Principal’s Report

Children’s use of Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr, Pinterest, Viber

A number of issues have occurred recently with children’s use of social media. Parents are reminded that it is against the law for children under the age of 13 to sign up for or use these forms of social media.

Using social media can have good educational outcomes for older children, it can encourage supportive relationships and promote a sense of belonging and self-esteem. But it can also present risks around the management of personal information and cyber bullying.

What we find in a primary school setting and what other world-wide research has found is that it is often used for bullying and for expressing whatever is on one’s mind at the time without the use of thinking and feeling filter. Our children often appear to be very techno-savvy however they do not have the cognitive and emotional maturity to engage responsibly in this type of communication.

Research shows that it takes children about 12 years to fully develop the cognitive structures that enable them to engage in ethical thinking. Before 12 it is almost impossible for a child to fully grasp the impact of their actions upon others online or otherwise.

Therefore I am requesting that parents seriously reconsider their child’s access to these (over 13 years) restricted forms of social media and deactivate their accounts.

Senior Constable David Russell will be coming to speak to all of the students early next year specifically around the issues associated with social media.

School Promotion Advertisement

Our school promotion television advertisements will be aired throughout December, January and February – please keep an eye out for our ads on Southern Cross Ten, Eleven and One. A preview of our ad will be shown at the Presentation Day assembly this Thursday.
Presentation Day Assembly

On Thursday 11 December we will be holding two formal Presentation Day award ceremonies. The Kinder – Year 2 ceremony will commence at 10am and the Year 3-6 ceremony will commence at 12:15 pm. All students will need to be in full school uniform for these formal school events. Parents, carers, family and community members are invited and welcome to attend.

Year 6 Farewell

The Year 6 Farewell will take place on Monday 15 December from 6pm in the school hall. The cost of this event is $20 per student. Thank you to Mrs Jensen and the P&C for their coordination of this major school event.

Year 7 School Visits

Year 6 students who will be attending Taree High School next year will attend the high School on Wednesday 10 December as part of the High School orientation program.

Student Reports

Student reports will be sent home with students on Monday 15 December, so please keep an eye out and check your child’s bag on the day.

School Holidays

Our summer holidays commence for all students on Thursday 18 December, with the last day of school being Wednesday 17 December. We have had a wonderful year together this year and we hope that you all enjoy the holidays with your children.

School recommences for all returning students on Wednesday 28 January and for new Year 1 – 6 students on Thursday 29 January. All Kinder students will commence on Monday 2 February.

Donna Bensch
Principal

Principal Awards

Sienna Mulry KG, Breanna Colvin 2-3-4T, Jessica Tregilgas 3-4K, Taylor Wardley 1M, Matthew Bergan 2H, Laurah Powell (x2) 3-4K, Samira Mitchell 2-3-4T, Bree Pensini (x2) 5-6M

## Class Awards

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<tr>
<td>2-3-4T</td>
<td>Luke C</td>
<td>Connor F</td>
<td>Aston N</td>
<td>Hannah D</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4C</td>
<td>Timothy B</td>
<td>Sofia M</td>
<td>Tyler O</td>
<td>Keely S</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4E</td>
<td>Sienna T</td>
<td>Sophie W</td>
<td>Phoebe B</td>
<td>Ebony B</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4G</td>
<td>Jayah P</td>
<td>Breanna H</td>
<td>Lily A</td>
<td>Griffin C</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4K</td>
<td>Jessica F</td>
<td>Emma D</td>
<td>Zavier W</td>
<td>Keira K</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5-6J</td>
<td>Shianne S</td>
<td>Sharmaine C</td>
<td>Shai Y</td>
<td>Tyia H</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6C</td>
<td>Harry H</td>
<td>Raechelle T</td>
<td>Lashana M</td>
<td>Tyron T</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6F</td>
<td>Amy G</td>
<td>Lachlan C</td>
<td>Amy T</td>
<td>Hannah E</td>
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<td>5-6M</td>
<td>Kalani S</td>
<td>Chloe S</td>
<td>Letesha M</td>
<td>Bree P</td>
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<td>5-6U</td>
<td>Khan S</td>
<td>Isaac W</td>
<td>Maddison J</td>
<td>Caleb S</td>
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Kindergarten 2015 - Enrolments are now being accepted.

Looking for an exceptional education for your child? Our excellent programs and highly-qualified teachers provide the ideal learning environment where every child can realise their true potential. Call into or phone our school office on 6552 1910 for more information and an enrolment pack.

Class Reward Pizza Parties

Taree West Public School is a Positive Behaviours for Learning school. As such, we implement a range of reward schemes to encourage and recognise expected positive behaviours.

One of these schemes involves points being awarded to classes that demonstrate excellent behaviour in class lines at assemblies. A winning Stage 2 class and Stage 3 class will be announced every half term.

The class that has earned the most points over this period of time will receive a class Pizza Reward Party. Congratulations to 3/4C and 5/6U who are the winners for the second half of this term.

A letter will be sent home with students of the winning class. If your child has any dietary requirements that may affect their participation in a Pizza Reward Party, please advise the school by returning the return slip prior to each party.
Taree West Public School Playgroup
Wingham Rd, Taree 2430
Monday 9.30 – 11.30am
in the school hall.
For further information please contact Leanne
0418 237 775

PBL News
Next Monday Mrs Bensch and I will be having our special afternoon tea with the PBL Students of the Week from this term. We are very much looking forward to it. Congratulations to the students who have earned this reward.

PBL Classes of the Week:
Congratulations to 3/4G! They are very excited to be this week’s Primary PBL Class of the Week.

Well done to 1B! They are our Infants PBL Class of the Week.

Students of the Week

Primary Student of the Week: Ashleigh Pope 5/6U

Infants Student of the Week: Jayden Ruff 2B

Keep earning those eagle tokens Taree West!

Mrs Suters
PBL Coordinator

Community News

Basketball
The basketball season of 2014 will wrap up this coming Saturday and the results of the term4 participation are: - raised skill levels, huge smiles and lots of fun. The two Taree West year 5-6 girls teams fell over at the semi-final stage this week but congratulations to them on a stellar effort. The year 5-6 boys finished the year in fine style with a resounding 42-7 victory against their opponents in a dominant display. Taree West is placed well to continue strong participation in the popular Saturday basketball competition as more and more children from years 2,3 and 4 are attracted to the action and fun that basketball brings. Our last school based training session will be this Thursday on the school basketball court and anyone new wishing to play basketball in term1 2015 is very welcome to come along. If you can't make Thursday but would like to play, or need more information, feel free to contact me Evan on 0418 160591.

I would like to remind all budding basketballers that Saxby’s Stadium is open on Monday afternoon between 4pm and 5:30pm for FREE skills sessions. These sessions will run through the school holidays as well to give players the opportunity to increase their own skill levels and get the edge on their opponents in 2015.

At this point I would like to say a hearty thank you to my friends who gave of their time to run their respective teams each Saturday. So to Melissa Willett, Col Scott, Luke Thomas and Kylie Hunter thank you, thank you, thank you. A special mention for Shelley Cusbert for not only running two Saturday teams but was available every Thursday afternoon to assist with training for which I am eternally grateful.

I invite all the graduating year 6 girls and boys to continue their basketball journey by coming along to junior high school basketball which tips off on Tuesday afternoons from 4:20pm during school terms.

What's left now is to thank all of our parents for their part in promoting the wonderful sport of basketball and to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to continuing our association in 2015.

Kind regards,

Evan Thompson
**Cyber awareness training**

Helping parents and carers to navigate the law in relation to young people, sexting and cyber-bullying is the focus of free training to be held in Taree on Wednesday 10 December.

The presentation is being conducted by Legal Aid NSW in partnership with Mid Coast Community Legal Centre and Council Youth Services. The session will be held at the Manning Valley Visitor Information Centre, 21 Manning River Drive Taree, on Wednesday 10 December from 11am to 12:30pm and is open to all members of the community.

For further information, or to register for the training, please contact Council’s Youth Development Officer on 6592 5399.