of loud voices, children whose first language is not English, children who find it difficult to remain focused when there are competing stimuli. With OM, often the hearing problem is not noticed or deemed to be temporary and ‘mild’. However this type of hearing loss is detrimental to learning. A mild hearing loss causes softer sounds to drop out of the speech signal. Adults can piece the message back together but young children who are language learners cannot do this. Listening and understanding becomes difficult, learning strategies become confused and long term difficulties in spelling, reading and grammar often are the result. Children may: find it difficult to learn, face social problems with their peers and adults, find it hard to make and keep friends, worry too much, behave in ways that ‘tease’ or irritate others or feel isolated. Using amplification in the classroom will mean that children can still hear and learn even when experiencing a bout of OM and that the signal to noise ratio (teachers voice to background stimuli) is improved for other children (children with autism, ADHD, mental health issues) who have difficulty listening. The benefits to students and teachers when amplification is used in the classroom.

- Benefits to acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills for all students
- Benefits to acquisition of literacy, phonological, comprehension and reading skills
- Reduction of redirection and off-task behaviour
- Improvement of attention, participation and learning
- Increased responsiveness to directions in students with ADHD
- More students captured information the first time
- Teachers used a softer voice and this made the total environment more positive.

Amplification systems can make a significant contribution to accelerating learning outcomes for young children in CPS when used in conjunction with all the other positive strategies in place. Thank you to Sue Snelgrove, Assistant Principal – Hearing, for providing this background information.

Garry Carter, Principal
WHATS HAPPENING............

25 February  SRC Induction - 9.30am - School Hall
26 February  Reminder: Full amount for Midginbil 2013 due
26 February  Stage One Assembly - 2.10pm - School Hall
27 February  Mufti Day
28 February  Early Stage One Assembly - 2.10 - School Hall **Please note change of date****
28 February  Northern Rivers PSSA Zone Swimming - Lismore
05 March  Canteen AGM - 12.30pm
06 March  North Coast PSSA Swimming Carnival - Coffs Harbour
12 March  P&C AGM - 9.30am
13-15 March  Year 4 Midginbil Camp

OFFICE INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 8.40AM TO 3.30PM

Notes:  
School Record's Update Sheet
Publication of Students' Names and Photographs
Information on any Illness, Injury, Allergy and Severe Allergic Reaction Form
Permission to Leave School Grounds - Kinder - Year 2 will be sent home with the newsletter
Please complete these forms as soon as possible to be returned to your child's class teacher

School Contributions:  Note sent home with last week's newsletter
Thank you to those who have already returned their notes, if you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you could do so at your earliest convenience.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Early Stage 1 - Week 2  - Michael KK, Clayton KLS, Brooke KP & Grace KS.
Early Stage 1 - Week 32  - Amy-lee KK, Annalise KLS, Clayton KP & Ebony KS.
Stage 1 - Week 2  - Hannah 1B, Gloria 1H, Shianne 1C, Graci 1D, Kobi 2R, Hayden 2H.
Stage 1 - Week 3  - Kalani 1B, Chayce 1H, Ty 1C, Sarah 2R.
Stage 2 - Week 3  - Evelyn 3L, Brycen 3S, Payton 3/4T, King 4C, Holly 4B.
Stage 3 - Week 2  - Isaac 5/6G, Emily 5J, Tallulah 5G, Chantelle 5/6P, Katheryn 6M.

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen - Weekly Roster

Wed 20 Feb: E Trustum, J Hancock, K Beek
Thur 21 Feb: C Hill, S Gill
Fri 22 Feb: N Phelps, M Genge, J Wilson
Mon 25 Feb: T Argent, S Gill
Tues 26 Feb: G Riveria, D Hawkes
Wed 27 Feb: T Malloney, G Sullivan

The Canteen Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 March at 12.30pm.
All positions will be declared vacant.

As a "Thank You" for helping in the canteen, at the end of each term, all volunteer's names will be placed in a hat for a lucky draw.

Danielle Parker - Canteen Co-ordinator
**MUFTI DAY**

Our next Mufti Day will be on Wednesday 27 February. The students are allowed to wear casual clothes (no strappy singlets please and proper covered in shoes need to be worn). Students are asked to bring along a gold coin donation, this money goes to the SRC who choose charities at the end of the year to donate the money to.

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**CLASS LIBRARY DAYS**

**MONDAY**: 5G, KP, 1H & 3/4T  
**TUESDAY**: 5/6G, 3S, KS, 1C & 3L  
**WEDNESDAY**: 5/6M, 3/6S, KLS, 2H & 4B  
**THURSDAY**: K/1H, K/3Y, 4C, 5J, 2R & 1D  
**FRIDAY**: 3/6B, 6P, KK, 2D & 1B

Children in Kindergarten may borrow 1 book per week, Stage 1 may borrow 2 books per week, Stage 2 may borrow 3 books per week and Stage 3 may borrow 4 books per week.  
Children must have a library bag to borrow. Library bags are available to purchase from the office for $8.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

Casino Public School will again be participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge in 2012. Students can register directly at the website www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge  
The website is accessible at school, home and the town library. Book lists for students are now available to the website.

All students are encouraged to participate. If you do not have access to the website, please don't worry – Mrs Burston or Mrs Dollisson will provide you with any information and paperwork you will need. If students do self-register, please advise Mrs Burston or Mrs Dollisson that you are participating and when you have completed your reading record.

Parents and caregivers need to be aware of two new features of the Premier’s Reading Challenge. All students who successfully complete a validated online reading record qualify for a PRC certificate and will appear on the PRC Honour Roll. Only students’ name will appear in the Honour Roll with no other identifying factors. Participating schools appear as a separate list and homeschools are not listed individually. For more information on this please go to the website https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/privacy.html, or see Mrs Dollisson.

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**SPORT NEWS**

**SPORT – Term 1**  
Stage 2 & 3 will be swimming for the rest of the term, starting this Friday 22 February. Cost $3. Only those students that are sick, with a note, do not pay entry. Remember... students must have a hat, rash/t-shirt & sunscreen to swim in.  
Stage 3 - 12 noon to 1.30pm.  
Stage 2 - 1.30pm to 3.00pm.

**ZONE SWIMMING**

Northern Rivers Zone Swimming held in Lismore will be happening on 28 February. Students’ who qualified have received notes from Mr Bennett. These notes need to be returned with $5 (cash only) by 25 February.

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**CLOTHING DONATIONS**

The school is in desperate need of spare clothes. If anyone has any outgrown children's underwear, shorts or shirts that they would like to donate for spare clothing, it would be greatly appreciated. Just bring them into the office.

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**P&C NEWS**

The Annual General Meeting is 12 March, where we will be putting together the new 2013 committee. Please express your interest by coming along.
COMMUNITY NEWS
JUMBUNNA COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE INC.

TRIPLE P - POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM
We will be running a Group Triple P Program at Jumbunna. The aim of the group is to teach parenting skills and help parents become more confident by: helping parents to manage common behavior problems, helping parents learn positive ways of disciplining children, improving communication and reducing stress.
Parents can discuss and share ideas about parenting and receive practical ideas about parenting skills that they can use with their children.

Dates: Tuesday 19 & 26 February and Tuesday 5 & 12 March
Times: 5.30 – 7.30pm. Light supper provided.
Cost: No charge.
Facilitator: Wendy Ferguson
Contact Karen McDermott if you would like a place. Telephone: 6662 2866 or karen@jumbunna.com.au

NORTHERN STAR HOCKEY CLUB - Juniors Players required
2013 Season commences 6th April,
Sign on Wednesday 20th February At Goonellabah Turf 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Or contact, Junior Manager: Amanda 0438 246 848 - northernstarclub@gmail.com

Hub of Summerland Learning
Our school respects and acknowledges that it is situated on the riverbank of beautiful Bundjalung land.

P & C meetings are held 2nd Tuesday of each month. All parents are welcome.
PARAGYU: THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR YOUR ATTENTION, SPONSORED FREE WITH THE HELP OF THE ADVERTISERS AND PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.