PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome back to 2013 and what a start it’s been!!!
I hope everyone had a relaxing break and was able to spend some quality time together with their families. The hot weather and bushfire conditions certainly made the holiday break interesting!!

I would like to welcome our new Kinders to Falls Creek School. They have all settled in well, but more about that in class news. We also welcome our new students and their families to the school and hope you are settling in well.

Bridge Closure: Unfortunately, Shoalhaven Council had to close the bridge on Parma Road suddenly last week, with no warning. We have put procedures in place to accommodate the bridge closure and to ensure all students can be picked up or catch the bus. Council arranged for a minibus to help us ferry the students to the roundabout on Monday but it was not big enough to take all students in one trip!! The repairs on the bridge are supposed to take at least six weeks. I am writing to the council to express my concerns regarding the safety of our students and hope to get some answers. After our recent wet weather many students did not have a raincoat / spray jacket or umbrella and got wet on the way to the buses. Could I ask that all students have a spray jacket or raincoat in their bag to wear on our walk to the roundabout in the event of wet weather.

Shoalhaven Mobile Library: We were informed yesterday that they will not be able to visit the school while the bridge is under repair. We are very disappointed by this news.

Active After Schools Program: On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from Weeks 3 - 8 this term from 3.00pm to 4.00pm we will be running the Active After-School Communities (AASC) program. This Australian Government program is run by the Australian Sports Commission and provides opportunities for primary school children to participate in free sport and other structured physical activity, after school. This term a diverse and dynamic AASC program has been put together for children. The activities focus on increasing physical activity and improving skills in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. To ensure children can take advantage of this excellent opportunity, we encourage parents to allow them to participate for the full hour and to pick them up after the program concludes. A permission note is being sent home today with Talkabout. Please return this form to school by Monday 11 February if you would like your child/children to participate. The first day is next Tuesday!! We have space for a maximum of 30 students.

Assembly: Our first assembly is this Thursday, 7 February at 2.00pm. Our new school leaders will be announced at this assembly. We hope to see many parents there!

P &C: Our first P&C meeting for 2013 will be held next Wednesday 13 February. We invite all parents, new and old, to attend.

The staff and I have been very pleased with the way our students have settled back into school routines and we are very impressed with the positive behaviour being shown by all. We also hope this continues!!

My Principal / office day continues to be on Friday. If you need to talk to me please ring the school to make an appointment for that day or for a time after 3.00pm during the week.

Nicole
**K/1/2 NEWS**

What a great start we have had to the year!! Our Kinders have settled in well to the class and have been working well.

**Best Start:** Kinder students completed Best Start assessment with me yesterday. This assessment is designed to provide me with clear evidence of what skills Kinder students have when they start school and then plan appropriate programs. A report will be sent home to parents in the next few weeks about the assessment and how you can help your child at home. Please come and see me if you have any questions about this.

**Homework:** All students received homework this week and it is due back in on Friday. I expect students in Years 1 and 2 to have a homework book that their sheets can be glued into. Year 1 and 2 will need to practice their spelling words each night and complete some maths activities on the other side. Kinder have their sound book to complete this term.

**Home Readers:** We will start sending home readers home next week. All students will be expected to take a book home and exchange regularly.

**Library:** We will visit the library on Thursday and start borrowing. Please ensure your child has a library bag in their school bag to help protect the book.

**Parent Helpers:** We will be starting reading groups in Week 4 and we need some help!! If you are able to volunteer some time to help we would love for you to visit. Reading groups will be at 10am on Monday – Thursday. Help during maths groups would also be appreciated. A separate note will be sent home tomorrow for you to fill out. Please return it to school by Tuesday 12 February.

**Fruit Break:** We have Crunch and Sip at approx.10am every day. Please make sure your child has some fruit (or vegetables) to eat during this time. Fruit bars or muesli bars are not eaten during this time. We also ask that students have a water bottle (with water) so that they can sip while they crunch!

**Lunch:** We have eating time in the classroom and I am not letting students leave until they have eaten their sandwich, at least. I want to make sure they have enough energy to get through the rest of the day!

My goal with all students this year is to help them become students who love to learn (and some already do) and are becoming more independent when completing their work.

Please come and see me if you have any questions or concerns about your child and their learning.

Nicole

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**2/3/4 NEWS**

Hope everyone had a great holiday. The children came back with plenty of stories about their adventures.

Welcome to Khe-Sanh Duke who has joined our class this year.

Homework started this week with the class taking home their spelling lists. It is due back on Friday which will be Test day.

Each homework folder also has a title page to be decorated.

Last Thursday most of the class borrowed from the school library.

Some children still have books to return from last year so remember to bring them and a library bag next Thursday.

We have started slowly with our desk and house points so we are carrying them over to next week.

Perhaps by then all the groups might have actually agreed on a name for their group! !!!!!!!

Keep In Touch

Lyn

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**5/6 NEWS**

Welcome back 5/6 students. Mr Lalor and Ms Porteous are very pleased with the way you have quickly settled into class routine after such a long break.

All students will be taking on classroom and outdoor responsibilities through a jobs chart which will be changed each week.

Our school provides your child with the basic essentials such as pencils, books etc. If your child wishes to bring their own equipment including extras such as erasers, textas, gel pens etc. please feel free to send these along in a pencil case. This week it was wonderful to see so many candidates from year 6 competing for ministerial positions.

Speeches were well prepared, thoughtful and confidently presented. Students, teachers and parents who attended, enjoyed it immensely. Stay
tuned because the vote counting has begun! Finally, homework commenced this week and is due each Friday. It would be beneficial if students had a display folder to keep their work organised. Thank you for your support Dion and Susan

MRS CULLEN
Welcome back everybody! It is great to be back (officially). This year I am looking forward to teaching in every classroom. I will be teaching Personal Development, Health and PE. The topics/skills that the children and I discussed this week were Bullying and Relationships and we jumped into skipping. I will keep you updated each week with what topics we are focussing upon. I would also just like to add that I would like to thank you all for the support you all gave me while I was ill, it meant a lot to me. xx Bonnie Cullen

P & C NEWS
Our first meeting for 2013 will be held at the school library next Wednesday 13 February. Please come along and support your school, children are welcome. The meeting will commence at 6pm.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME
Each year the Department of Education & Communities makes available a small sum of money to each school to support students in genuine hardship. If you would like to apply for Student Assistance please contact the office for further information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
5 February Jesse Quinnell
12 February Samantha Wallace
13 February Annabelle Cooke

WHAT’S ON THIS TERM
THIS WEEK (2)
😊Thursday 7 February       Assembly 2pm

NEXT WEEK (3)
😊Tuesday 12 February       Active After School
Wednesday 13 February      Program 3 - 4 p.m.
😊Thursday 14 February      NRL Clinic 9 -11 a.m.

WEEK (4)
😊Wednesday 20 February     SISST Swimming Carnival

CANTEEN NEWS
The canteen is stocked up and open on Monday's and Friday's. A new Menu/Price list for 2013 is available from the canteen or online on the school website.
There is a variety of snacks for recess, including muffins, pikelets with jam & cream or crunchy snacks.
For those hot days try a frozen yogurt, paddle pop, or frozen orange juice cup. We also have a variety of frozen fruit pieces for just 20c. For lunch we have a wide choice of items, for cooler days you could try chicken dinosnacks, fish fingers, pies, sausage rolls or single serve Mac & cheese, fried rice, lasagne. On the warmer days there is a great variety of sandwiches and salads including tuna, egg, ham or plain to mention a few with mayonnaise if you choose. In the drink range we have smoothies, fruit juices or bottled water.
Thank you to our volunteers who have again offered their help and welcome to our new volunteers and thank you for offering your time. If you would like to help out at the school, but don't have a lot of time, the canteen is great opportunity for you. You would be rostered on once a month on either a Monday or Friday from 10.30am to approx. 2.00pm.
Training will be provided. If you would like to help or have any questions you can leave your name and phone number at the office and I will call you or phone Rowena on 0458 099 314.
Rowena

CANTEEN ROSTER
Friday 8 February Rowena Robinson
Monday 11 February Jeanette Ardler