Dear parents, carers and friends of our school,

I am, at last, able to welcome everyone back to school for Term 2. The terrible weather conditions that we experienced at the beginning of last week have meant that the start to the term has not been as smooth as we would like it to be. I am sure the boys and girls will have lots of stories to share about their experiences in the past week.

Our main concern is always the safety of students and staff and we have appreciated your support and cooperation during the past week, keeping your children home or finding alternative arrangements for their care. We understand that this has been a difficult time for families and I can assure you that it has been difficult and frustrating for staff as well. We are well and truly eager to get back to normal and begin the teaching and learning cycle for Term 2. The terrible weather conditions have meant that the start to the term has not been as smooth as we would like it to be. I am sure the boys and girls will have lots of stories to share about their experiences in the past week.

At school the damage caused by the last week's weather has included fallen trees, branches and a great deal of debris in the playground as well as internal roof leaks. Fortunately, there has been no major structural damage to buildings but, sadly, the cricket nets located in the south playground are now a crumpled pile of metal caused by a fallen tree. Contractors and our General Assistants have cleaned up most of the playground areas to make them safe at play times. Other contractors will visit the school in coming weeks to remove piles of debris and fallen trees, etc.

In near future a full tree assessment will be conducted by a qualified arborist to judge the safety of remaining trees. Until then areas of the playground will be out of bounds during lunch and recess breaks.

I am also pleased to advise that phone lines and internet are now working.

ANZAC Day

The main focus for last week was planned to coincide with commemorating 100 years of ANZAC spirit. We were looking forward to the special ANZAC service last Thursday. As this year commemorates 100 years since the first ANZAC Day, we were going to host special guests including members of the defence force and residents from Harbourside Apartments. As our school considers that this is a very important occasion for our students to commemorate, we held a smaller, but still special service today.

On ANZAC Day I was very proud to march with our students in the ANZAC Day parade in Nelson Bay. Our school leaders led the school in the parade and laid a wreath on our behalf at the cenotaph.

NAPLAN TESTS 2015

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 13th May, Wednesday 13th May and Thursday 14th May, students will undertake the 2015 NAPLAN tests. Friday 15th May is allocated as a ‘catch up’ day for students who may have missed a test due to unforeseeable circumstances e.g. illness.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN assesses skills in Literacy and Numeracy that are developed over time throughout the school. (Please see the timetable for tests below.) NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in Literacy and Numeracy skills against national standards for all Australian children. All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may wish to use these results to discuss their child’s progress with the class teacher.
From Narelle’s Desk cont …

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on this website: http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

WEBSITE PUBLISHING

From next Monday 1st May copies of Shoal Bay Public School Plan 2015 – 2017 and Annual School Report 2014 will be published on our school website. These important documents outline our achievements in 2014 and our strategic directions for the next three years.

STAFFING

This term we welcome back Miss Sally Booth. She will be employed three days a week to support students in classes, either individually or in small groups, with literacy and numeracy programs. Miss Booth is taking over the position held by Ms Wasson in Term 1. Due to the amount of time, hard work and commitment to providing our students with the opportunity to learn about caring for the environment, planting and growing their own vegetables, flowers, herbs, etc., we have decided to also employ Mrs Kate Stenhouse for a few hours each week so that our Garden Club (initiated by Mrs Stenhouse and other parent helpers) can continue to operate and provide these wonderful and enjoyable experiences for students. Garden Club usually meets on a Thursday at lunchtimes.

YEAR 5 OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT 2016

Application for Year 5 opportunity class placement in 2016 opens on Monday 27 April 2015 and closes on Friday 15 May 2015. Late applications will not be accepted. Parents of Year 4 students of the online application process and must apply before the closing date. Parents must complete their applications online. There are no paper applications.

The application website is at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Striving always for ‘Excellence Through Effort’

Narelle Mann
Principal

Colours for Cooper

We raised $516 for the Colours for Cooper foundation. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Nuf Nuf

Year 6 raised $744 towards their year 6 gift for Nuf Nuf. It was a great day.

Creative Lunch Group

Mrs Bzadough and Mrs Forester have a new creative lunch group that they are starting. They are going to make a fairy garden with interested students. For this they were needing a terracotta pot (large and not tall). If it is broken that is ok. Please let the office know if you have anything acceptable. Thanks.

Money

There is a reason that there is a cut-off date for paying money … sometimes kids get left off the list that have paid for things. When we have our cut-off for payments, teachers then get a list of who has paid. On the day or afternoon before, if you are paying late, then sometimes the office gets so busy, messages do not go to teachers. We apologise for any inconvenience in these matters, but unfortunately, these things do happen from time to time. If you have paid make sure you tell your child to speak up and tell the teacher and they can come check with us in the office. Or if you are leaving it to the last minute, maybe go and speak to the child’s teacher to cover all bases. Cheers

Rescue Helicopter Fundraiser

Come and enjoy the company of the special ladies in your life, over a gorgeous afternoon of High Tea at Sinclairs on Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay. A glass of champagne upon arrival awaits you before indulging in an assortment of teas and tasty treats.

Afternoon includes: MC – Carly & Tresne from My Kitchen Rules (MKR), Guest speakers Helicopter Crewman, $5 Nail Painting, $5 Tarot Card Reading, $5 Massages and delicious Scented Candles to purchase. There will also be a lucky door prize, raffles & a silent auction with great prizes to be won. Event will be held on Sunday 17 May 2015. Please share this with your work colleagues, friends and family. Tables of 10 or single tickets available. To make a booking please go to http://www.rescuehelicopter.com.au/events/2015-hunter-high-tea.

Entertainment Book Order Online


Bunnings Mother’s Day Family Night

On Thursday, 7 May from 6-8pm there will be a great night of fun! You can make a gift for mum, do DIY workshops, there will be a sausage sizzle where kids eat for free and adults can make a $2 donation. This donation goes to Raymond Terrace Rotary Club. There will be competitions, giveaways, the Native Orchid Society, a magic show and a teacup ride and jumping castle. Bookings are essential. Please phone 4916 3100.

AN INVITATION TO CARERS

Do you provide care and support to another person? You are invited to Carer Connections.

Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers and listen to our Guest Speaker!

Carers are usually family members or friends who provide support to children or adults who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or who are frail aged.

Guest Speaker: National Disability Insurance Agency

Topic: NDIS Community Conversation

Where: East Maitland Bowling Club, Bank Street, East Maitland

TIME: 16.00am – 12.00pm

COST: Free - includes Morning Tea

WHEN: Monday 25 May 2015

RSVP: Wednesday 20 May 2015

For more information or to Register Contact HNE Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter on 4921 4855 or 1300 887 776 or Email: Carers.Academy@health.nsw.gov.au (We ask that you RSVP for catering purposes)
Fun Stories from 3D

Bang Crash! Aaaaaa. Zip Zap Zip and Zap. And no power. I might try the light switch power. I might try the next door neighbours home.

I feel buzzy in my body and I am hungry. I am going to the shop. Mum I have food. Aaaaaaaaa the food is burnt. Mum Kyla is barking. Mum will you cook dinner.

Yay the storm is over. Hooray ... School. I get to see Miss Day. Come and see downstairs is a swimming pool.

Story by Brodie B-O.

Zap! Zap! The TV is now off. My dad ran down the hallway and said the power is out. I got a torch for my dad so he can get the candles for the night. We were playing candlelit Monopoly when we got sucked into the game, similar to Jumanji. We couldn’t move. The boxes of the board were glowing. There were dice in front of me. We were playing pitch black Monopoly. We were hoping that the black out will stop. Power might be the key. We started playing it. Later in the night my dad won. We get to go out now! But a deep voice came out and said “Winner will be free, loser will be trapped here for ever”. My dad came out of the board and the power went on. I was actually dreaming but locked there never to wake up again. The moral of the story.

WARNING.

If you are a sensitive reader and you expect nice drippy moral you should stop reading because the moral of the story is:

- Never play candlelit Monopoly
- Don’t dose off while playing Monopoly
- Never run down the hallway, you might slip!

Story by Noah B.
Intention to apply: Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Opportunity classes cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for opportunity class placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment scores. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on **Wednesday 22 July 2015**.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2016, you need to do so soon. You will need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student’s email address).

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from **27 April 2015** in a printed application information booklet and at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement). The application website opens on 27 April 2015 and closes on 15 May 2015. No late applications will be accepted.

There are no paper application forms. If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Unit for assistance after 27 April 2015.

You must submit only ONE application for each student.

Yours sincerely

Narelle Mann, Principal

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below to this school by next Friday.

---

**Note:** This is a notice to your primary school that you intend to apply only. **It is NOT an application**

To apply you will need to register and then apply through the High Performing Students application website shown above.

Student’s name: ____________________________ Class: ____________________________

I am interested in applying for opportunity class placement in 2016  
Yes [ ] No [ ]

I have internet access and will be applying online [ ]

OR

I do not have internet access [ ]

Signature of parent/carer: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________