



Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

November	
Thursday 4 th	School Photos
Tuesday 9 th	Kindergarten 2022 Transition – 9.30 – 11.00am
Tuesday 16 th	Kindergarten 2022 Transition – 9.30 – 11.00am
Monday 18 th	P&C Meeting – 9.00am
Tuesday 23 rd	Kindergarten 2022 Transition – 9.30 – 11.30am Year 6 to Year 7 Orientation Day – Billabong High School
Tuesday 30 th	Kindergarten 2022 Transition – 9.30 – 11.30am
December	
Tuesday 7 th	Kindergarten 2022 Transition – 9.30 – 11.30am
Thursday 16 th	Last day of School - Students
Friday 17 th	Staff Development Day

Respect, Kindness, Best Effort

Dear families,

It's hard to believe that we've made it to Week 4 already. Luckily this is an 11-week term, so we still have plenty of time for learning and to squeeze in as many of the special activities that mark the end of the school year as we can, given the current circumstances. The last day of the year for students is Thursday 16 December.

COVID-19

Thank you to our whole school community for helping to keep students safe given the rising COVID-19 case numbers in our region. In order to keep our school operational it is essential that we:

- Monitor exposure sites and follow NSW Health directions for testing and isolation
- Stay at home/ keep children at home if unwell
- Get tested immediately if you have even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms and isolate until you/they get a negative result
- Don't enter the school grounds unless it is absolutely necessary – call from the gate and we'll come to meet you

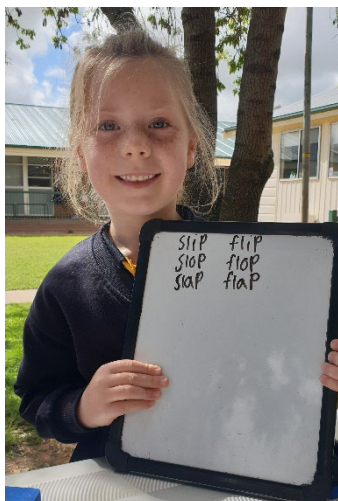
In the event that our school needs to close for deep cleaning and contact tracing, notifications will be posted via SkoolLoop and Facebook. Letters will be emailed to all families explaining individualised testing and isolation procedures based on level of exposure. To assist us in disseminating this information as quickly as possible, **please check that you are receiving school emails and update email contact details via the school office if necessary as a matter of urgency.**

At the start of the term we were hopeful that some of the restrictions on school operations might have eased by later in the year, allowing us to go ahead with traditional end-of-year special events. That now seems unlikely and preparations will be made to hold Year 6 Graduation and Presentation Day

under Level 3 COVID-safe schools protocols. This will mean that events must be held on the school grounds and visitors will be unable to attend. Our Presentation Day ceremony will be live-streamed via a Zoom link and recorded for families. We will do everything we can to make these milestone events enjoyable, memorable and safe for all.

Learning Highlights

The introduction of intensive literacy and numeracy small-group instruction in both classrooms is resulting in some terrific learning engagement and achievement. Mr Morphett is working with Stage 3 students three days each week and I am teaching groups of K-2 students. Here are some photos of this learning in action.



Positive Behaviour for Learning

Everyone in our school community has a role to play in ensuring that school is a happy place for all students. Our vision is for each student to be eager to come to school each day, safe in the knowledge that they will be valued and cared for by their teachers and peers. We are focusing on our shared value of kindness for most of this term.

Our focus expected behaviour for Weeks 5 & 6 is:

kind words, kind actions.



A scene from our first video with production team members Taya, Bonnie and Eli.

Teachers will be awarding tickets to students displaying kindness and will be encouraging students to notice kindness in others. (See the lolly-guessing information later in the newsletter.) Explicit lessons will focus on the power of kindness and what kind words and actions look, sound and feel like.

Values Videos

This term we will be making short videos highlighting our target behaviour expectations. Students in Years 3-6 will each have a turn at being in our **Values Video V (five)** team. Production of our first video: **Kindness in Action at**

Rand Public School is underway thanks to team members Eli, Charlie, Taya, Bonnie and Billie. Keep an eye open for the premiere in coming weeks.

Logo

Following endorsement by the P&C, I am pleased to present our Positive Behaviour for Learning logo, featuring our values, wheat and Billabong Creek. By bringing together input from students, families and staff we have jointly developed a logo that is truly representative of our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this excellent outcome.



Tackling Unkindness Together

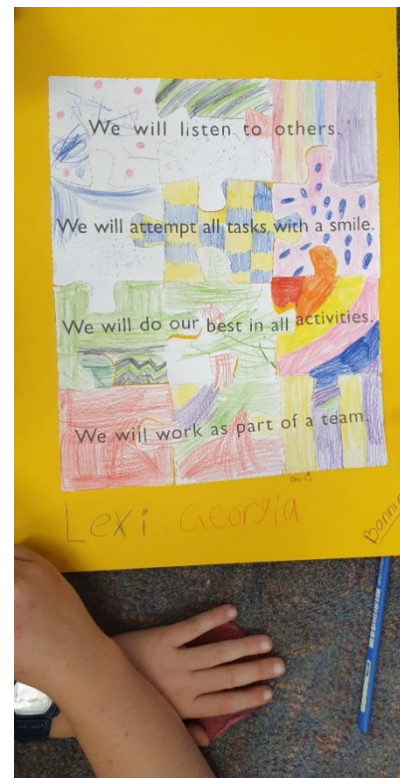
The opposite of kindness... relational aggression. As parents, it can be difficult to know what to say or do when our child reports being excluded, manipulated or the target of unkindness – especially when, at other times, the child involved might be a playmate or friend. Just as 'kindness is catching', relational aggression is also often learned behaviour. Children learn to be unkind when they are on the receiving end of this behaviour, or when they observe it going on around them. That is why I am concerned when I hear any reports of unkindness amongst our students and why our school is committed to fostering a 'culture of kindness'. We can also support our children by fostering resilience and self-advocacy skills: the confidence to identify when they are not being treated well and to take action. The staff and I are working hard to teach students pro-social skills and to address behaviour that is not consistent with our values and behaviour expectations. As with all skill development and school cultural change, this will take time and strong home-school relationships. I have included a short reading on relational aggression in this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to reach out and have a conversation with me, or your child's teacher, if you have any concerns in this regard.

Peer Support

I was incredibly impressed at the excellent leadership and communication skills of our Peer Support Leaders in their first session yesterday. Senior students modelled respect, kindness and best effort to bring their groups together in getting-to-know-you and team-building activities. Groups made a 'jigsaw promise', played tunnel ball and did crazy animal walks. (In case you're wondering when you look at the photos: Tyler was a fish!) We will use our peer support sessions to build strong positive relationships while we explore and reinforce our shared values and expected behaviours over the rest of the term. Check out the photo collage in this newsletter. A huge thanks to Mr Morphett for leading this initiative and supporting our leadership team.

Yours in learning,
Joanne Scherf
R/Principal







School Photos

Due to the current COVID-19 situation in our local area unfortunately our visit from The School Photographer next Tuesday 2 November has been cancelled. (Photographers are non-essential visitors.) Fortunately, our multi-talented Miss Wright is also an amateur photographer and she has kindly agreed to take photos for us **next Thursday 4 November**.

Please send children in full summer school uniform on this day and we will email individual, class and family photo files to each family.

The school photographer will organise refunds for those families who paid online. Cash payments will be returned with students today.

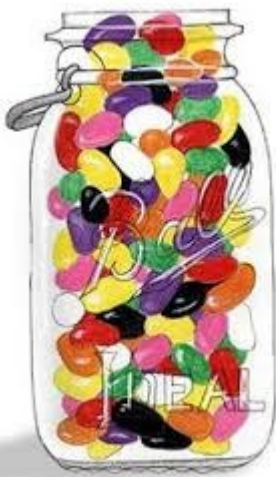
New Broad Brimmed School Hats

Our new broad-brimmed school hats have now arrived from Brunella and are ready for purchase from the school office. Hats are \$17 each and available in sizes 55cm, 57cm and 59cm.

A reminder that the current bucket-style hats are still able to be worn during the transition period however the new hats offer much better sun protection and are strongly encouraged.



Lolly-guessing Competition (with a Twist of Kindness)



The 3-6 class put forward a very strong case to Mrs Scherf detailing why a lolly-guessing competition would be good for our school. (They can be very convincing!) The class have been learning about probability with Miss M and Mr Morphett and this is a good opportunity to put their learning into action.

The competition will run during Weeks 5 and 6, but Mrs Scherf has added a twist:

students won't be buying tickets, they'll be earning them by demonstrating our focus expected behaviour: kind words, kind actions. Teachers and support staff will be on the lookout for acts of kindness in the classrooms and playground. Students can even make recommendations for tickets when someone is kind to them. Our kindest students will earn the most chances to win the prize. Hopefully they'll be kind enough to share...

K-2 News

This term in Maths students in K-2 have been learning about Area, Chance and data and Position. Students have been measuring the area of items in the classroom using informal units. We also compared the size of our feet and hands by tracing our feet and hands and using counters to cover the area. In PDHPE we are learning how to keep ourselves safe. This week we learnt about safe and unsafe situations.



3 – 6 News

This term during our Mappen lessons we have been learning about the difference between needs and wants, the types of resources that we have, how we use them and the nature and meaning of work. Later this term, students will be engaged in economics and business as they work in groups to develop a business plan. Students have also learnt the importance of working in groups to achieve a common goal and the attributes that lead to a successful team.

Awards

Values Awards: Kindness - include others

Congratulations to this week's values awards recipients for demonstrating kindness by including others:

Lexi –encouraging and including her peers.

Nicholas –playing kindly with his peers.

Sophie –including students in the classroom and playground.

Tyler – sharing equipment and including his peers.

Tahlia – being inclusive inside and outside of the classroom and for making her peers feel welcome.

Charlie – demonstrating inclusivity and initiative to assist his peers inside and outside of the classroom.

Jai – demonstrating inclusivity by coaching and encouraging his team during sport.

Allira – demonstrating excellent leadership skills during peer support.

Class awards:

Olivia – recognising the difference between 'will happen', 'might happen' and won't happen and providing examples.

Joanie – using a range of strategies to spell and sound out tricky words.

Trae – increased confidence in writing and experimenting with figurative language.

Coby – increased focus and applying himself during maths learning experiences.

Skool Loop App

A reminder that our school uses the Skool Loop app. This app can be used to send absence notes to school and we also put notices on the app such as the recent snake safety information that was communicated recently.

Downloading the Skool Loop app - a step by step guide

Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school -

- Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
- Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
- Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side.
- Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
- Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
- Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.

