Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Another week has come and gone! During the past week our garden has burst into a beautiful display of colour with the entrance to our school looking wonderful and inviting. Thank you Eileen for all of your hard work and to Janice for giving a hand when needed.

Classes for 2016

During the past week the staff has been discussing the class configuration for 2016. Over the years composite classes have been the source of controversy, with parents sometimes believing that their offspring are being disadvantaged in some way if they are placed in a composite class. The key to understanding composite classes is realising that growth is determined in stages and not magically by ages. Although a child may be chronologically older or younger – their maturity, social needs, academic needs and behaviour are uniquely their own. Some need stimulating, some need more maturing. It is better for students to be grouped according to need, as they will gain confidence and skill by working with their peer ability level. There is no hard and fast rule that says a ‘straight’ class will meet a child’s needs any better than a composite class. Children all get there – the path may be different but the destination is the same!

Composite classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students can benefit from helping younger students in cooperative learning situations. The younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it. International research has indicated that there are no differences found with respect to maths, reading and language; and that attitudes to school, self-concept and social adjustment are benefits associated with composite classes. Often children in composite classes are more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and are better problem solvers. Ultimately, whether students are in composite or straight age classes, it is not the age combinations that matter. What matters is the quality of teaching and learning, and the relationship between the child and their teacher.

Next year our classes will be configured according to Stage Groups. The classes include: Kindergarten, Year 1 /2; 2 x Year 3/4 and 2 x Year 5/6. Our class sizes will remain between 20 -22 students and the classes will provide a strong framework where students who may be challenged by issues arising from behavioural, social and academic needs can be supported to ensure growth and development. The syllabuses used by teachers are Stage based and therefore suited to this model of operation; and should encourage further collaboration between staff when planning for quality teaching and learning experiences.

Our students, as well as the staff are going to help determine the composition of these class groups. This week each child is being asked to nominate three people that they would be happy to be placed with in a class. They will be given at least one of their choices when we form classes ensuring they have a friend to work with in their 2016 class group. As we move closer to the end of the year, you will be informed of your child’s class teacher for 2016.

Excursions Galore

It was obvious from the smiling faces and happy voices that Miss Goodman, Calli and Year 1/2 enjoyed a great excursion to the coast on Monday. These excited travellers were joined by Delegate students in K/1/2
**Word of the Week**

**Peg:**

to throw or toss something. Most common in Qld and NSW. An Aussie original. Recorded since the 1940s.

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**Quiz Question**

Which Australian has won the FIM World Motorcycle Championship 5 times?

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**THIS WEEK’S QUOTE**

‘Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence.’

*Leonardo da Vinci*

~

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**Thursday Canteen**

**Special**

Nachos

$4.00

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**Help**

Yr6 still require someone to run the milk shake stall at the fete.

PLEASE can you help.

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**Gotcha Award**

Winner for Term 4 Week 7

Is

Patrick Morgan

Well done!

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**Year 5 Fundraising Activities**

The Year 5 Fundraising Street Stall will be held this Friday 20th November. We hope the school community will support this fundraising venture to ensure we can reduce the costs for our Year 6 students going to Melbourne in 2016.

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**AFL Gala Day**

Today our students participated in a great day of physical activity. They enjoyed playing AFL against some of the other small schools and learned many new skills along the way. We would like to thank John Dyball the Coordinator AFL NSW/ACT and his high school helpers for providing a great day of activities for our students.

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**Shopfront and Fridge Calendar**

Our Community Liaison Officer has been busy creating new displays in our Shop Front window - be sure to have a look when you’re downtown. Chloe has also produced a wonderful magnetic fridge calendar with all the dates of activities listed until the end of term.

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**Year 6 Fete**

10 December

White Elephant Stall

Bric-a-Brac

Second hand children’s clothing

All these stalls need donations please.

It’s a great opportunity for that pre Christmas tidy up and sort.
**Street Stall**

Friday 20th November  
In support of the 2016 Yr 6 Melbourne Excursion

Donations of cooking, craft items, saleable items gratefully received.

**Baby photos from Yr 5 and Yr 6 please.**

Thank you to those students who have already given their photos to Dakota however she doesn't yet have enough for a competition.

**School Captains 2016**

Yr 5 students are invited to create a poster and deliver a speech outlining their captain's qualities prior to our school vote for our 2016 captains on Wednesday 9th December.

Posters will go on display on Monday 23rd November.  
Speeches will be presented on Wednesday 9th December.  

Good luck everyone.

**Bombala Swimming Club**

**URGENT AGM NOTICE**

Unfortunately we did not have sufficient numbers at our AGM held on Wednesday 4 November to form a quorum.  
Therefore we are calling for an emergency AGM to be held on Wednesday 18 November, 2015 at 4.30 pm in the Hospital Conference Room. **Swim Club cannot happen without a committee so please show your support by attending.**

This has also caused a delay in the start date for Swim Club.

If you require any further information please contact Donna Shelley on 0409 556 813.

Answer: Michael Doohan
On Monday November 16th our class (1/2) and the other Year 2s and K-2 from Delegate went on an excursion to the Sapphire Coast marine Centre in Eden. (Dakota)

We had recess at the Lookout. It was delicious, well at least it was for me. (Hayden)

At the Discovery Centre we watched a film about dolphins. Next we had a look at the shells and in the jars. (Hannah)

I went to the touch tank and got to touch a sea anemone. (Jake)

At the touch tank I got to hold a sea snail and a hermit crab and a sea urchin. The crab nearly bit me! (Mistin)

I went into the deep sea room. It was dark and scary. You had to use a torch to see. There was a box fish and an octopus. (Gracie)

We looked at how a tsunami forms. It is made when a meteorite hits the ocean and makes a giant wave. It can also be formed by a volcano and an earthquake. The demonstration splashed up and got us wet. (Natalie)

We had lunch and a play and an ice block at Cocora Park. (Mia)

A big thank you to Tara Rangi and Calli Kidman for helping Miss Goodman on the day. And a big thank you to all the students for their wonderful behaviour and a great day. – Miss Goodman
Cooma Champs Tennis

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS

Camp 2 : Mon 11 Jan – Tues 12 Jan, 2016
9am – 4pm Bombala Tennis Club
2 Day Camp – $100.00 Discounted to $80.00
Discount given if booking and payment received 5 days prior to camp date.
Please call Tom:0404838049

GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!!

Cooma Champs Tennis also offers tennis lessons throughout the school Term. If you are stuck for a great christmas present idea... how about a voucher for some tennis lessons/comp or a racquet?

TOM PEREA: ACCREDITED ATPCA / TENNIS AUSTRALIA CLUB PROFESSIONAL. ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL ACCREDITED.