HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We have nearly reached the end of another amazing year - how quickly the weeks have flown this year! On Tuesday the 16th December we will celebrate the achievements of our students at the End of Year Presentation Day event. I am sure you are all looking forward to coming together as a community to highlight the fine accomplishments of our students, thanks to the support and guidance you provide each week.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued dedication and commitment to all of our students. The community connections that we help to nurture and, the intercultural understanding that we foster through our teaching, will help to shape the lives of our young men and women of tomorrow. May you have a lovely holiday break and enjoy the summer months with your family and friends. Term 1 starts on Tuesday 27th January for teachers and Wednesday 28th January for students in Years 1 to 6. Kindergarten students should refer to the handouts given out at Orientation for their important starting dates.

Uniform Consultation Period

Parent responses to the surveys conducted both at Kindergarten Orientation and by the students on the playground to assist with our school planning, have clearly shown that one of the things that parents would like to see at Bonnyrigg Public School is an update of the current school uniform. The majority of staff have also identified this as an area that would help with the image of the school in the community and will ensure the uniform complies with DEC Sun Safe Policies. The Uniform Committee has been working hard to obtain samples to enable further feedback about styles and colours. These samples will be on display in the school foyer from next week. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated and we invite all parents to vote on the uniform of their preference. The students will also get the opportunity for feedback.

Kindergarten Orientation

Our Kinder Orientation on Thursday 27th November was a huge success. Thank you to all the parents that attended. I would also like to thank Mrs Howlett and the rest of the staff involved in the organisation. Kindergarten Orientation sessions are very important. For parents and/or carers of students starting school for the first time it is their first introduction to school and school policies and procedures. I hope it was a friendly and enjoyable experience for everyone and an opportunity to meet other parents.

Personal Details

Next year we will be introducing electronic roll marking. We are also considering and/or trialling a messaging system to send you important information and updates. In order for this to be successful we need all parents/carers to update their mobile numbers with the school.

School Calendar

Week 11
Mon. 15th Dec. Year 6 Farewell
Tues. 16th Dec. Presentation Day in the Hall
Wed. 17th Dec. Last Day of Term 4

Term 1 Week 1 Students Years 1-6 Start Wed. 28th Jan. 2015. Kindergarten and Preschool refer to handouts given at Orientation
Sometimes the school needs to contact you for various reasons including sickness. If you have recently changed your mobile number and/or have not updated your details for a period of time, please ensure that the school has the correct contact details on record.

**Back to School Communications**

Wondering where, when and how your kids will go to school next year? Accessing the following website is a one stop shop for parents. It contains practical help and information about attending a NSW Public School. It provides a Back to School Checklist including tips on Homework and Study, Wellbeing and Technology. Schoolatoz can be accessed on the following link: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/)

**Preschool Sensory Garden Opening**

We are an extremely lucky school to have our NEW preschool garden and a renovation to our community garden completed and, last week we celebrated with the opening. We were joined by the Mayor Frank Carbone, Lyn McShane our School Education Director, Peter Williamson and his fantastic Newleaf team, Paul from TAFE NSW, John from Green Wings, local Principals and many local businesses. We are so thankful to Mrs Nies who got the ball rolling on this project. Our Preschool children are so happy and love their new garden. All of our students were given a showbag to celebrate. We cannot express enough how grateful we are,

A big thanks to NEWLEAF, Bunnings, TAFE, Bonnyrigg Men’s Shed, Crust Pizza, St Johns Bowling Club, Bonnyrigg Mosaic Group, Fairfield City Community Nursery, Bonnyrigg Mosque Andreasen’s Nursery, Bonnyrigg Plaza, Lao Buddhist Society, Vietnamese Community of Australia and Big W

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2015.

**Ms Hatzi, Principal**

**Principal’s Awards**

Congratulations to the following students

**Honour Awards**

Well done to the following students who have earned honour awards this term

| Jacqueline N K Blue            | Violet P 1/2O          | Malekai F 3/4K         |
| Mary P K Blue                  | Stephanie P 1/2O       | Tina L 3/4W           |
| Alvin V K Blue                 | Mikaere T 1/2O         | Dylan J 4/5M          |
| Aiden V K/1 Green              | Eric N 1/2O x 2        | Leilane T 4/5M        |
| Steven D K/1 Green             | Venna P 2C             | Talei V 5/6B          |
| Sing D K/1Green                | Angel L 2C             | Jason L 5/6B          |
| Ashlee N 1S                    | Angely V 2C            | Andrew L 5/6B         |
| Nathan B 1S                    | Saif K 3/4K x 2        | Trang N 5/6F          |
| Joanne T 1S                    | Bertilla S 3/4K        | Averee P 5/6F         |

In the holidays if you find any home readers or library books please return them to school in the new year.
Preschool Garden Opening

K-2 had a fantastic day at Oak Park.
Different types of writing
You child may be asked to present an assignment in a particular text type. Text types mean writing according to a purpose or an audience. For example, factual texts inform and literary texts entertain. This fact sheet gives several examples and the purpose of different types of writing.

Choosing a book for your child
What makes a good book for young kids? Usually anything that they want to read. Resist the desire to choose only books that you read as a child. Good books teach kids things subtly while still telling a great story.

Does cartoon violence make kids more aggressive?
Lots of parents question the violence in many of today's cartoons and video games, but many of us grew up watching cartoons where violence was also a key ingredient. What does the research indicate about exposure of our kids to violence?

Summer holiday fun
Book your children into one of our fun-filled camp next school holidays. Your children will be kept busy and active while learning new skills and making new friends. You'll have peace of mind knowing your children are safe and well looked after.
For details, visit Sport and Recreation website www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps/

Avoiding homework drama
Bell Shakespeare’s artistic director, John Bell, discusses Shakespeare and how to make it accessible. He says to tell your teen not to worry about the language; to concentrate on the characters, the dilemmas, and the problems they face, and find out how to identify with the protagonists in the story.

For the love of science
Science is a method of engaging with, and trying to understand, the world. Professor Tim Flannery says if a child is interested in pursuing science, encourage them to develop persistence and humility – the idea that they won't always be right.

Pleasures of free play
Allowing free time for children to play on their own, making up games and activities, can help kids to be comfortable in their own company, teach them how to cope with boredom and, importantly, foster their imagination.
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from our preschoolers

Thank you K Red, K Blue and K/1 Green for your SPECTACULAR item.