Welcome back everyone! I hope that you all enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time with your families.

Welcome to our new students and those who have returned to our school. We are very happy to have these new enrolments.

We had our staff development day on Monday with other primary schools in our area. It was great to work with other teachers and look at ways of managing stress better.

You may have noticed our new carpet in the school entry and the new paint job in the staff room. We are trying to improve the overall look of the school but it takes time and money. We are gradually getting there!

We really need to do a lot of work with our gardens too so we are having a family gardening day next week.

We hope that it will be an enjoyable opportunity for parents and children to work together to help the school. Parents can bring up a picnic lunch and stay to do some much needed gardening.

Kindergarten students have spent some time doing their Best Start assessments this week and this helps the teacher to plan work which will be appropriate for each child.

Thank you to everyone who supported our first Green Meal Deal this week. We were able to raise $240 which will help us to subsidise the Young Leaders Day coming up soon.

I would like to thank all the staff who organised this event as well as donating many of the required items.

Lots of information will be going home over the next few weeks as we are obliged to ensure that parents are reminded of policies and procedures.

It is also vital that we update contact and medical information at the start of each year.

Parents who wish to work as a volunteer must complete a new form, new people will need to do the orientation session.

Welcome to our new Kindies on Monday!

Dorothy Cass

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Kindys Start</td>
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<td>Tea and Tissues morning</td>
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<td>tea for new kindy parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Community Gardening Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Gmysport begins</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Gmysport 2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Dragons Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Gmysport</td>
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<th>Week 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Assembly 2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Gmysport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Election BBQ and Cake stall</td>
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<th>Week 6</th>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Gardening</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Gmysport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Assembly 2.15pm</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Gmysport</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Water Safety Day 8.30am</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Gardening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Gmysport Harmony Day/White Ribbon Day</td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Young Leaders Ex S3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Assembly Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Earth Hour, Gmysport</td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<td>Last day of term</td>
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**Notes Home This Week**

- GYMSPORT – due by Friday 6 Feb
- Volunteer Expression of Interest 2015
- Water Safety Day – due 2 March
- Getting to and from school safely – due Feb 12
- Change in Medical Details

Watch out for the Community Gardening invitation and Life Education Notes which will be coming home next week.

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**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

If notes are not already in for this event children will not be able to attend.

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**FIRST ASSEMBLY FOR 2015**

Our first assembly is Thursday February 12.

Assemblies will be held on Thursday afternoons this year.

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**P&C MEETING**

Our first P&C meeting will be Tuesday February 17 at 5:45p.m.

This will be the AGM.

We would love to see a few more parents for your ideas and help!

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**PAYMENTS**

Please pay the correct amount if at all possible as the office does not have change!

Don’t forget the on-line payment option.

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**REMEMBER OF SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

It is vital that parents follow our school procedures for the security of students and to enable school programs to be implemented efficiently.

Key issues are:

- School starts at 8:30a.m. There is no one to supervise children before that time. Even if teachers are at school they are busy preparing for the day and are not rostered to supervise children until 8:30a.m. The office is open 8:30-3:15
- Parents must sign in children who arrive after 9:05 at the office.
- Preschool children MUST REMAIN WITH THEIR PARENTS AT ALL TIMES. The school only has a legal duty of care for enrolled students so parents need to supervise any preschoolers. Preschoolers are expected to be as quiet as possible and stay with parents during assemblies.
- Play equipment and the sandpit are out of bounds for all students before and after school. This does include preschool children and high school children.
- School finishes at 3:00p.m. so children must be picked up by 3:10p.m. please. Children who are not picked up by then must go to the office.
- Children can only go home with the person(s) listed on the “Getting to and from school safely sheet”.
- The school MUST BE NOTIFIED of any changes to transport home by 2:30p.m.
- Parents must not disturb teachers during the day.
- All communication must be done through the office i.e.
  - Messages
  - Late lunches
  - Items left at home e.g. jumpers
- Classrooms, corridors and verandahs are out of bounds to parents unless an appointment has been made with the class teacher via the office (booking forms are available outside the office)
- Parents are expected to leave the school grounds when the morning bell rings and to wait for children under the COLA or playground seating when school finishes.
- NO SMOKING, ALCOHOL OR DRUGS AT SCHOOL OR ANY SCHOOL EVENTS.
- NO DISRESPECTFUL OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE AT SCHOOL OR SCHOOL EVENTS.

A complete list is available in the school Information book.

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**VALUE FOCUS**

This term we are focusing on RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS. This means that we will be looking for evidence that children take their understanding of what respect means into all their relationships.

This includes:

- How they speak to friends, teachers, parents, visitors
- How they solve problems they have
- How they behave on social media
- How they dress
- How they support school events
- How they behave for casual teachers
- How they treat the environment
- How they behave outside of school e.g. at the park, getting home, at shopping centres

This should provide many opportunities for parents to have meaningful discussions with their children as well as modeling respectful behaviour at home.
**WHITE RIBBON COMMITTEE**

Senior students have been offered the opportunity to be a member of this group which will remind the school community to develop respectful relationships in all aspects of life.

They will also be organising and promoting activities and events to support this important program.

**REWARD SYSTEM**

This year the system remains the same but with an organisational addition of Class DOJO which is an on-line method of recording points for badges.

We hope it will make the whole system more efficient and engaging for students as their ongoing tally can be viewed on the Interactive White Board.

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2015**

Congratulations once again to our captains for 2015

Captain: Kasey Yates  
Captain: Emmy Withers  
Vice Captain: Levi Morris  
Vice Captain: Sariah Hardwick

**CAPTAINS MESSAGE**

We would like to welcome everyone back to school. We hope that you had a great holiday. On Monday the little kindergartens are starting school. Good luck to them all. We would also like to say good luck to all the swimmers that are going in the swimming carnival for 2015.

Thank you to all the teachers and parents that helped with the hamburgers today. They were delicious.

Kasey & Emmy

**SRC ELECTIONS**

These were held on Friday in stage 2 and 3. Congratulations to the following children:  
Jhye, Jacinta, Cooper, Ryan, Lilli, Oscar

**COMMUNITY GARDENING**

Parents and other family members are invited to come up at 1:00p.m. on Thursday February 5 with a picnic lunch for their children and to stay and do some much needed gardening!

Wear your gardening gear, bring your gardening tools as well as a picnic lunch so you can help us get our school grounds back into shape!

It should be a bit of fun and if lots of people come we won’t have to work too hard.

**GYMNASTICS**

Fundraising activities have enabled us to reduce the cost of this program for everyone.

We try to subsidise the cost to make the program more affordable for everyone because gymnastics is a mandatory part of the PD, H, PE syllabus. This means that ALL children must participate.

However, we need to engage a professional instructor because school staff members do not have current training in this area and the school cannot afford the necessary equipment.

It is a legal requirement that all children who participate in this program have handed in a signed permission note.

The Department of Education does not provide funds for this program so we need everyone to pay so that the school does not end up losing money.

However, if any family genuinely cannot afford this or any other activity please contact the office to ask for student assistance or an alternative payment plan.

**CANTEEN**

The canteen will commence Monday February 2.

The canteen will be open Monday, Thursday and Friday as in previous years. The canteen menu will remain the same for Term 1.

However, after consultation with the children and once we see what support we may get for the canteen, new healthy options will be provided.

Vikki Bartlett will be the canteen coordinator but will need some support from volunteers.

Parents who would like to volunteer to help in the canteen will need to indicate this on the volunteer expression of interest sheet.

Volunteers in the canteen will need to follow the food handling procedures to the letter as the canteen is inspected twice a year by the local council.
People who are volunteering for the first time at our school in any capacity will need to complete a short training session with the principal.

People who have already completed this session and worked at the school within the last 6 months do not need to do this again.

Once you have completed the volunteer training session and sent in the form you will be notified by the school of where you are needed.

Canteen volunteers will be decided by the P&C as they are responsible for the effective management of the canteen.

Volunteers will be placed where we know they will be most effective.

**We do need a Green Meal Deal coordinator!**

Thank you to all the people who are able to help us out in any way at school.

**UNIFORMS**

Final orders for term 1 need to be in by Tuesday 3rd February either paid in full or with 50% deposit. Packs can still be ordered or individual items. Polos available in most sizes, anything not available and in stock can be ordered with a maximum 4 weeks turnaround time.

We will have a clothing pool available soon for second hand uniforms so if anyone has any unwanted uniforms at home that no longer fit please send them into us we would love them. Stay tuned for further details of when these can be purchased in the next few weeks once we have enough items for sale.

We have had ongoing issues with faulty hats. We believe we have captured and replaced the last of the hats that have faults with the dye. If you have any other hats at home that need to be replaced please send them in a bag and clearly mark them with your child's name by next Friday 6th February. This date cannot be extended as they will be collected and credited back to us by our supplier.

**BEST START**

Mrs. Erwin had a lovely time meeting her new kindergarten children and is looking forward to having the whole class on Monday!

Some of them came looking very smart in their new school uniform.

**SCHOOL FEES**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are really grateful to all the parents who have already paid their school fees! WOW!

This is great as we have already signed up the children for various on-line programs and purchased other resources.

If everyone could pay their fees ASAP, by the end of this term at the latest, it would help us to stay out of debt. Kindergarten fees are $50, Yr 1-6 are $40.

Thank you also to all the parents who have paid for the GYM program – you can have a gold star!

**VOLUNTEERS**

If you are able to help out at school as a volunteer please complete the sheet that was sent home as soon as possible. If there is something you can do which we have not mentioned please just add it to the list!

More information about volunteering is in the canteen information.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION / CONTACT DETAILS**

Lots of notes are going home over the next few weeks as we need to have accurate information to support your children.

We MUST know if your child has any significant medical issues and particularly any allergies which may cause a severe reaction.

Children who suffer from asthma MUST have an updated asthma plan each year.

If there are any changes to your contact details or any custody arrangements or court orders the office needs a copy of the relevant information.

We MUST have 2 emergency contact details as we often cannot get onto parents if children are sick or hurt.
WESTS ILLAWARRA HOCKEY CLUB.
Ages 5-15 Boys and Girls welcome.
All enquires address to
juniors@westsillawarrahockey.com.au
Or contact David on 0437578963.
Players can register online at
www.westsillawarrahockey.com.au

Berkeley Netball club
Registration days Saturday 31st Jan - 10am - 2pm and
Tuesday 3rd - 3.30 pm - 5pm
At the Val Curran Centre, Berkeley Netball courts,
Hooka Creek Road, Berkeley.
First training day and any extra registrations start
Tuesday 10th Feb.
12yr and under 4.15pm - 5.15 pm; 13yr - 15yr - 5.30pm
- 6.30pm and 17yr and over 6.30pm - 7.30pm
New players must bring proof of birthdate
For more information ph Gerry on 42712041 or email:
geeraldineevry@outlook.com

PORT KEMBLA YOUTH PROJECT SWIM PROGRAM:
Water Confidence, Learn to Swim, and Stroke
Correction for children commencing 2nd February.
Qualified instructors; lessons held in indoor heated
pool on Monday afternoons. Cost is $11 per lesson per
child with concessions available.

Enrolments are being held on Thursday 29th January
between 11:00am and 4:00pm at the Port Kembla
Youth Project Office located Cnr Kembla & Allan St,
Port Kembla. No eftpos facilities available.

For more information contact Trish on 4276 1229 or Thursday's between 11:00am and
4:00pm.

Not for profit Physie Dance School!
Pre-school to Ladies Physie Dance Classes From Only $5
Troupe/Team Classes, Private Lessons, Stretch and
Marching Classes for Girls aged 2 years to Ladies.

www.albionparkphysie.com
Sherone: 0428 839583 or Jackki: 0413 023718

Prevocational Programs Unit at TAFE Wollongong Campus
will be conducting an Employment and Training course.

Cert 111 in Employment and Training 10091NAT

Please contact Antonia on 4229 0036 for further information.