Dear Parents,

Winter is approaching with signs of frosts, autumn trees and thicker clothes. I spent a week in the holidays visiting my family in New Zealand and there was snow on the top of the mountain that I grew up close to. I love the change in the seasons but unfortunately our bodies take some time to adjust. Signs of flu and gastric viruses are appearing within our school population, so please ensure you keep your child at home if they are feeling unwell. Children perform better when they are healthy. I would like to remind parents to update asthma plans and provide them to the school. Your GP can fill out one of these. The Australian Asthma foundation recommends a new plan to be provided every year to the school.

School Events This Week

This week I had a lovely cup of tomato and chive soup from the canteen. Thank you Mrs Deveigne for the magnificent job you are doing in the canteen, helped by Mrs Tedesco, Mrs Dibbs and Mrs Saleh. There are new meal deals to try and a new hot chocolate machine which many of the students have already sampled. If you can help in the canteen please meet with Mrs Deviegne for her to train you.

Last week we had a massive amount of support from parents. On Wednesday a Mothers Day stall was organised by the P&C, full of gifts for the children to buy for their mum. Thank you to the following parents for their hard work in organising the stall; Barbara Pascuzzi, Nancy Jurcan, Julie Spencer, Victoria Collins, Mary Jane Tedesco, Di Cini, Rosa Alessi and Dawn Coleman.

On Thursday our annual Cross Country event was attended by many families with a superb track cut through to the Bringelly reserve from our school by Mr Bird and Mrs Borg. The event organised by Mrs Woolgar and Mrs Sullivan involves measuring the course, organising the whole school practices so even the little children know the course, and making sure the ribbons, programme, shelters, stopwatches and all the other equipment is there on the day. Afterwards the paperwork has to be submitted to compete at the district event on at Green Valley. This year there will be a team of 36 students. Congratulations to all students who had a go and participated. It was a fun day! Parents helped out with cutting and organising the Fruit and Water stall. This was part of Year 6 fundraising with all produce donated. Thank you to Belinda Foster for her help on the day selling the fruit along with Mrs Edwards. $200 was raised for the Y6 Farewell.

B.Y.O.D (Bring Your Own Device)

After consideration about the current needs for technology in the school I have consulted with the DEC Technology Adviser. Mr John Leone has agreed to help plan for our future needs and meet at school with parents to discuss the issues of students using their own devices such as Ipads and Laptops.

Survey

Religious Instruction is part of the public school curriculum and after a discussion at the recent P&C meeting, a survey has been designed to see what type of scripture parents would like to see in the school. Please return the surveys to the school office. The survey can also be found on the web and app sites and can be emailed back to the school.

The survey can be sent to parents in different languages as well or an interpreter service is available.
Legal Requirement – Please Note
It is a legal requirement that parents sign in their children who arrive late to school or will be leaving early. The signing in book for early and late leavers is inside the office door. The children then take the yellow slip to their teacher. The school liaison officer will contact you after several late notes that have not been signed by a parent. Thank you for those parents doing the right thing and keeping our students safe.

National Disability Data Collection
The school is participating for the second year in the collection of data to better inform education departments about the number of students in school requiring learning support. This affects the schools funding and general resources. Every staff member has been trained in the legalities of the National Disability Act and the requirements for schools. Please complete the survey and send it back to the school. The survey can be sent to parents in different languages as well or an interpreter service is available.

Toilet Maintenance
Due to being impatient or teasing another student some toilet door locks have been bent, broken, stuck and requiring repair and the hand soap dispensers have also been broken. The locks for the doors require a special drill to replace so I have had to report the damage to the public works team who is contracted to the school. My concern is of privacy and respect for others is being breached. Students are not listening to teachers and myself when we speak to all students about behaviour in the toilets. Obviously we can’t place a camera in the toilets, it is an unsupervised area which adults do not usually go into, but I hope this note will cause discussion at home about proper care for our facilities. We will also continue to discuss with students about respecting others and school property. I have had the girls’ toilet doors repaired and we are now waiting on the special bolts to repair the boys toilet doors. The toilet lights have recently been replaced and to limit the insects in the area special insect sprays have been recently placed high on the walls so they cannot be touched by the children but will decrease the mosquitoes in the area. Can families please talk to their children that sometimes they will need to show patience and wait for others to finish using the toilet. If parent have other concerns please come and speak to me about them.

Gymnastic Classes
The new Gymnastic Program run by a specialist fitness and Gymnastic company ‘Be Skilled, Be Fit’ has provided colourful equipment, two instructors and well planned sequenced activities pertinent to each classes compulsory syllabus requirements and age group. The ability to lift, push, twist, leap, squat, jump are exercises our bodies need to practice for the continuation of personal health throughout our lives. The teachers assess the students with a prescribed level for each activity and this will be reflected in their reports. Almost 100% of students are participating, with some students with injuries being excused. In the NSW School curriculum gymnastics and dance are compulsory aspects of the curriculum which the school has to provide. We believe we do this in a safe and controlled environment using specialised teachers and resources.

Premiers Sports Challenge – school weekly routine
Every class has begun the Premiers sporting challenge for this year. The time spent at Gymnastics is counted towards the students goals. Each Yr 3-6 student has their own card to monitor their time exercising. All their out of school sport is also counted so please keep note of the hours each week your child is at practice for their individual sporting activity. K-2 students have a class card maintained by their teachers. Zumba will continue on Tuesday mornings being taken by our Zumba teacher Mrs Bright. Instead of aerobics on Thursday mornings the whole school will now participate in a fitness circuit. This will be organised by Mrs Keegan.

Cowpasture Group of Schools Gala Day - 16th May
YK-2 – Middleton Grange Public School. The junior children will be taken by bus to the junior sports day where they will be involved in a circuit of different games and activities.
Y3-6 – Bringelly Oval. The senior students will be competing against the other Cowpasture Group of School in Oz Tag, Neucomball and Netball. Bringelly teams are smaller due to PSSA but we have senior and junior Neucomball and Netball teams.

PSSA
This week is the last round of the PSSA Oz Tag. I want to thank Mr McCroary for the time he gives in coaching and supporting the boys Oz Tag team. Girls Soccer, coached by Mrs Murphy and Mrs Borg has a few rounds to complete. I wish to thank both staff members for their time in organising these activities. The next season of PSSA will have a Netball team coached and supported by Mrs Keegan. Mrs Keegan is also attending a coaching course organised by the South West Sydney Sports Unit for the education department.
Numeracy Action
Quicksmart is a specialised support program designed by the University of New England which Bringelly Y3-6 teachers and support staff have been trained in this year. A special area has been established in the workroom behind the senior classes. Mrs McCabe is coaching a small group of students individually in the rapid recall techniques for number and the students are achieving well. All Y3-6 classes will also be participating in due course after this initial stage has been completed. Parents can look up the Quicksmart program on the web at http://simerr.une.edu.au/quicksmart/pages/index.php

Student Reports
Students’ will receive their reports on 21 July. Parent teacher interviews will also take place that week. If you want to speak to your child’s class teacher before that please make an appointment and the teacher will see you at an arranged time suitable to both.

Reading Eggs and Mathletics
Does your child access these program at home and practice their skills? For those students who have paid the student resource costs, your child has access to both the above computer programs. Each student has been provided their passwords and parents can ask for these. The programs are both designed to cater for supporting students at their individual level. Both are excellent for accelerating their learning. Many students seem not to have accessed their programs except at school. This would be a good quiet activity at home as well as gaining academic rewards. I am looking at the mathletic scores each week and giving two trophies out to the top two students who have earned the most points in the week. Last week Izabella and Dominik Michalak gained certificates and the trophies. An excellent result for both!

Do we communicate with you satisfactorily?
Bringelly Facebook page? Bringelly App? Bringelly School website? School newsletter? How many do you use? We would welcome feedback on how useful and informative the news about the school’s activities are. We want to communicate in the most beneficial and practical way so no one misses an event or no child does not have an opportunity to join in to the school’s comprehensive list of activities.

MSP Photography REMINDER
Extra curricular Group Photos order date has been extended!!!

If you would like to purchase extra group photos of eg: School Captains, PSSA teams, etc the cut off date has been extended to 23rd of May, 2014. This is your last chance!!!

Should you wish to order any of these photographs displayed on the office windows please go to www.mspsydney.photomerchant.net and use the following access code to gain entry into the portfolio of photographs: B1N93LL7 The cost of each photo is $16.00. Please note when creating your order that you ensure that you include your child’s name in the Special instructions area of your order.

Library News
Thank you to Mrs Hall and Mrs Cazalet for covering new library books over the school holidays. If any more parents are able to cover books with contact please ring the office and leave your name. Many hands make light work!!
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Fri 16th May</td>
<td>Gala Day K-2 Middleton Grange PS</td>
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<td>Gala Day 3 –6 Bringelly Oval</td>
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<td>PSSA last round for Oz-Tag and Girls Soccer.</td>
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<td>21st May</td>
<td>Chess Competition</td>
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<td>23rd May</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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