Principal’s Report

Floods
We are pleased to hear that all families remained safe during the flooding that occurred in the valley this week. We are sorry to hear that some members of the community experienced property damage or loss. Thank you to all who helped with communicating messages during this time and/or provided support and assistance to people in need.

It is incredibly frustrating for families and staff members when the school becomes inaccessible due to flooding. Being able to contact families at times such as this is vital. Unfortunately we had a lot of difficulty making contact with some families during the recent flood and ask that all families ensure that the school has been provided with up-to-date contact numbers, along with at least one local emergency contact number. We are hoping to use an email system/SMS communication system in the event of future flooding or emergency events in order to ensure that we reach all families quickly and efficiently. Please fill in the contact sheet attached to this newsletter and return it to the school office by the end of this week so that this system can be put into place. In the event of possible flooding all families are asked to check their email, mobile phone (if they have one) and/or the school website and reply to let us know they are aware of the message. A phone system will be used as a backup strategy. We will also ask Star FM and 2GO to broadcast messages.

Staffing
Andrew Smith will be on leave from Monday 4 March until Wednesday 20 March. Chrissie Williams will have the 2/3/4 class on a full-time basis during this time to provide consistency for the students. Rebecca Frost will be employed to run Chrissie’s regular art, library, COGS, sport, principal’s release and class teacher release from face to face programs from Monday 4 March– Monday 18 March.

Lawn Mower
We have had a number of people express interest in the old school ride-on lawn mower. We have checked with the Department to ensure that we follow the correct procedure, please see below for details extracted from Chapter 7 of the Department’s School Manual on Financial Management:

- In order to demonstrate that an open and competitive process has been used, a committee should be formed to assess offers received.
- The committee should comprise of the Principal or delegated officer and at least one staff member. Consideration should be given to including a representative of the School Council or the P & C. Where appropriate, a representative of the donor or funding group should be included.
- Any staff member, including the Principal, wishing to make an offer on an item must be excluded from the committee.
- Offers received must be held unopened in a secure location until the closing date.
- On the closing date, offers must be opened in the presence of all members of the committee and the name of the bidder and the amount of the offer recorded.
- The item must be offered to the person making the highest bid.
- The decision of the committee and the signatures of all members must be recorded on the list of offers.
People who are interested in making an offer on the lawn mower are invited to read and respond to the advertisement below:

**Lawn Mower - Advertisement**

An old school ride-on mower is available for sale. It has a few problems: difficulty going down hills; a cutting deck that is not straight; flat tyres; and possible battery problems. If you are interested please deliver a written offer to the school in a sealed envelope along with your name and contact details by 9am Wednesday morning, 6 March 2013. The mower is available for inspection during school hours.

**Reminders:**

- **Band and catch-up guitar lessons** will be held this Friday – don’t forget your instruments. Guitar lessons will be held on Mondays from Week 6 on.
- **After School Pick Up** – Please remember to park carefully in the marked spaces in the car park, or on the road facing the same way as the traffic flow. Parking is also available in the paddock, next to the school oval. This car park can be accessed via a driveway located a little further down the road, after the exit from the school car park. All vehicles can access this car park in fine weather and it provides a very safe option for collecting children away from Yarramalong Road. Please note that students are not permitted to walk outside the school fence without an adult accompanying them. All students must wait next to the phone booth until an adult arrives to collect them and must either stay at the phone booth or stand with the adult who is collecting them until the adult is ready to leave the school grounds. Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep all students safe at pick-up time.

**Special Mentions**

- **Thank you to all who attended the Parent Information Meetings last week** – we hope you found the meetings to be informative and we thank you for your interest in our school.
- **Thank you to all families** who helped to provide information about flooding in the valley on Sunday and Monday – we extend our special thanks to Briony and Chrissie who made a number of trips on Yarramalong Rd to check on road conditions for us.
- **A very big thank you to Evan Campbell** (principal of Tuggerah Public School) who hosted our staff and students on Monday. Thank you also to the Tuggerah before and after school care team who gave us their room for the day.
- **Congratulations to Tanisha** who delivered the Acknowledgement of Country at the Principals’ Breakfast meeting last Thursday. Tanisha spoke clearly and confidently. We are very proud of the work she is doing as an ambassador for the Aboriginal community and for our school.

**Calendar**

- Wednesday 27 February - School Photos
- Friday 1 March – Clean Up Australia Day – please bring gloves to school
- Friday 8 March – Year 6 Hands on Day at Wyong High School (please see the note attached to this week’s newsletter), Environmental Sustainability Forum – Chrissie

Regards,
Tracey McKeown
Principal

**Robotics Training**

On Monday Andrew and Chrissie attended Lego NXT Robotics training at Macquarie University. The course included planning, testing and modifying robots and programs. The Lego NXT robot can use a range of sensors including infrared, touch, light and sound. We currently have three Lego NXT robots at our school and we use them in our Years 2-6 robotics program. Robotics is an exciting way to bring science, technology and mathematics into the classroom.
**Small Schools' Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Small Schools' Swimming Carnival at Gosford Pool yesterday. We are very proud of the fact that our school won the carnival. Special congratulations to Brigette who was the 11 Years Girls Age Champion and to Spencer who was the Junior Boys Champion. Thank you also to all parents who came along to support our school and to help run the carnival - you helped to make it a very happy and successful day.

**Zone Swimming Team**

The zone swimming carnival will be held next Tuesday at Mingara. A note has been sent home today. A list of all students who have been selected to attend is below.

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<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>Given Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Age</th>
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Hunter / Central Coast Junior Squash Association

DATE: Sunday 3rd March

START TIME: 9am

VENUE: Raymond Terrace Squash Centre
104 Port Stephens Rd
Raymond Terrace 2324
Phone 0249 831350

COST: $20 per player – minimum 3 matches and lunch supplied on the day

MORE INFO: Contact Adrian Barwick 0400303618

AUTUMN HOLIDAY CAMPS 4 KIDS
Crusaders is running 3 awesome Christian camps for kids in school Years 4 - 12 in the autumn holidays. Activities include: sailing, laser zone, Gold Coast theme parks, ice skating, rock climbing, messy games, making new friends and much, much more!

For a free brochure or to register for camp visit www.crucamps.com.au or call (02) 9874 8933 (opt 1).

‘CRU Camps’ is a division of the Crusader Union of Australia which has over 80 years experience running safe, Christian camps for kids.

Flood and emergency contact email

Child’s name:__________________________________________________________
Parent’s name:________________________________________________________
Email Address:_________________________________________________________
Up to date phone numbers: Mobile ________________
Home: _______________________

☐ Please tick this box if you are happy to have these details recorded on a school phone tree to be distributed to all families.

Signature: ________________________________