A message from the Principal

Ms Sheree Quinlivan

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to another year at the best little school on the Mid North Coast! Well, I suppose I am a bit biased, but you all know I can’t help raving about our school.

This is the first edition of our fortnightly newsletter for 2016. There is a lot of important information in our school newsletters; information and communication that is vital to an effective school/home relationship. Remaining informed about your child’s school will promote a happier more settled and less stressful education. So remember to keep newsletters and notes handy at home (on the fridge is the best method for me) and check our website regularly for anything you might have missed. Spare newsletters and notes are also available in the school foyer.

I am pleased to report that our new Kindies Noah and Yasmin are settling in wonderfully to our little classroom. I’m also delighted to welcome back a former student who returned this week. Chelsea will be a wonderful addition to Year 6 and it’s lovely to have her smiling face back at Johns River.

Remember to phone, drop in or book an appointment with me any time you have questions. Have a great weekend everyone, and we’ll see you all again on Monday!

Thank you

Sheree Quinlivan
Principal
Johns River Public School

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Coming Events

**Week 3**

- **Thursday 11 February**: Ms Quinlivan – FoR Herons Creek PS
- **Friday 12 February**: Community Craft/Library 10am – 12pm
  School Assembly 2.30pm

**Week 4**

- **Wednesday 17 February**: Lansdowne District PSSA Swimming Carnival

**Week 5**

- **Wednesday 24 February**: Manning Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival.
- **Friday 26 February**: Community Craft/Library 10am – 12pm
  School Assembly 2.30pm

**Week 6**

- **Tuesday 1 March**: P&C AGM 9.00am

**Week 7**

- **Friday 11 March**: Community Craft/Library 10am – 12pm
  Assembly 2.30pm
- **Saturday 12 March**: Working Bee

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School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside.

- Lon Watters
3MAPS

Johns River PS is participating in a very exciting new initiative called the Three Mountains Alliance Public Schools (3MAPS). 3MAPS comprises our school, Hannam Vale PS and Herons Creek PS in a collaborative movement to support 90 students across the Alliance. We have always worked closely with our two neighbouring small schools. Now, we are part of a formal Alliance which will provide many amazing opportunities for all students.

Yesterday afternoon, teaching staff from all schools met at Herons Creek PS for our first staff meeting. These meetings will occur after school twice each term with schools taking it in turns to host meetings. 3MAPS Principals will also meet regularly to continue a shared school planning process.

Our School Plans are now aligned with common milestones, which will be far more achievable now that we have the support of each other.

Professional Learning is a key component of 3MAPS. All staff will participate in regular lesson observations with colleagues from a neighbouring school to help promote further development of our teaching practices. We will also continue our shared training in Focus on Reading (FoR) over the coming year.

Another focus for 3MAPS is Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). All families have been issued with an information letter and survey regarding PBL, and nearly all have been returned already! Remember to bring yours in if you haven’t already.

All staff across 3MAPS are extremely excited about this initiative and the benefits it will provide to our students through school improvement. We will keep families informed of the progress we make.

Crunch & Sip

Woolworths Lakewood have been very generous to local schools over the past year, donating boxes of fruit for students to enjoy. This year, a great new initiative has been introduced at Woolworths, called Free Fruit for Kids. As you enter Woolworths Lakewood, you’ll notice a stand at the front of the fruit and vegetable section displaying an array of fresh fruit. This is for children to enjoy while parents and carers do the grocery shopping. It’s a great alternative to confectionary!

Unfortunately however, due to the implementation of this new program, Woolworths are unable to provide boxes of fruit free to schools. Therefore, parents and carers are asked to ensure that their children bring their own fruit from home each day for our Crunch & Sip break.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to Woolworths Lakewood for the massive quantities of fresh fruit they have donated to our school in the past. It is very much appreciated!

School Assemblies

Fortnightly school assemblies will commence next Friday 12 February at 2.30pm. Please come along to share a lovely afternoon with our students.
2016 Staffing Arrangements

Students have done very well settling into classroom routines this week. Desks have been moved around and jobs allocated – we’ve all been busy setting things up for the term ahead.

This year, although all students are in the classroom together, Ms Quinlivan will be working mostly with K,1,2 students and Mr Tomasone with 3,4,5,6 students. This will promote continuity of teaching across the school as well as consistency of routines. Students will have plenty of opportunities to engage with both teachers regularly in the classroom to allow students to experience varying teaching practices.

Mr Tomasone will be working from Monday through to Thursday, with Ms Quinlivan taking all students on Fridays for weekly assessments.

Voluntary School Contributions

Parents and carers in all NSW Government Schools are asked to consider making a Voluntary School Contribution to their child’s school each year. Any funds that are received are used to assist the school with the purchase of classroom consumables such as work books, pencils and rulers, as well as helping cover the cost of producing fortnightly newsletters.

Our school’s contribution guide has been set as follows:

- **Kindergarten:** $20.00
- **Year 1 – 2:** $30.00
- **Year 3 – 6:** $35.00

Please remember that contributions are not mandatory, but are appreciated. We understand that not all families can afford to make a contribution – especially those with more than one child. If you are not in a position to make a cash contribution, we ask that you consider donating a box of tissues to be used in the classroom. This doesn’t seem like much, but the school does go through a surprising number of tissue boxes each year and every little donation helps!

Community Craft / Library

The first Community Craft/Library session will be held in the school library from 10am – 12pm next Friday 12 February. All are welcome to come along for a lovely morning. It’ll be a great chance to meet up with old friends and make some new ones.

LDPSSA Swimming Carnival

Good luck to Caleb and Joel who will be representing the school at the Lansdowne District PSSA Swimming Carnival on Thursday 17 February at Manning Aquatic Centre. Further information and permission notes will be provided to our reps next week.

P&C News

It was great to see some new faces at our February meeting earlier in the week. Remember to ensure you’ve paid your 50c membership if you’d like to run or vote for a position at the AGM on Tuesday 1 March. We will be filling the position of President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as Canteen Coordinator and Uniform Coordinator. Please consider volunteering for a position to help support the school.

A copy of the minutes are included in this newsletter for all families. Please pay particular attention to the information regarding a Working Bee at the school on Saturday 12 March. If you are going to be unable to make it on this day, please let me or a member of staff know as soon as possible so that we can make sure we’ll have enough attendance. If too many people will be unable to help, we may need to change the date.

Thanks everyone for your support.

Thank you

**Trevor Clunes**

President

**Johns River Public School P&C Association**
A huge welcome to our new students for 2016!

Noah and Yasmin
Kindergarten

Chelsea
Year 6

Noah’s recount of his holidays, accompanied by a very creative illustration!

Yasmin’s first attempt at writing a sentence at school. Fantastic spelling!

Remember, electronic copies of our newsletter and other school correspondence is available on the school website:

www.johnsriver-p.schools.nsw.edu.au