Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2016. The beginning of the year has begun with the enrolment of 161 students including new families attending at all levels of the school. On behalf of all staff, we welcome all new families to our lovely Bringelly Public School. It is always delightful to see the rapid inclusion into school life of the new students as they quickly learn the routines and the style of organisation we have for the week. Our new Kindergarten students have settled in and were helped enormously with their Year 6 Buddies. Mrs Hillhouse has completed her first assessment called Best Start and has sent these reports home. The other classes have also nearly completed our assessments which allow the teachers to plan for the individual students academic needs.

Boral Community Support

Many of you in the Bringelly community know that the Boral Brickworks has changed ownership and is now owned by PGH Bricks. However Boral still has plans to remain as a viable commercial company in the Bringelly community with a new concrete works planned. As part of the ongoing partnership with the school that Boral began, PGH Bricks has committed to supply the bricks needed to complete our commemorative walls we have organised for the ANZAC Honour roll of Bringelly WW1 soldiers. We thank PGH and Boral Bricks for their on-going support and interest in our school community. However, we are now looking for a contact for a Bricklayer to build the 600mm walls for us and assess how many bricks we need to build what we want. Does anyone have a contact?

Attendance

Parents are advised to check on the Department of Education website for the full policy on attendance. However the following guidelines are important to note:

“It is the duty of the parent of a child of compulsory school-age to cause the child:
(a) to be enrolled at, and to attend, a government school or a registered non-government school, or
(b) to be registered for home schooling with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) and to receive instruction in accordance with the conditions to which the registration is subject.

Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school within 7 days of the first day of any period of absence.”

For a family holiday the school requires this arrangement to be in writing stating the dates the child will be absent. This will be classed as an absence from school. Partial day absences for appointments also need explanations.

Canteen Open Monday – Thursday

This year the P&C will manage the canteen and general management will be done by Maria Hall. The financial management will be managed by Victoria Collins. The P&C would welcome volunteers and feedback from you regarding the new arrangements of the canteen.

Fees

Thank you to all families who have paid for the school resource pack fee and Voluntary contribution. These increase the quality of resources the school is able to buy and the contribution goes towards the purchase of computer and other classroom equipment.
Please Avoid Early Pick Up Confusion

ANY changes in picking up your child needs to be communicated due to child safety and the school's duty of care towards your child. Parents who have an arrangement for Bringelly Pre-school bus or any other company to pick their child up whether it is a regular event or not need to write to the school advising them of this arrangement.

We are aware of course that sometimes you need to have a friend pick up your child, but this still needs to be communicated to the school. We will not let any child go with anyone else unless we have been advised. Please send a note to your child’s teacher or ring the office.

Please be aware that if you send an email late in the day this may not be seen by staff so a phone call would be preferable.

Wait for the bell at the end of the day.
The arrangement that we gather at the end of the day when the music is on is to give classes time to assemble and give last minute notices while parents are there to listen. Please do not signal for your child to leave the area until the bell has gone and they have been dismissed by the teacher. During the past two weeks several children have seen their parents who are waiting to leave their lines and walked away from their class without being dismissed. As we have new kindergarten students and others whom we are trying to teach routines this is confusing. We ask parents to be patient in collecting their children and wait for the bell.

Software connections available
As part of the school resource pack we buy school subscriptions to the popular Mathletics which the children can use to practice their maths skills and compete with others students around the world, Reading EGGs and EGG-EXPRESS, with reading online library and spelling activities as well as Literacy Pro (used to be called Lexile) Licences for quizzes on comprehension and reading books borrowed from the library. These programs provide great practice and the children use them at school as well as being available for them at home. The administration of these programs require changing passwords every year although the child’s username remains the same. New passes will be sent home when the 2016 roll over is completed.

BYOD Agreement
Y 3-6 will have a Bring Your Own Device Agreement sent home. If you wish your child to participate in the BYOD scheme please read the contract and send it back to the school. The class teachers will make the arrangements for their own class when devices should come into the school and for security while here.

Although the school will continue to purchase and update equipment when possible and has on order additional notebooks linked to the Department of Education and only to be used within the school, the BYOD system allows for a greater flexibility and access for students.

School Building Project on Tender
The Department of Education has accepted the proposal of a new General Storage shed with a Science area to be built where the container is. This project will be given out to tender through Jobs NSW.

Art Classes in the FSU
This year with our focus on curiosity and creativity we have a teacher who is a Fine Arts Graduate working in the school. Miss Thorn is teaching drawing and drama to link in with our Science curriculum. To provide for a large space for the specialist art classes we are using the Food Services Area on Wednesday – Thursday. Be aware that when the class begins at 9 am the room will be closed to parents. If you are late in ordering for lunches please go around to the other canteen door as it is very disturbing to students to have people entering the room.

I thank parents in advance for their understanding.

P&C and new Canteen arrangements
Last week on Monday afternoon a new P&C Committee was elected. I congratulate all office bearers for their election and look forward to a successful year.

President: Diane Hand
Vice President Julie Spencer
Secretary: Nancy Licata
Assistant Secretary: Doreen Shepherd.
Treasurer: Victoria Collins

The P&C are looking for a Honorary Auditor. If someone can assist in this for the annual audit please contact Diana Hand 0422 012 086 or leave a message at the school. The P&C will be organising a monster raffle and asking for worthy prizes. The raffle will run for 6 months.

Trees Removed and Concrete Smoothed
Thank you to Al’s Tree Service for the removal of the dead and dangerous trees by the classroom blocks and administration during the holidays. Al’s Tree Service have left us large trunks to be placed in the school dam to provide shelter to the frogs and small water bugs we will study during the year. Other logs will be used for seating and edges of pathways. The concrete job has smoothed the way decreasing possible trip hazards and for the new handball courts, jumping trails and 4 way hop scotch stencils due to arrive late March.
Sponsorship for school Athletics Court with your company logo displayed.
The plan to repair the multi-purpose court and build an athletics 100m track at the side of it, calls for some financial commitment from the school and help from the community. The school is seeking sponsorship of a lane or part of the track with your company logo displayed with a sign or as part of the track. Before the project can be commenced we are seeking pledges. If you know any company who could help Bringelly School and our project to improve our sports facilities please contact me. Bringelly School has a proud history of how many athletic students we have and we see this project as being an excellent addition to what we can provide to increase student's skills.
The amount required to complete the repair and build the extension of the track would be $40,000. We have already received a donation of $1000. Can you help? Would you like to sponsor a piece of the track?

Communication
The facebook page and the school website are linked and so all photos are being displayed in both areas. If you want notifications of coming events two days ahead then please download the Bringelly app. The username is community, password bringellyps. Parents can send emails through the app and receive the newsletters and notes.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents. The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26th February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Who are BPS Staff for 2016?
This year there are several new positions for the teaching and school staff. Mrs Blackmore has gained a position as an Instructional Leader in Literacy and Numeracy at other schools for 2016 and Mrs Gillett has accepted a position relieving as the Administration Manager at a larger school for 6 months. In 2016 the Bringelly staff will be on the following classes. All staff have additional responsibilities for extra-curricula activities and programs in addition to their position duties such as sport, debating, chess, computers, Student Leadership, SRC, library and various committees.

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<tr>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Hillhouse</td>
<td>Kindergarten teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Kunkler</td>
<td>Year 1 teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Carson</td>
<td>Year 2 teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Keegan</td>
<td>Year 3 / 4 Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr McCroary</td>
<td>Year 4 teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Bai</td>
<td>Year 5 teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Billinghurst</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
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<td>Mrs Woolgar</td>
<td>Year 6 teacher</td>
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<td>Mrs Hext</td>
<td>English Second Language</td>
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<td>Mrs Cannell</td>
<td>Education Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Thom</td>
<td>Creative Arts teacher</td>
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<td>Mrs Edwards</td>
<td>Learning Support Officer</td>
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<td>Mrs McCale</td>
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<td>Mrs Borg</td>
<td>Learning Support Officer</td>
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<td>Mrs Cazalet</td>
<td>Relieving Administration Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Coppock</td>
<td>Relieving Administration Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Bird</td>
<td>General Assistant</td>
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Sharyl Scott
Mon 7th March
Grip Leadership Day-Homebush Excursion for Leaders

Gymnastics Every Wednesday

PSSA every Friday 10 weeks