



Newsletter

Wednesday 30 January 2008

Term 1 Week 1

BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Striving, Thinking, Learning

From the Principal

I take this opportunity to welcome back both new and existing families to the 2008 school year. A new year always brings new challenges and rewards and I trust that it will be a successful one for all members of the Bowral Public School Community. The summer vacation is a time to enjoy the company of friends and to spend some time relaxing and recharging 'human batteries'. I trust our children have been able to participate in a variety of worthwhile and fulfilling experiences during the break and are ready for a new school year. Along with the rest of the staff, I look forward to working with your children to ensure each day educational opportunities are maximised and students are provided with meaningful activities that allow them to reach their learning potential.

I extend a special welcome to the new families who will be joining us for the first time, especially if it is the first time you are enrolling a student in our Kindergarten classes. Over the next few weeks, I sincerely trust that both you and your child become familiar with our school routine so the transition from pre-school or home to the first year of primary education runs smoothly.

Initially, in all classrooms, teachers will be getting to know their students and developing routines and structures that will set the tone for the remainder of the year. Emphasis will be placed on the establishment of sound work habits to ensure students realise their expectations. Paramount during this time will be a revision, or in some cases an introduction, of the four basic school rules upon which school discipline is based – Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair and Be Cooperative. By students listening to their teachers' instructions and asking questions at appropriate times, the foundation will be set for effective and efficient learning.

Staff Changes

At this time I take the opportunity of welcoming two new staff members to our school teaching team. Miss Natalie Boxshall joins the staff from Nowra Public School. Natalie is here as part of a year long exchange that has been organised between the two schools and replaces Mr Daniel Howard who will spend the year at Nowra.

Our second new staff member is Mrs Pamela Bates. Pamela has transferred in from Goulburn West Public School but has been a Southern Highlands resident for a number of years. Currently, Pamela is working two days a week, Monday and Tuesday, and is sharing her class with Mrs. Natasha Rumble, an establishing staff member.

Miss Jan Christie will commence her first full year as our deputy principal and she appreciated the opportunity to spend most of

term four with us to familiarise herself with our school. I look forward to working with her in teaching, administrative and organisational pursuits. I wish to thank Mr Scott Cayzer for his support as relieving deputy principal over the last year and more. Scott will return to his assistant principal role and will take charge of Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4). Mr Ian Penn will be the assistant principal responsible for Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2) and will carry out a Relief from Face to Face (RFF) role. As occurred in 2007, Mrs Jane Bell will take charge of Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6) while Mrs Julie Flemming will carry out a similar role with Early Stage One (Kindergarten).

Classes for 2008

Much time and energy has gone into the development of our classes for 2008. The written comments provided from families, coupled with experience and knowledge of students from class teachers have assisted in assigning students to classes. **Due to uncertainty with enrolment numbers, I need to emphasise that the COMPOSITION of the class membership is NOT FINAL AT THIS STAGE.** At the end of 2007, initial classes were developed taking into consideration families that had notified the school that they were leaving and new families that had identified that they were commencing in 2008. However, during the summer vacation and yesterday, an additional eighteen students have enrolled. These children have been placed in classes and it is anticipated that additional students could be enrolled today, tomorrow and Friday as our final Kindergarten intake is Friday. It is anticipated that a clearer picture will develop over the next few days to ensure accurate figures are available to finalise both class structures and class membership.

I urge families to please be understanding in this matter as the school endeavours to develop an appropriate class structure. I will keep you informed of developments as they occur. When individual students are required to change classes or whole classes are changed or developed, the necessary families will be contacted.

Sport for Life

This physical education/sport activity will commence within the next few days for all Stage Two and Stage Three students. The Year 3 and Year 4 students will commence their lessons this Friday whilst Year 5 and Year 6 will have their first session next Monday. The students will be involved in track and field (athletics) activities.

School Uniform

All staff was impressed in the way the children were dressed this morning. They were a credit to the school. It is anticipated this standard will be maintained throughout the year. The **school broad brimmed** hat is an essential item of uniform and should be worn every day. Congratulations all families for this most impressive start to the year.

CALENDAR

- Friday 15 February** ♦ School Swimming Carnival Years 3–6 (and only Year 2 students turning 8 this year) at Mittagong Pool
- Friday 22 February** ♦ District Swimming Carnival at Mittagong Pool

Student Welfare

I would like to draw to the attention of families the special needs of three new students. One of these is a Year 2 student with vision impairment. Staff has been involved in some professional development activities to assist this student and will share information with their classes. Of major significance is the care that will be required when Harrison is in the playground. Whilst this student will be accompanied by a teacher or teacher's aide special at all times, students will need to be aware of his presence. He uses a cane (not a stick) to help negotiate steps, poles and uneven surfaces. As a student with low vision he sees objects when they are up close to him. When children speak to Harrison, they need to say "Hello Harrison" and then identify themselves as he can not distinguish an individual's facial features. Harrison is very excited about being at Bowral Public School and is looking forward to developing a friendship network.

The other two students enrolled at our school for the first time have an identified anaphylaxis condition that specifically relates to a severe allergic reaction to peanuts and peanut products. It is important for all families to be aware of this situation and support these children by limiting these products in lunch boxes. I remind all families to impress upon their children the need to not swap food at recess and lunch as this will limit the potential for life threatening situations developing on the school premises.

Your support in these two matters would be appreciated.

BE SAFE

At our school "Be Safe" means:

- Move carefully around the school and classroom
- Play safe, sensible, no-contact games
- Play in an area where you can see the teacher
- Sit down while eating
- Remain within the school boundaries
- Only enter a building with a teacher's permission
- Follow lining up routines
- Sit safely on chairs and seats
- Play by the rules
- Look after school property
- Look after other people's property
- Wear school uniform
- Cross the the road safely
- Don't talk to strangers
- Always ask teacher for help if you are hurt or unsure of what to do

BE KIND

At our school "Be Kind" means:

- Speak politely
- Use good manners
- No swearing
- No put downs
- Consider the feelings of others
- Make people feel welcome
- Pay attention
- Treat people the way you want to be treated
- Listen to others
- Show respect to adults

BE FAIR

At our school "Be Fair" means:

- Tell the truth
- Apologise if you do something wrong
- Take turns
- Let others join your game
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Share equipment fairly
- Share the teacher's time fairly
- Tell an adult when you can't solve the problem yourself
- Let others tell their side of the story
- Clean up your mess
- Care for toilet areas

BE COOPERATIVE

At our school "Be Cooperative" means:

- Work together
- Give others a chance to have a go
- Share equipment, time and space in groups
- Take turns in groups
- Help each other
- Follow class rules
- Tell the teacher if you need help
- Listen to and follow teacher instructions
- Listen to and work with visiting adult helpers