



SAWTELL PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"A member of the Bongil Bongil Learning Community"

21 February 2018 — TERM 1 WEEK 4

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past week a number of students have represented Sawtell PS at District and Zone levels in the PSSA. Congratulations to those students who were successful yesterday at the Toormina District swimming carnival as well as those who were successful at the MNCPSA cricket trials and are now progressing through to the next level in these events. Importantly, well done to all students who attended either event displaying wonderful sportsmanship and effort. All your achievements promote our school motto *'Play The Game'*.

On Monday night the P&C held its Annual General Meeting. A great deal of appreciation must be extended to the outgoing executive members, particularly Mr Peter Creenaune who led the P&C as President for the past 3 years. It was by far the largest P&C meeting I have ever attended as either Principal or parent. This was wonderful to see and it would be great if these numbers were sustained throughout the year. The school looks forward to working with all parents as partners in the education of all students as well as continuing to develop the proactive relationships with the P&C that the school has enjoyed over the past years.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time please let your child's teacher know your availability. Children love to see their parents actively involved in school. Research suggests that increased parent involvement in school plays a significant role in raising student expectations and learning outcomes. Parents (including close relatives) volunteering their time do not require a *'Working With Children Check'*. However, they will be required to undertake a 100 point ID check with office staff. The school apologises for any conflicting information.

On Thursday 22 March at 9:30am the school invites our Aboriginal families to a *Yarn-up*. The *Yarn-up* is an opportunity for our families to engage in an informal chat about our children, school and other stories that we might like to share. The school is very excited to build a *Yarn-up* into our calendar.

Financial Assistance

The school offers financial assistance for some school based expenses such as extra curricula activities including excursions.

If you require some assistance please contact the office for an application form.

Today, I met with The Smith Family. The Smith Family are offering Scholarship amounts through the 'Learning for Life' program. Families are eligible for \$420 per year/child (Primary school age). To be eligible families must possess a Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card and demonstrate a commitment to education (child attending school regularly). If you feel you are eligible please contact Mr Hepi by the end of Week 5 (next week). The school will assist you completing the application form if required.

Improving Communication

The P&C's Communications Team has suggested that the Principal's Report include an *'Ask the Principal'* segment in the newsletter. *What a great idea!*

To kick things off I will start by answering a common question.

Why are there so many composites at Sawtell PS?

Schools are resourced based on a formula subjected to enrolment numbers. In 2018, Sawtell PS has been allocated 14 class teachers. Spreading 348 students across 14 classes is a juggling act when class size recommendations are adhered to. For example; a Year 3 to 6 class recommended size is 30. If we have 45 students in Year 3 then automatically this creates a composite effect. Sometimes even when numbers do align with recommended class sizes schools still create composites based on other factors. We should never overlook the fact that every class is a composite, even a straight Kinder or a straight Year 6 class. All children begin their schooling with different life experiences, they all learn differently, at different speeds and have different learning needs. Therefore within any 'grouping' everyone's needs will be different. School leaders are responsible for ensuring class teachers have the skills to competently implement a differentiated curriculum and that differentiation is successfully embedded. The curriculum is based around expected outcomes a child should be exposed to by a point in time. Though specific content between 2 classes of similar years may be different, the content learning outcomes will generally be the same.

The office now has a 'Question Box'. The school will decide on the most appropriate method of responding, such as in 'Ask the Principal' segment of the newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Michael Hepi – Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd February - 5/6B assembly
 26th February – MNC Tennis
 27th February – MNC swimming
 2nd March – 3/4K assembly, Toormina District League trials

P&C NEWS

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the SPS Parents & Citizens (P&C) was held on Monday evening with executive team roles nominated and elected for 2018 as follows:

President – Emma Aspden

Vice President – James Gill

Vice President – Kingsley Chapman

Treasurer / Public Officer – Amy Bennett

Secretary – Tim Ruge

Canteen Treasurer – Tanya Cruwys

Canteen Coordinator – Helen Jones

Uniform – Coordinator & Treasurer – Adele Burns,
 Assistant: Kelli Lloyd

Communications Team – Fiona McCullough, Inga Stribley,
 Lucy McCarthy.

We would like to thank the above incumbents for accepting the nominations - several continue in their capacity from 2017 which will ensure consistency - and wish them fun and success in 2018 in their efforts for Sawtell PS, with the support and contributions of all P&C members as well. There was a record high attendance for the AGM and we look forward to seeing this maintained throughout the year - it is a great way for parents and carers to network, feel connected and be better informed of general school business. New members or attendees always welcome!

Raffle Prize Donations Request

On Saturday March 10, Sawtell Golf Club is presenting an 'Event on the Green at Sawtell Golf Club' from 5.30pm, with 'The Secret Life of Pets' on big screen, with live entertainment and food trucks - all gold coin entry will be donated to Sawtell PS which is fantastic news! In addition, to maximise the opportunity as this is a community event, Sawtell PS will run a raffle with tickets sold and prizes drawn on the night.

The prizes? That's where you might be able to help - we need donations please! Donations for the raffle prizes can be left with the school front office - if you're not sure or need ideas, please speak to one of the P&C members. All contributions very much appreciated!

ASSEMBLY:

This week's assembly 5/6B.

UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday at 8:30am.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mad Hatters Market Coramba

This market is held on the 4th Sunday of every month 10am – 2pm. You will find market stalls on the main street, and activities for the family in local businesses. Further enquiries Facebook 'Coramba – What's Happening'. General 02 560 2046, Stalls 0400 271 739.



Boambee Soccer Club – 2018 Registration Date

24 February 2018. 9am – 1pm Toormina Shopping Centre.

WEB ACCESS TO OUR NEWSLETTER

[HTTP://WWW.SAWTELL-P.SCHOOLS.NSW.EDU.AU](http://www.sawtell-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)



Sawtell Public School

Phone - 02 6653 1666

E-mail address: sawtell-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Fax - 02 6658 2384

Principal: Michael Hepi

We're on the Web!

See us at: www.sawtell-p.schools.nsw.edu.au