Principal’s Report

Welcome back
There are many exciting activities and programs planned for 2016 and we are really looking forward to a terrific year at Empire Bay PS. Your children looked very smart in their uniforms and have settled in remarkably well. My thanks go to parents and carers who prepared their children so well for their return to school – your support is very much appreciated. A warm welcome is extended to all of our new enrolments, their families and, of course, our new kindergarten students and their families. We look forward to a long and rewarding partnership and I’m sure your time with us will be both enjoyable and productive.

Class Placement
Children were placed into their 2016 classes last Thursday. Students have been placed according to the advice of their previous teachers, their learning and social needs, their interest in the BYOD format and where possible, their friendship choices. There is a high demand for places at our school and we have 19 classes this year. We are unable to act on ‘non-local’ enrolments at this time (particularly in Year 3). No student will be moved from their appointed class in the first three weeks of term and then, only under exceptional circumstances.

School Hours
8.35am Playground supervision begins
9.00am Classes commence
11.00am Recess
11.25am Classes resume
1.10pm Lunch
2.00pm Classes resume
3.00pm End of school day

(please note that there will be no teacher supervision provided to students after 3:00pm with the exception of those students waiting to go to parents and carers who prepared their children so well for their return to school – your support is very much appreciated. A warm welcome is extended to all of our new enrolments, their families and, of course, our new kindergarten students and their families. We look forward to a long and rewarding partnership and I’m sure your time with us will be both enjoyable and productive.

Our Staff Teams for 2016 are:
Kindergarten: Mr McCredie, Mrs Archer, Miss Krechster & Mrs Miller (Mrs Archer – Relieving Team Leader)
Year 1: Mrs Wood, Mrs Souden, Mrs Murray & Mrs Shaw – (Mrs South – Team Leader)
Year 2: Mrs South, Mrs Clark, Miss Smith - (Mrs South - Team Leader)
Year 3: Mrs D Leslie, Mr Hill & Miss Clark - (Mrs D Leslie/Mrs K Leslie - Team Leaders)
Year 4: Mrs Ballard, Miss Small, Miss Murdoch & Mrs K Leslie – (Mrs D Leslie/Mrs K Leslie – Team Leaders)
Year 5: Mrs Jones, Mr Tosevic– (Mrs Dempsey – Team Leader)

Year 6: Mrs Dempsey & Mrs Hickey - (Mrs Dempsey-Team Leader)
RFF/Library: Mrs Finlay (M) Mrs Oliver (W/Th/F), Mrs Dawes (Tu/W/Th)
LST/LAST/SLSO: Mrs McCredie, Mrs Davis, Mrs Atkin, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Wylie
School Counsellor: Mrs K Williams (Tu/W)
Admin Team: Mrs Dent (Team Leader), Mrs White, Mrs Smith, Mrs Hillman, Mrs Dennehy
General Assistants: Mr McFarland
P&C President: Mrs Kylie Harper
Assistant Principals: Mrs South, Mrs Archer (Relieving), Mrs D Leslie, Mrs K Leslie, Mrs Dempsey
Principal: Mr Lewis Co Principal: Mrs D Leslie
Director, Public Education: Mrs Karen Jones

- LAST = Learning and Support Teacher
- LST = Learning Support Team
- RFF = Release from face-to-face (teaching)
- SLSO = School Learning Support Officer

Parent Information Evenings
Parent Information evenings are currently being organised by each grade to provide an opportunity for parents to find out more about their child’s year in 2016.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tuesday 1st February 10am</td>
<td>8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th February 3pm</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tuesday 11th February 5pm</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th February 5pm</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thursday 16th February 5pm</td>
<td>6.15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thursday 16th February 6pm</td>
<td>6.15 pm</td>
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Student Information
It is vital that we have your current & correct contact details on file in case there is a need to contact you in the event of an emergency. If your address, phone contact or family circumstances have changed in any way please contact our front office staff to update these details.

Changes in circumstances could include but are not limited to:
- amended Family Court Orders,
- living or custody arrangements,
- student health plans,
- changes in medication, or
- altered health conditions.

Please be assured that such detail will be kept in confidence and will only be used to assist in meeting the individual needs of your children.
School App - Tiqbiz
Our school app is a great way to be regularly notified about what’s happening at EBPS. You will be notified of our news, messages, events and other communications. Information on how to download tiqbiz: www.tiqbiz.com.au

Swimming Carnival
My congratulations go to the Stage 2 team for their coordination of another very smooth running and successful Swimming Carnival. The students displayed exemplary behaviour whilst spectating and participated in the events with enthusiasm and skill! Supervising staff really appreciated the refreshments provided by our P&C and I would like to acknowledge the many parents who were able to assist on the day. My congratulations go to all students who “had a go” and to those who ‘placed’ or achieved a ‘personal best’ in their individual event. The winners will be announced at this week’s primary assembly. My best wishes go to those students who now move onto the next level of competition at the Zone carnival.

Chaplaincy program
EBPS applied for and successfully gained funding to participate in the School Chaplain program. Below is some information regarding the role of the School Chaplain. You can find further information at http://mychaplain.org.au/

Over recent years there have been a number of studies that have demonstrated the value School Chaplains give to their school communities.

A 2012 study done by University of Western Australia surveyed the opinions of school principals, teachers, parents, students and other groups including psychologists and professional school associations. In that study, 96% of respondents supported the work of School Chaplains and agreed that the Chaplains’ work as members of a student support services team was valued. Further to that, 82% indicated that the social and emotional support provided by School Chaplains to students had a considerable positive impact; 83% indicated that School Chaplains helped to build up students’ confidence to a considerable extent.

The 2009 national study done by Edith Cowan University into the effectiveness of chaplaincy in Australian government schools also produced some remarkable results. Staff and students agreed that Chaplains have a unique and significant role to play in the life of a school. The study revealed that over 98% of surveyed Principals believe Chaplains make a major contribution to school morale, and 73% of students felt their Chaplain was highly important to the school.

Why Chaplaincy is Effective
According to the 2009 national study, Chaplains contribute to school welfare in a number of unique and beneficial ways, including:

- Working proactively to enhance the wellbeing of students, rather than simply responding to problems after they arise.
- Chaplains approach welfare holistically, working with families and communities as well as individual students.
- Students see Chaplains as ‘neutral’ and different to their other teachers, which makes it easier to share their difficulties with them.

The study revealed that in any given week, Chaplains are likely to deal with issues of bullying and harassment; peer relationships and loneliness; family relationships; students’ sense of purpose and self-esteem. School Chaplains are therefore well placed to engage young people in activities that are preventative and which support early intervention and referral of mental health issues.

From the students
On Monday, the 2016 Empire Bay PS swimming carnival was held at Peninsula Leisure Centre, Woy Woy. Well done to all of those who participated and earned points for the houses. We would like to thank the parent helpers, P+C and all teachers for helping with the carnival. Well done to all students for keeping their house clean and tidy and a big congratulation to all the people that won their races.

Written by Charlie Hillock (Kookaburra Vice Captain) and Max Vella (Bellbirds Vice Captain).

School Banking will resume on the 11th February 2016

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 Fundraiser</td>
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From the Canteen – 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

Becoming 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.

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**EAST COAST TAEKWONDO ACADEMY**

Membership includes FREE:

- Tae kwon do uniform
- One month training
- TRD Introductory DVD

(Conditions apply. Limited offer)

**EMPIRE BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL**

TUESDAY 7.05-8.05pm

7° DAN MASTER CHRIS PENNINGTON

PH: 0416 102 487

www.tae kwondoeastcoast.com.au

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**Being a Dad**

This three-session program will help fathers to gain the skills necessary to build closer relationships with their children.

You will learn to:

- Connect with your children
- Discipline constructively
- Understand the special role of a father in a child’s life
- Father from the inside-out
- Understand why it’s important to being a better dad

**MONDAY, 6.30PM - 9.30PM**

**15TH, 22ND & 29TH OF FEBRUARY 2016**

**Cost:** $20.00 Concession $15.00

**Venue:** Peninsula Community Centre

Seniors Room

93 McMahons Road

Woy Woy

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

PHONE 02 4341 0333

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**Being A Dad**

This three-session program will help relationships with their children.

**Course Content Overview**

**Session 1: Being a father today**

Assist participants to:
- Recognise the importance of fathering
- Learn to connect with their children
- Understand themselves as a Dad

**Session 2: Bringing out the best in our kids**

Assist participants to:
- Understand children at different ages
- Learn ways to be a better Dad
- Set goals for spending quality time with their children

**Session 3: The Power of Positive Parenting**

Assist participants to:
- Improve communication skills
- Learn positive ways to discipline children
- Practice what they have learned
Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Club Registration Day

6th February 2016

Lemongrove Reserve
Lagoon St, Ettalong
Between 9am & 2pm

Further enquiries via email addressed to the Melissa McRae
0400279916 or wwpna@bigpond.com

TKT Ocean Beach Netball Club 2016 Registration

TKT Ocean Beach Netball Club will be taking registrations on Saturday 6th February 2016 between 9am and 2pm at Lemons Grove Netball Courts. All past players and any new players are welcome. Players need to be turning 5 this year or older.

For further information please contact:
Joanne Ely - 0403 452 804 or email joanne_1956@hotmail.com

Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to
Come and Play and Stay
At Blackwall Guide Hall
Memorial Avenue, Ettalong Beach
Meetings resume 8th February, 2016.

Guides enjoy friendship, adventure, games, camping, outdoor activities, life skills and more – provided by trained Leaders

For meeting details please call Ronnie on 0412 773 623

Our mission is to enable girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.