Our mission is to provide children with…
• a love of learning
• a pride in achievement
• a respect for themselves and others
…in a safe and happy environment

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2015 Calendar

WEEK 3
Monday 9 Feb
Tuesday 10 Feb
Wednesday 11 Feb
Thursday 12 Feb
Friday 13 Feb
Monday 16 Feb Parent/Teacher Information Sessions
Tuesday 17 Feb KB Best Start Parent Interviews
Zone Tennis Trials
Preschool Information Evening 5.30pm
Wednesday 18 Feb School Swimming Trials
Thursday 19 Feb Zone Basketball Trials
Friday 20 Feb Year 6 Maitland Show
Year 6 Zone Rugby Trials
Monday 23 Feb
Tuesday 24 Feb Zone Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 25 Feb Rugby League School Blitz
Thursday 26 Feb KN Best Start Parent Interviews
Friday 27 Feb Clean Up Australia Day
Yrs 3-6 Inter School Sports Day

Enrolments and Class Structure
Over the last two weeks we have welcomed a significant number of new enrolments right across our school. Our Preschool now has a waiting list for enrolment after having significant vacancies and we have had a pleasing growth in enrolments from Kindergarten to Year 6. Up until yesterday we were going to fall just short of being able to form another class and then 4 new students presented to enroll; they all started today. We are planning to be organized to restructure the classes within the school from 16 to 17 classes by Monday therefore allowing parents to meet Teachers on Monday afternoon. In the restructure, the classes will be as follows. Keep in mind that all classes are subject to class size guidelines that dictate the makeup of the classes across the school.

• Three straight Kindergarten classes, they will remain as they are.
• Two straight Yr 1 classes, a Yr 1/Yr 2 Composite class and two straight Yr 2 classes
• A Yr 2/Yr 3 Composite class capped at no more than 24 students
• Two straight Yr 3 classes and two straight Yr 4 classes
• One straight Yr 5 class, a Yr 5/Yr 6 Composite and two straight Yr 6 classes.

As I posted on Facebook earlier in the week, we will be holding Stage based Parent/Teacher Information Sessions next Monday afternoon, 16th February 2015. More information is to follow later in the newsletter, ie questions and make time for individual meetings as needed.

Literacy and Numeracy Continuums
The key activities for teachers at the beginning of 2015 have been to settle the students into their class routines and to identify exactly where each individual student sits along the Literacy and Numeracy continuums. The continuums were developed by the NSW DEC Learning Innovation Centre and are designed to allow teachers to plot student’s skills and understanding in the various elements of Literacy and Numeracy. We are then able to plot this using software developed by the NSW DEC and identify exactly what

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
We have been back at school for two weeks and the year has started fantastically. Students in classrooms are engaged, they are having fun safely in the playground and our teachers are working well towards having every student across the school benchmarked against the NSW Curriculum and Learning Innovation Centre’s Literacy and Numeracy Continuums. This is a longer than usual newsletter report from me. We are hoping to be as transparent as possible in our decision making. If you have any questions please call to make an appointment.
needs to be taught next to each individual. Our plan once we have this information is to establish four different levels of intervention that needs to take place and provide support to teachers and students appropriate to the learning that needs to take place. This support may be additional teachers or School Learning Support Officers in classrooms or specialised programs coordinated by our Learning and Support Team. We have the flexibility to deliver this initiative in this way through the significant equity funds received through the NSW DEC Resource Allocation Model. The appointment of an Instructional Leader as part of the Early Action for Success Initiative adds a further level of expertise and support and we are excited to be able to target specific programs exactly where they need to be.

Morning Supervision
Teachers are on playground duty from 8.40am in the morning. There is no supervision for children at the school until this time. Please ensure that you make alternate arrangements for the care and supervision of your children prior to 8.40am as they should not be arriving at school until 8.40am.

Change of Lunch Eating Time
Last week we changed the time students eat their lunch and although it is early days it was successful. A couple of things we noticed that lead us to believe this will work are that we are able to ensure students are actually eating their lunch and that teachers and students are spending the time together debriefing about their lunchtime activities. A few parents have come to us with individual concerns for their child’s dietary requirements as a result of this change and we have been happy to accommodate all of their requests. Please ensure you come and see us if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Parent/Teacher Meetings
Now that we have finalised the class structures for the year we would like to invite you all to stage based information sessions next Monday afternoon, a timetable is below. At these meetings you will be informed of the processes for homework, meet your child’s class teacher, excursions and I will deliver some information about the key initiatives operating in our school in 2015.

In the meantime, if you have anything you would like to chat with your child’s current class teacher about, please make sure you see them when you drop off or pick your child up or contact the office to leave a message and they will get back to you.
If you have an issue that you would like to raise with the Assistant Principal for your child’s stage, their names are next to the time for the Stage Meetings next Monday.
Stage 1: 3.30pm - Mrs Eleisha Jackson (Relieving)
Stage 2: 4.15pm - Mr Phil Debenham
Stage 3: 5.00pm - Mr Stephen Taylor
Preschool and Kindergarten: Mrs Anne Kelly
Support Classes: Mrs Jacqui Smith (Relieving)

Preschool parents are invited to a special meeting on Tuesday 17th February 5.30pm, a note will be sent home separately. Our support class parents attend regular review and learning support meetings that will enable you to keep abreast of the activities within these classes. Our Kindergarten Parents have already participated in a range of orientation meetings. If you have an issue of a more serious nature and you have addressed it with the class teacher or Assistant Principal without success, please contact the office to talk to me. Phone number 49328477.

Instructional Leader Appointment
A component of our inclusion in the Early Action for Success Initiative is the appointment of an Instructional Leader. An Instructional Leader is an appointment equivalent to a Deputy Principal and has the responsibility for leading the delivery of the tiered interventions to support students K-2 and to support overall student achievement initiatives outlined in the school plan. Our Instructional Leader is Michelle Crowfoot. Michelle has a team of teachers supporting her work and they are based in the Multi Purpose Centre (Previously the Old Library) on the top level of the Administration area at the school.

Skoolbag App
Our Skoolbag App is ready for us to begin using however, as we have had a large number of new enrolments, Mrs Gissane has not yet had time to undergo the required training to begin using it. We plan on getting to this next week and will let you know how to download the free APP to your Smart Device when it is set up and ready to go.

Kindergarten News: Our kinder children are settling in well and reading and writing groups begin this week. All parents are invited to come in and have a talk with their class teachers about the Best Start screening and how the children are going in class. Please look out for that note. We would like to thank all parents for their contribution to the smooth start this term and we would value any feedback that you might have about the orientation process.
We are especially excited to be involved with the Early Action for Success Program which will help support our classroom teachers in their classes with high quality, targeted support where it is needed.

**Kinder/Year 6 Buddies:** We are in the process of linking up our kinder children with a Year 6 buddy. We will establish a buddy reading time and other activities between the two year groups.

**Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden:**
Our garden is looking good and has survived the summer break well. We will be starting our kitchen garden program with Stage 2 classes as soon as the kitchen is finished, hopefully early next month.

**Environment Team:** Classes are selecting new Environment Warriors and recycling has resumed. All environment team members will be presented with a team badge at a whole school assembly soon.

**Preschool News:** There will an evening information meeting for the parents and guardians of our preschool students on Tuesday, Feb 17th. This will begin at 5.30pm and parents are asked to leave children at home if possible. We really hope that you are able to be there. We welcome Beth Townsend and Alex Beldon to our preschool as our teachers for this year.

**Live Life Well @ School:** Telarah Public School belongs to the Live Life Well @ School Program. This program promotes a healthy and active lifestyle. As part of this commitment, all students from kinder to Year 6 will have 3 sessions of PE a week and Year 1 to 6 students will also have a sport session weekly. Students need to wear joggers for all PE sessions and should have a wide brimmed hat to protect them from the sun, in line with Sun Safe guidelines. Caps are not sufficient protection. Please ensure that you children have appropriate clothing to keep them protected and safe.

**Bus Passes**
If your child currently has a bus pass and is now going into Year 3, you have to re-apply. Forms are available at the front office.

**Year 6 – Maitland Agricultural Show Excursion**
Year 6 will be attending the Maitland Show on Friday, 20 February as part of their history studies into the heritage of Maitland agriculture. Permission notes have been sent home. Cost is $5.00. Please return note and money to classroom teacher.
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