Principal’s Report

Parent Information Sessions
Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the recent parent information sessions. It was a great way to start the year by bringing teachers and parents together. Parents were given the opportunity to tour the school grounds and find out about class procedures and other relevant information regarding the school year. The feedback regarding the process from both the teaching staff and the parents was extremely positive.

Resource Levy
A note will be sent home shortly regarding the school’s Resource Levy for 2016. The levy was introduced last year and replaced the traditional fee for the cost of text books previously used by students in class. However, we do not use text books anymore and instead use more engaging on-line programs which cater for our 21st Century learners. **The levy is $30 per child** and covers all our on-line subscriptions (which students can access from home) and any educational apps that we purchase. If you have trouble covering this cost, please come to the office and speak to Mrs Dent and arrangements can be made to assist you.

Voluntary School Contributions
School contributions are now due. Thank you to all the parents who have already paid the $50 per child or $80 per family fee. You voluntary contributions are greatly appreciated here at EBPS!

Band Fundraiser

Year 6 Camp
Our Year 6 students are currently enjoying their time together along with the Year 6 teachers, Mrs Dempsey and Mrs Hickey. The camp is an opportunity for the students and teachers to strengthen their bond with one another and maintain these positive relationships throughout 2016. I’m sure there will be lots of laughs and opportunities to ‘step outside the comfort zone’ throughout the week. Mr Tosevic will also accompany the students during the evening activities to assist with night supervision and supporting the students. Have a great time Year 6 and we will see you on Friday.

Dogs on School Grounds
Sometimes parents coming to collect children bring their dogs along for the walk. While this may be a good opportunity to give the dog a bit of exercise, unfortunately it is against the law to bring dogs onto school property. There are obvious safety reasons for this, both due to the danger that a dog (no matter how well trained or how well behaved) may become excitable or distressed when surrounded by noisy children, and of course there is the issue of dog droppings in the playground.

The NSW Consolidated Act states that dogs are prohibited from some public places. Section (e) of the Act specifically refers to schools and states that this applies to dogs whether they are leashed or unleashed. The exceptions are Assistance dogs trained to assist those who are sight or hearing impaired. I thank you for your anticipated co-operation in keeping dogs out of our playground.

P&C Update
My thanks go to those parents who were able to attend Monday’s P&C meeting. I was pleased to be able to present my ‘Principal’s Report’ and provide an opportunity for those attending a chance to put some questions to me. It was great to see so many parents attend and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2?
During this semester, Year 1 and Year 2 will be studying the History unit: The Past In The Present. We will be looking at how our school has changed and investigating its history. In 2M we have already discovered that our uniforms were different in the past and that we didn’t always have a school hall. If anyone in the community has any pictures, memorabilia or stories to share please contact Mrs South.

Events Calendar – Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th-19th Feb</td>
<td>Yr 6 Camp @ Kincumber</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Feb</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>Dr. John Irvine - Band Fundraiser</td>
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K – 2 Workers of the Week
Term 1 Week 3
KA Lila A Ruby A
KB Iggy I Jasmin T
KC Lilah H Vini L
KM Holly G Leah H
1S Emily P Ben K
1SM Koen M Kaelan VDW
1W Sophie L Connor U
2C Evie A Zac S
2M Arran F Marlie H
2S Oscar B Amelie R

3-6 Workers of the Week
Term 1 Week 3
3L Talia W 3H Piper L
4M Dakoda K 4L Brooke L
4SB Max T
5J Riley W 5T Lily P
6K Chelsea P 6D Seanna H

From the Canteen –
REMINDER - Sushi Day Tomorrow. If you require any further information regarding the Sushi please go to www.bigcrunchsushi.com

Wonderful Workers of the Week : Sue, Leeane, Liza and Tina

HELP WANTED for 2016: As little as ONE HOUR of your time in the mornings when you drop your children to school is a BIG HELP to us in the Canteen. Please consider becoming a volunteer if you have an hour to spare now and then. Your time is much appreciated! Drop into the Canteen and see Gaye or Michelle to put your name onto a roster for 2016.

Looking for a quick and easy way to order School Lunches - why not check out ON-LINE ORDERING AT FLEXISCHOOLS. It will take the hassle out of lunch orders and that school morning rush!

Work Health & Safety requires anyone working in the canteen to wear closed in shoes so your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

Uniform Shop
- Opening Hours
  - Tuesday 8.30am–9.00am
  - Thursday 2.30pm – 3.00 pm
- Uniform Shop is behind the hall

Become an Ethics Teacher at Empire Bay Public School
We currently have ethics classes for K-6. Ethics classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgment, which will enable them to respond more thoughtfully to many of the problems and issues they will face in their lives.
http://www.primaryethics.com.au or contact Jenni Bourchier, Regional Manager - Gosford Region, Primary Ethics for more information: gosford-region@primaryethics.com.au or call her on 0411 198 483. We need an additional volunteer for an Ethics Teacher within the school. Members of the school community are encouraged to apply.

If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter sent home please fill out the slip below and return to the office. Newsletters are available in the school office and can be obtained on the school website or School App each week.
Thank you

Child’s Name: ............................................................
Class: ..................................................
School Band Fundraiser

You are invited to ‘An Evening with Doctor John Irvine’

Focus - Helping Young Worriers Beat the WorryBug

When: Thursday 10th March
Where: Empire Bay PS Hall
Time: 7PM
Cost: $20pp (Tickets available from Empire Bay School office – 43691796)

About Dr John
Dr. John Irvine is one of Australia’s most renowned child psychologists. As a pioneer in his field, he has been read, viewed or heard throughout the nation. At the age of 18, he started his own one-teacher school and continued in the field, teaching in the New South Wales schools for many years before becoming a child psychologist. He is currently a consultant at the R.E.A.D. Clinic and has written several books including Thriving at School and A Handbook for Happy Families, which now has four accompanying DVDs.

What the evening will involve
Dr John acknowledges the growing problem of anxiety in kids - everywhere, which calls for immediate and timely attention. Dr. John has been invited to Empire Bay PS to help tackle the issue by presenting sensible advice for parents, educators and other caretakers. The evening will include background information on the origin of worry, an assessment guide to help determine the problem and an opportunity for a Q & A session to answer any general questions you may have for Dr John. Paper will be available on the night for you to write your question anonymously if you prefer.

Dr John will introduce the WorryWool which help children to open up and express their feelings in a positive way and understand that they are not alone. We have asked Dr John to bring along any books and support material for community members to purchase on the evening if they wish to.

We can guarantee a friendly, funny and informative evening!!