**Welcome Back Everyone**

**Principal’s Message**

Welcome back to all of our students and families and also welcome for the first time to our new families for 2013. Although the first week has already come and gone for most students we are very excited to have our new kindergarten students start this week. We hope they enjoy their very first week of big school.

2013 is a very exciting year for our school. We are growing at a great rate and you may have noticed a demountable building near the play equipment. This will house one of our kindergarten classes. We had approximately 100 more students at the start of this year compared to last year.

On a sadder note, if your child was at school last week they would have received a letter from Mrs Blanch. She has announced her retirement and will not be returning as our Principal this year. We will miss her dearly and wish her the very best in her retirement. I will be relieving as Principal until a new Principal has been appointed sometime later this year. If you need to speak with me for any reason it is best to either see Christine at the front office or phone the school to make an appointment.

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We also have 2 new office staff. Lyn Bambach has transferred to the South Coast and Sue Griffiths is taking leave for Semester 1. We welcome Christine Davidson who has been permanently appointed, replacing Lyn. Christine comes to us from Wallabadah and was very highly regarded at her previous school. We also welcome Leanne Grinter who will be filling in for Sue and dealing with all things financial. Please say hello to our new front office staff whenever you get the chance, they are both great at what they do and are wonderful assets to our school.

We also welcome Mr Tom Magill who will be our school chaplain. He will be with us on Monday and Tuesday each week to support students who would like someone to talk through anything that may be on their mind.

**Classes**

Most classes have settled in to their new rooms and are getting to know their new teachers. At the beginning of each year some classes may require a few minor changes however we ask that parents and students trust that the staff of the school have made decisions about class placement with the best interests of the students in mind. The numbers of students in each class will be finalised in the very near future and then students can look forward to the rest of the year with their new classmates and teacher.

**New Staff**

We have several new staff members this year as well as all our new students. Mrs Helen Rowsell will be teaching a Year 1 class and we also welcome Miss Miranda Langford as a permanent staff member.

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<th>Principal’s Message</th>
<th>Term 1 Week 2</th>
<th>5th February 2013</th>
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<td>Miss Sarah Raymond, a student-teacher who was with us last year, has also joined us and will be working with students throughout the school. It is also wonderful to have Mrs Kathy Elliot back with us. We are very excited to have her back this year.</td>
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Voluntary Contributions
At the start of every year schools send out information regarding the voluntary contributions. These contributions go towards providing valuable resources for the school that benefit the students. The funds obtained go towards stationery items such as pens, pencils, books, scissors, art supplies etc as well as other minor assets to be used to support student learning.

We are asking families to pay their voluntary contributions, $45 for an individual child or $90 for a family, as early as possible to allow for planning the purchase of resources early in the year and to provide a clear financial picture for the school. An envelope has been sent home with this newsletter for your convenience.

We would like to thank those families who have already paid their contributions. These funds are greatly appreciated.

School Hours
Our school start time is 9:25am. Staff are on duty from 8:55am as required by the department however there are no staff on duty before this time. We ask that students arrive between 8:55am and 9:25am to ensure that they are supervised and safe. Any students arriving prior to 8:55am must make their way down to the COLA and wait until the first bell is sounded. If parents are accompanying their children to school we ask that they take their children directly to the COLA.

Please note that office hours are between 8:45am and 3:45pm. Outside of these hours the phone will be switched over to the answering machine which will be checked each morning. If you need to contact the school for any reason please try to ring during these hours.

Playgroup
Next Tuesday, the 12th February, Tamworth Family Support Service will hold their first playgroup for the year. It will be held in the school hall. You can pick up a flyer from the front office if you would like more details. We look forward to seeing lots of children there again this year.

Band
The school band is open to students from Years 3 to 6 and will begin again this Wednesday. Mr O’Neill will be handing out notes this week with all the relevant details. We ask that any student interested in band please take a note and have a think about getting involved. Mr O’Neill is an exceptional band leader resulting in our school band being renowned throughout the New England region.

Relieving Principal
Luke Norman

COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 1

FEBRUARY
Tuesday 12th Playgroup Starts
Wednesday 27th P&C Meeting

MARCH
Friday 22nd Harmony Day Assembly
Wednesday 27th P&C Meeting AGM
Thursday 28th Easter Hat Parade
Friday 29th Good Friday

APRIL
Friday 5th Cross Country
Friday 12th ANZAC Assembly
**Canteen**

Welcome back kids, I hope you all had a great holiday. There have been a few changes to the menu so please come and see me for a new canteen menu. Unfortunately things do go up but we still try to make it very reasonable for the kids.

If you would like to help in the canteen this year please come and see me. It is a great way to meet new people and make some good friends. The canteen is open Monday through to Friday and this also includes afternoon tea break, you can also order hot food in the mornings for your afternoon tea break if you like.

Unfortunately the canteen is also not in a position to give credit under any circumstances.

I also have weekly specials in the messenger which keeps you up to date on what is on special for the week.

Lots of great things happening in the canteen this year.

Our red days, lots of lunch specials and more so keep an eye out.

Have a great week kids!

Mandy Hardcastle,
Canteen Supervisor

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**2013 Homework Planner**


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**Clothing Pool**

Welcome to all parents - returning and new! Just letting you know the Clothing Pool and Uniform Shop is open Fridays 8.30-10am. Order forms are also available at the front office and the canteen. The canteen has hats and sunscreen available every day. We have new Oxley Vale embroidered items and I can order summer & winter tunics. There is also a small selection of seconds. Please remember us when you clean out your cupboards and drop them in.

Cheers, Jayne McCarthy

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**Student Payments**

It would be most appreciated if parents would send payments to the class teacher rather than bringing them to the front office. This ensures that payments are marked off by the teacher first thing each morning and also simplifies the process for office staff.

We understand if parents wish to deliver large sums of money (e.g. major excursion payments) for younger students to the office, but we do ask that, as often as possible, payments be sent with your child to their teacher.

EFTPOS payments will always be accepted at the front office.

We also ask your assistance in finalising payments for excursions, sporting activities etc., by the date shown on the information note, or at least 2 days prior to the event. Having to accept permission notes and payments on the day creates extreme difficulties for both teachers and office staff. The school needs to know numbers attending prior to the day of the event - particularly if payment by the school to the venue is necessary on the day.
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