Absence Notifications via SMS

During early 2014 the school made a significant investment in ensuring teachers had key information to hand when working with students. Part of this investment related to the acquisition of software in which we mark rolls, record family details and record details of activities in which students participate. The software provides many other features which we are gradually using as our skills improve.

We are now in a position to commence using the SMS notification section of the software. Initially we will use this feature to advise parents when students are marked absent in roll call. Where a student is absent without explanation, parents will receive an SMS, probably in the late morning of the absence, advising that their child has been marked absent from school. The first listed mobile number in the software will be sent the SMS (let us know if you would like parent numbers in a different order). Parents are able to reply to the text with a reason for the absence and this is imported into the software as a record of the parent’s explanation for the absence. Separate notes or phone calls are not required (unless you feel there is a need; we may make contact if the reason is unclear). Parents should bear in mind, as advised in previous newsletters, there are limited acceptable reasons for absence from school. If the reason provided does not fall into one of the approved areas, the student will be marked absent without (satisfactory) justification.

In the near future we will commence using the software for arrangements for excursions and the like. The system can be used to advise parents of matters relating to school life – events coming up, buses ahead of time (or late) returning from an excursion site, and so on.

We will be proceeding with our ‘L’ plates on for a while, so let us know if you identify issues in the system.

Italian Exchange 2015-16

The next cycle of our Italian exchange is approaching. We will be hosting 15 Italian students from the evening of Monday 31 August 2015 to Friday 18 September 2015. We will be applying to the Department to see our students travel to Italy Saturday 2 April 2016 to Thursday 21 April 2016. At this stage we are seeking Year 9 2015 students who are willing to participate in the exchange. It is possible to participate as hosts only and not participate in the return trip to Italy. Consequently we are looking for Year 9 2015 families who are willing to host our Italian guests when they arrive later this year. According to our families
Diary
This Week - Week 8 Term 1 - Week B
Mar 16 Year 7-8 Cyberbullying P&C Meetings 9am and 4:30pm Library
Mar 17 Year 9-10 Cyberbullying Yamba
Mar 18 CHS Regional 15’s Touch Coffs Harbour
Mar 19 CHS Regional Netball Casino
Mar 20 CHS Regional Soccer Yamba

Next Week - Week 9 Term 1 - Week A
Mar 23-26 Preliminary Final Exams Year 11-12 Evans River
Mar 23 School Council Meeting Library
Mar 24-26 Year 9 PASS Excursion Runaway Bay
Mar 23 FNC Primary Zone winter Sports Trials
Mar 27 CHS Regional Rugby League Grafton

Coming Event
Apr 02 Performance Assembly K-12 12 noon
Apr 03 Good Friday Public Holiday
Apr 20 School Development Day (normal for term 2)
Apr 21 First Day of School Term 2 for all students (K-12)
Apr 24 ANZAC Day Ceremony
May 04 Year 7 2016 Information Evening

which have been involved in the past, participating in the exchange experience has proven to be a deeply rewarding experience for all in the family. Further information is available from Mrs Entwistle, Mr Robertson or myself.

Rob Walker – Principal

WHY DON’T WE SELL SOFT DRINKS?
In Australia, children are consuming too many sugar-sweetened drinks, which are high in kilojoules and low in nutrients. “One in five (21.2%) 2 - 15 year olds drink at least six cups of sugar sweetened drink a day according to “The Health of Children and Young People in NSW” Report of the Chief Health Officer 2014. Some are having more than 11 cups or 176 gr sugar a day. Since 2007, the Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Ban has been in place in all NSW schools.

This ban applies to soft drinks, energy drinks, fruit drinks, flavoured mineral water, sports drinks, cordials and iced teas.

Be sure to try some of the nutritious and tasty drink options at the canteen instead, or go for the best of all: water.

VILLAGE PLAYERS
If you, or anyone you know, could be interested in either acting in this play (actors need to be females of about 40 years or older - no prior acting experience is necessary) or helping out on the production side of things, please come along to a meeting in the Remembrance Room, downstairs at the RSL on Wednesday 18th March at 6pm. Apart from actors (and we do have some interested women already) we are looking for men and women of any age to help out with the... set, props, costumes, hair, makeup, and publicity. Please consider becoming a member and helping out as The Village Players needs you. Many of our stalwart members who usually help out are unable to do so for this production, for various reasons. The Village Players needs new blood. We are very thin on the ground right now. Rehearsals will start on 22nd April.

For further information please contact Su on 0408 418 793 or Pat on 6682 4430.

P&C News
Our next meetings will be held on Monday 16th March. Our morning meeting takes place at 9:00am in the Administration Building and the second meeting is held in the Library at 4:30pm. Please join one of our meetings and bring along your ideas.
On Monday I was working away at my desk when I glanced out the window and saw our Year 11 & Year 12 PD/H/PE students running along the footpath tied together. What’s this I thought and headed out with my trusty camera. Mrs Price, their teacher, explained that Jason Van Rysbergen (local defence force) was giving the students a BOOT CAMP lesson. When I reached them they were very glad to be back at school, but it didn’t end here. Next Jason had them stretching, and I heard a lot of oohs and ahs, however not from Mrs Price, she really showed them how it was done!

The school would like to thank Jason Van Rysbergen who donated his time to work with the students.

We have a large group of EcoWarriors this year with lots of plans for projects. Primary members from last year and our senior students have been selected as leaders to help guide the group using their experience. Congratulations to our leaders I look forward to listening to your ideas. Welcome to Simone Barker another supporter of the group. I would like to sincerely thank Sue Roche (Jessica & Zac grandmother) for her support of the EcoWarriors. I would also like to thank Sue for all the support she has given me with recent funding applications.
**MRNC Youth Service is in Oaks Arcade**

Open until 5:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Painting Poles in Coraki after school on Wednesdays 4 - 6pm (this term)

For anyone who needs to see a youth worker after school or is interested helping organise school activities or volunteering.

Just Drop in or call 6682 4334 office hours to make a time to meet. Welcome Luke Hayward back to the MRNC Youth Team

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**Breakfast at the Canteen**

On Tuesday 17th March Bethany, Erica, Mya and Clare will be holding a **FREE** Pancake Breakfast at the Canteen Before school.

“Green” Pancakes and the girls have donated their time and ingredients

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**Uniform Store**

- Girls Skorts Size 8-16 with logo $23
- Boys Ruggers No Logo only $13

*The School Uniform Store operates each Friday 8:30am to 9:30am*

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**Ballina Rugby Union**

Registration Wednesdays from 5pm

$95 includes shorts, socks and shirt

Kalinga St, West Ballina

Games played Friday evenings

2015 season starts April 24th

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**EVANS RIVER JUNIOR RUGBY**

**SIGN ON**

- **Wed 18 March - 4.00pm - 6.00pm**
- **Sat 21 March - 11.00am - 5.00pm**

(during Evans River Rugby 10s)

All enquiries: Hywel Roberts,

ERR Junior Co-ordinator on 0402 367 216

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**Crankfest Youth Festival**

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Are you interested in being a part of a Regional Youth Festival on the 18th of April 2015?

Can you play an instrument or sing, are you in a band?

For more information PH: 6682 4334 or go to [www.crankfest.com.au](http://www.crankfest.com.au)

Expressions of Interest Closes March 18th 2015