Welcome back
A very big welcome back to all our families returning for a bright new year. I also wish to welcome all the new families who have enrolled at Bonnyrigg Public School for the first time. You have chosen an excellent school and one which will provide an excellent education for your child. Welcome to new staff Ms Tatiana Shen, Mrs Helen Harris and Ms Fiona Filippi our additional Assistant Principal. This year we are introducing a number of new initiatives to support the learning outcomes of the students.

L3 - Language, Learning and Literacy is a research-based, effective Kindergarten classroom intervention, targeting text reading and writing. It has been designed to complement the daily Literacy program for students who do not bring a rich Literacy background to their first year of school. We will also be introducing Targeted Early Numeracy (TEN) to complement the regular numeracy program Count Me In Too. TEN will be implemented within a normal daily lesson block, without withdrawal or an additional specialist teacher. Our Instructional Leader appointed through the Department’s Early Action for Success initiative Ms Kim Gorrie will continue to work closely with teachers to enhance literacy and numeracy across the school.

School Uniform
Our school uniform voting process is almost at its conclusion. After extensive consultation with the school community and the students themselves during Term 4 and again this year via information sessions at school, school newsletters, assembly updates, notes home, P&C meetings and opportunities to view uniforms and provide feedback in the school office, the school uniform committee is collating the results. It is not possible in any decision making process to reach an outcome that is popular with everyone, the community have been very clear in expressing their wish for an update of our current style of uniform and colours, both in uniform surveys and in responses given for our school planning process.

Newleaf
During the Christmas break at the end of 2014, a number of projects were planned to improve the school. Newleaf Communities was instrumental in their support of these projects. However I received the news that the Board of New Leaf decided not to continue Newleaf Community Renewal operations. On behalf of all the staff, students and community of Bonnyrigg P.S. I would like to thank Peter Williamson, the General Manager of Bonnyrigg Management and Newleaf Community Renewal for his commitment and support of the school in the past.

Staff Car Park
A reminder that the Staff car park and the entry via Tarlington Pde is for STAFF use only. Parents and community members are not to enter the school grounds this way or park inside school grounds to pick up or drop off their children. This practice causes a safety issue for all our students and offending parents will be cautioned.

School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb. 17th</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Feb 19th</td>
<td>Year 5 Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb. 24th</td>
<td>P &amp; C AGM 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. March 5th</td>
<td>School Photo day K-6 - Year 5 Head Start</td>
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School Banking every Friday.
A request to contact the school and update your details if any of your contact information has changed. We often need to contact parents as a matter of urgency and it is vital that you are contactable on the mobile numbers we have on record.

The school has moved to a computerised system (SENTRAL) of marking the rolls this year that will monitor your child's absences and chronic lateness more efficiently. Unless a satisfactory reason is supplied unsatisfactory absences will be referred to our Home School Liaison Officer for follow up.

Wishing all of you a fantastic 2015 at Bonnyrigg.

Ms Hatzidimitriou - Principal

Books in Homes 2015
We are pleased to announce that the Books in Homes program will continue this year. This means that students will receive 3 books at the end of Term 1, Term 2 and Term 4. The students are viewing the preview pack and placing their order this week. This program has been a huge success in the past and we hope that this program encourages the students to engage in reading for enjoyment when at home.

The packs will be handed out during the Books in Homes assembly at the end of terms 1, 2 and 4. We encourage you to join our assemblies and listen to special guests organised by the University of Western Sydney.

Mrs Sor - Assistant Principal

Kindergarten
What a fantastic start Kindergarten have made, they are all settled and working very well. They joined our whole school assembly with little fuss and listened well. Thank you to everyone that made their transition to school a success Mrs Herrera, Mrs Jamhour, Miss Daly, Miss Ngov and our preschool staff Mrs Matheson and Mrs Doyle.

This week we have started Literacy and Numeracy and are enjoying lots of craft. We have started to learn about the sounds letters make and we had a great time making Apple Slinkys.

Mrs Howlett - Assistant Principal
invites mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers to

HELP KIDS TALK

Do you have questions about your child?

How can your child learn to talk and listen?

*An speech therapist is available to speak with you!*

Do you want to chat to someone about your child’s talking? We invite parents, grandparents and carers to drop in and chat with a speech therapist to share ideas with you... it is FREE!

No appointment is needed. If you think your child needs more help, the speech therapist can explain what help your child may need. The earlier you know what your child needs, the better it will be for your child.

Our next drop-in clinic for this year will be Thursday 19th February, 9.15am to 11am.

DROP-IN CLINIC THIS FEBRUARY:

**EVERY THURSDAY:** 9.15am – 11.00am

**PLACE:**
SACC room (see Mariana)
Bonnyrigg Primary School
Tarlington Parade, Bonnyrigg

**Free!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 9724 7948 (Lan Vy, speech therapist)
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
  You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order
  If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court
  School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.