Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we are welcoming 2 new teachers for our students. Miss Ella French will be working with K-2 on Mondays (full day) and Thursday mornings. She comes with specialist Reading training and will be an additional bonus for our school for this term. On Thursday afternoons, Mr Greg Nolan (specialist K-6 music teacher) will be taking the classes on a rotational basis while I take the other class for maths.

Please introduce yourself to Ella and Greg when you get a chance.

My main work will be on the Year 3-6 class this year and Miss Winfield will continue her work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as last year.

Congratulations to our children who did so well in the recent Small Schools Swimming Carnival. We had more students qualifying to go to District this year than we have had since I have been at the school. Perhaps it is the training with Francis Quinn that made the difference? Whatever the reason, we are proud of our young swimmers. Congratulations also to Liam Jupp who represented our school in numerous races at the District Carnival last Friday. Well done Liam!

Please take a look at the poster over the page. This came through from the Northern Star and we thought that many of our parents and grandparents might like to collect the tokens to win our school a classroom makeover.

Please send the tokens in to school if you are interested in participating. The collections started last Saturday.

We will be holding our parent information session once our new teachers settle in, so please accept my apologies, as it will be a little later than normal this year. More information on when this will be held will come home soon. It is likely to be in Week 6 – possibly, Monday March 2? Or sometime that week.

Our next P&C meeting is planned for 2:30 on Friday, 27th February in the Administration Building. We hope you can make it along.

We have a few things happening this term and I thought I’d mention one or two just to inform parents in plenty of time.
On Monday 16 March we intend to perform for some senior citizens at the Teven-Tintenbar Hall. Our item will be ‘The Noble Gnarble’ and we are currently working on adjustments from last year’s performance, to accommodate new students and perhaps a new lead singer, if Brea is unable to make it along.

I’m hoping to involve us in the Byron Bay Film festival this year, which is taking a different format for schools. This year it is being held at Ballina Cinema. The date is 3 March and more information will be coming home about that once our attendance is confirmed.

Our Small Schools General Knowledge Day competition is to be held at Ballina Primary School on March 17 and this year I hope to take all years 3-6 as I will be involved in the set-up of the day.

Finally, for your information, our school photos have been booked for 29 April in the morning.

Looking forward to a great term with 2 classes and specialist teachers.

Dawn Douglas
Principal

**HEADPHONES**

At the end of last year the school had to dispose of hundreds of dollars, worth of headphones. As a result, we have had to put some different rules on their use. So that students are not removing them from computers and putting them in their iPad constantly (which adds to the possibility of damage) we are hoping that parents may be able to send in some headphones to lessen the school need to purchase some for iPads. We want our current headphones to remain in the computers and have the students use their own headphones for the iPad. These headphones will be kept in their trays. Alternatively, if your child is able to use earphones, and you are happy with these for the iPad, these can be purchased quite cheaply for around $10 from places like Dick Smith. Please assist us by supplying your child with some headphones or earphones for their iPads. After this week, I will purchase any supplementary ones needed but your assistance with this will be much appreciated.

**CLASSROOM MAKEOVER**

Classroom makeover – We could win a classroom makeover for our school by collecting the tokens from the Northern Star - daily between 14th February to 16th February. The school with the most tokens -ratio to students- will get the makeover. Get your family, friends & neighbours saving tokens.

A big welcome to our new student Sumha who has joined our school in year 2 this year.
Just a friendly reminder to parents that under the Departments Allergy & Anaphylaxis Management Procedures it is recommended that families not to send Peanuts or Tree nuts (includes almonds, brazil, cashews, chestnut, hazelnuts, hickory, macadamia, pecan, pine pistachios walnuts and others) to school with their children due to the high rate of anaphylactic reactions that do/can occur. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Beating Picky Eating
Children with strong food preferences who limit their intake of the needed variety of foods can be a challenge. Some of the following ideas may be helpful:

- Remember: Parents choose “which” foods, children decide “how much”
- Create a positive environment at the table, make meal times pleasant
- Be a good role model
- Stick to a routine
- Provide the same meals for the whole family
- Take children shopping, involve them in planning and preparation
- Limit sweet drinks and juice so children have an appetite

If you are stuck in a constant battle, maybe try a different approach.

A big thank you to Cathy Jupp for the following photos of the schools swimming carnival held at Ballina Pool.
DEC PARENT TIPS

Friendships to boost your child’s learning
If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs.

ASSIGNMENT STARTERS FOR THE ARTS
Videos are great resources for getting kids enthused about their assignments. These pages on cubism, percussion and critical studies provide key points to help them get started and links to useful sites to assist with further research.

HELPING YOUR KINDY KID SUCCEED AT SCHOOL
A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom.

SPEECH PROBLEMS
All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there's a general pattern to your child's language development?

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TINCAN (Tintenbar Community Aid Network) runs a series of social activities at the Tintenbar Hall.
The dates for upcoming activities at Tintenbar Hall are as follows:
SCRABBLE: Thursday 10am-12noon, February 19, March 5 & 19.
CARPET BOWLS: Friday 10am-12noon, February 20, 27, March 13 & 27
SHOPPING BUS: From home, 9am Wednesdays, February 26, March 12 & 26 (goes CBD and Ballina Fair- there is a small charge for bus)
Contact Marg on 6687 8033 for more information.

1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching

When: Wednesday 11th, 18th & 25th March 2015
Time: 10am - 12.30pm
Where: Baptist Church Hall,
Corner of Cherry & Crane Street Ballina
BALLINA

123 Magic & Emotion Coaching is a 3 week parenting course, designed to teach parents a simple and easily implemented system to help manage children's difficult behavior. The program also introduces parents to the emotional development of their children and provides strategies for building a deeper connection between parents and children.

To confirm a place in this free course please call Pete or Lisa 66684108
Cost: Free
Limited childcare is available so please discuss with us when you book.

Ballina-Byron Family Centre Inc

These advertisements are accepted in good faith and the school does not vet them. Parents are advised to request further information or credentials if they seek product use or participation in the activity.