Welcome back to all of our staff and students. It was great to see so many of our students happy to return to school and get straight back into their learning. I have listened to some interesting holiday stories from both staff and students. Lucky Miss Elliott for spending two weeks travelling around New Zealand!

This term will certainly be a busy term for us all. We are looking forward to continuing our quality teaching and learning of all students K-6. We are also looking forward to Kids Club, Kinder 2016 Orientation, P & C Trivia Night, Year 6 final transitioning to high school and participating in the Tweed Foodie Fest once again. End of year reports will come home at the end of this term. We will also be farewelling our Year 6 students at our end of year Presentation Evening.

We are starting our evaluations for our 2016 planning. Next week I will have attached a number of surveys to the newsletter, which I would be grateful to receive back completed from as many families as possible. Your feedback is vital in our planning processes.

A few reminders to our families. We will continue teaching right through until the end of the school year. Expectations of our students will remain the same until the end of the school year. That is:

- Always trying our best in all areas of learning
- Behaving appropriately at school, whilst travelling on the bus to and from home, and when representing the school
- Full school uniform is to be worn at all times.

We do have a small number of second hand uniforms for sale. Kids are not to share hats.

Bushfire season is now upon us. Our emergency arrangements are outlined on the attached letter and information sheet. Please take the time to read this information.

We are all looking forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Anna Starcevic
Principal
STATE ATHLETICS
Good luck to Milly who will be competing in the State Athletics competition in Sydney on Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 October. We are very proud of you!

JAPAN PROJECTS
Well done to the students in Years 5 & 6 on the work they put into their Japan projects. Below are some examples of their work.

PLANNING FOR 2016
Planning for the 2016 school year has begun and we ask parents to inform the school in writing if they are not returning in 2016. Also if you know of anyone thinking of enrolling for next year, ask them to contact the school for an informal chat and tour.

ATTENDANCE
Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age.

Once enrolled children are required to attend school each day it is open for instruction.

Principals are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. When reasons for absences are provided to the school by parents, principals are accountable for their decision to record a student's absence as justified. Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence and will record that absence as unjustified.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to illness are frequent or prolonged. It is the responsibility of parents or carers to make sure that their children attend school each day that the school is open for instruction or other activity. It is important to understand that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

It is important to let the school know when your child will be away and the reason for your child's absence.

All absences must be explained to the school at which the child is enrolled. The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school, or an explanation given for a child's absence from school.

Moscow Circus Vouchers
We have 4 free student vouchers to The Great Moscow Circus. They must be used for certain sessions from Wed 21 to Saturday 24 October 2015. If you are interested please call the office for more information and conditions.
Dear Parent or Carer

I am writing to let you know about arrangements for our school for the current bush fire season.

Our school has been identified as a school at increased risk if a bush fire were to break out on a day when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education has determined that on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place. This is based on information obtained through a bush fire assessment of our school arranged by the Department.

A Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bush fire season, if at all. To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

If our site is closed due to a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating, parents will be advised the night before. Bilambil Public School is our designated school to attend in the event of emergencies when our school is closed.

The school will only receive notification of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued. To assist me in contacting all parents please ensure that you have provided the school with up-to-date home or after hours contact details.

Information for parents and carers provided by the Department about these arrangements is attached. Up to date bush fire information will also be available to you on the Department’s bush fire safety website. The link for this site is as follows:


Please contact the school on telephone 07 5590 9876 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anna Starcevic
Principal
Arrangements for the bush fire season

This information is only for schools that are on the bush fire register

Information for parents and carers

Updated September 2015

This brochure provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bush fire season. This information is only relevant for schools that are on the bush fire register.

Introduction

The NSW Department of Education has conducted bush fire assessments for NSW government schools in bush fire prone areas. These results have been validated by an independent external expert and have been reviewed in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

A small number of schools have been identified as a school at increased risk if a fire were to break out on a day when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area that the school is located in. This includes the school your child attends.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the Department has determined that on days when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area the school is in, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place.

What is a Fire Danger Rating?

A fire danger rating is the expected fire danger on a particular day and is determined by considering a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought. The ratings range from Low – Moderate through High, Very High, Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic.

What is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating?

A catastrophic rating means that if fires broke out they would be uncontrollable, unpredictable and very fast moving with very aggressive flames extending high above tree tops and buildings.

When will I know if my child’s school won’t be operating the next day?

The State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) notifies the Department at approximately 4:30pm each day when there are catastrophic fire danger ratings predicted for the following day. This means that the school will only receive notification of a catastrophic fire danger rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued.

Your school will notify you as soon as possible. You will be notified by telephone or other communication, depending on when the school is advised that the catastrophic fire danger rating has been issued. The school will not receive this information until after school has finished on the day before the rating takes effect. The school will contact all parents and carers and, where appropriate, issue advice through local media.

Please provide your current home or after hours contact to your school. Parents and carers should also watch or listen for local media as information may be provided through these outlets.

What educational arrangements will be in place if the school isn’t operating?

Talk to your school about the arrangements that will be put in place in the event of the school temporarily ceasing operations due to a catastrophic fire danger rating being issued. Schools will be undertaking advanced planning to ensure that, if schools do need to cease operations on some days, they will have alternative educational arrangements in place such as relocating to another school, providing home work for students.

Will my child’s school be affected by severe or extreme fire danger ratings?

During the bush fire season, including days of severe or extreme fire danger rating, schools will continue to operate as normal unless advised otherwise by emergency services. During the bush fire season schools will be vigilant and monitor local conditions, particularly on days when severe or extreme fire danger ratings are issued.

Plan and prepare

The NSW Rural Fire Service has resources for all residents to plan and prepare for the bush fire season. It is important that you consider the safety of your own home from bushfire. Please find more information and resources at: http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare. See also the My Fire Plan website for resource.

Further information

We appreciate your cooperation during the bush fire season. For further information about fire danger ratings and the bush fire season, please refer to the NSW Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

The Department’s School Safety website has also been established to provide up to date information during bush fires and other situations such as floods or storms.