We have just completed week 3 of our new year and all the classes have settled nicely. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in every class in our fabulous school and getting to know your wonderful children even better. Whilst teaching the classes, working with interest and support groups or popping into classrooms for a visit I am impressed with the overall attitude and commitment in the classrooms. I am reminded of the great values, pride and respect our students demonstrate on a daily basis.

At the P&C Meeting concerns were raised in regards to the spate of bomb hoaxes in schools recently. Our school and the Department of Education have well established emergency protocols and procedures for lockdown, lockout and evacuation situations. This week we held an on-site evacuation drill for all classes. In the event of an offsite evacuation being required we have identified the large grassed area south of the shop and along the north boundary of the cemetery as a practical safe area to relocate students. We are in the process of discussions to ensure access to this area and will hold an off-site evacuation practice next week. Our procedures are on display in every building of the school and scenarios discussed with our students.

Our afternoon bus and pickup has been much smoother thank you for ensuring the safety of our students and allowing bus access as a priority.

Whilst the General Assistant position has not yet been filled in a permanent capacity we welcome Mr Kirk Taylor to our school. Kirk is working in a temporary capacity until the department appoints a permanent GA, after term 2. Kirk has already been hard at work in the grounds.

I am very pleased the school canteen is up and running again with three of our families coming forward to volunteer as canteen coordinators. It kicked off today with a tasty and healthy burger, salad and fruit barbecue.

We have streamlined our money collection system. All money and notes must go to the classroom teacher, not the school office, please ensure they are in a sealed envelope or zip lock bag with the accompanying note. Many families are paying through our online payment system. Please ensure money for school events and money for P&C events is treated separately. All P&C money is passed onto them for their banking.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Meet the Teacher evening Wednesday 17th February. This is a great chance to meet the person behind the name and find out about classroom routines and expectations.

Many thanks to the parents and carers who are already volunteering in our school, visiting classes to assist with reading, maths or in the gardens. Volunteers are always welcome.

Please ensure you complete the Working with Children forms held at the front office and sign on and off our school site.
Thank you to the families who have already made **Voluntary School Contributions**. These have remained at $15 per term or $60 for the year capped at 3 children. These contributions are utilised to support your child’s education and extra-curricular activities. Some uses for these include: every student in years 1-6 have been supplied with a Spelling Rules textbook in line with our school spelling program, subsidised bus costs, stationary, arts and crafts supplies, mathematics resources, musical instruments, reading books, additional food items and garden needs for our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program etc.

**Anaphylaxis** is a severe and sudden allergic reaction to food such as nut, eggs, dairy or shellfish, or insect bites. If your child is diagnosed at risk of an anaphylactic reaction, an individual health care plan is developed. You will need to provide information from your child’s doctor, including an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis. The individual health care plan will describe your child’s needs and how the school plans to meet these needs during the school day, on excursions and in other school activities. Schools and parents work together to put arrangements in place for health care support. Information from the child’s doctor, provided by you, will inform the planning process. We are currently in the process of reviewing action plans in place – these need to be reviewed with your GP/specialist annually. Prevention is certainly better than cure. In our endeavour to prevent as many potentially dangerous situations as possible, many procedures have been put into place. All parents can assist by encouraging their child to avoid sharing or trading food and eating utensils. Encouraging children to wash their hands with soap after eating may also be helpful. We are appealing to our parents to avoid sending nut products to school. These products include: Peanut butter, Nutella, nuts of any type, nut spreads, coconut, any product actually containing nuts as an ingredient. It is okay to send foods which only say may contain traces and don’t actually have nuts as an ingredient. Thank you for helping keep our children safe.

Sharon Rovere  
Principal

**Orara Valley Swimming Carnival**
The Orara Valley Swimming Carnival was held at Nana Glen Swimming Pool today. We look forward to hearing about our students’ results on Monday and these will be published in next week’s newsletter.

**Coffs Harbour District Swimming Carnival**
The Coffs Harbour District Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 22nd February.

**Meet the Teacher Night**
We will be having a Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday 17th February at 6pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and for them to give you an overview of what will be happening this year in their class and to answer any questions that you may have. We will be meeting in the library at 6pm for a quick introduction before making our way to classrooms for discussions about individual classes. All parents are welcome to attend!

**Canteen Meeting**
There will be a meeting regarding the school canteen on Monday 15th February at 3:10pm in the library. Anybody who would like to contribute their ideas is more than welcome to attend!

**Congratulations Dara!**
The calendar for children who participate in Surf Life Saving has been 'flat out' over the past couple of weeks. Dara, in class 3/4, competed in the North Coast Area Carnival covering Nambucca to Minnie Waters, held at Sawtell beach 2 weekends ago, in the Under 9 age group and won the ocean swim event and came 2nd in the surf boarding race. She then competed last weekend in the NSW Country Carnival which consisted of 37 NSW Country Clubs held at South West Rocks, coming 9th in the swim event and 16th in the board event with her club Woolgoolga coming 18th overall.
- A great effort Dara, well done!!
This term the students have been studying Southeast Asia. They have identified the nine different countries that make up Southeast Asia and have located these on a map. The students have each chosen a country of South East Asia to complete a study on and in doing so will explore the diverse cultural aspects which make this continent unique.

The unit has spurred on discussions about trade which has prompted us to look more closely at how food such as rice, coffee and sugar are produced in Southeast Asia. We have compared the traditional methods of growing and cultivating rice to that of a more industrialised method demonstrated and practiced in Australia and have debated these aspects in writing generated through exposition text.

**ART**

The students are studying Renaissance art this term and have started to generate their own ‘mock’ interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa. The students will attempt to paint using oil paints, the Mona Lisa on a paper plate. The face of Mona Lisa will be omitted and replaced with the face of each class member. The outside rim of the plate will be sprayed with gold paint to replicate a gilded frame. The results should look interesting and can be viewed in class in week 6.

### Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

After the hot and relatively dry summer holidays the green manure crop that was sowed at the end of last year in our pods has been slashed and very lightly dug in and will be ready for summer/autumn planting in the next couple of weeks. Mulching and feeding of the fruit forest has been done in preparation for the coming growth flush and our citrus trees are once again covered in fruit. Our first banana bell has dropped so we are expecting our first ‘mammoth’ bunch of bananas in the coming months!!!

We hope to make more compost in the next couple of weeks so any donations of non-medicated animal manure would be greatly appreciated especially cow or chicken manure.

We are also looking for a couple of kilos of garlic bulbs to plant this autumn. I am happy to come and collect from your property so please just give me a call if you have either or in fact, anything you think would be interesting to add to our wonderful garden.

See you in the garden!

Regards

Jo
**Parent Online Payments**

POP is now user friendly on mobile devices.

Behind the scenes Westpac has been working on an upgrade to the Parent Online Payment webpage attached to the school’s website. In the past using the "$ Make a payment" page through a mobile device or tablet has not been as easy as on a computer. Now, automatically, when parents click on this page, via a mobile device, they will be able to complete the online form with ease.

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**Joint Anti-truancy Sweep**

Attention parents and students

Please be aware truancy officers from the Department of Education in a joint operation with police will be working within this community in the coming weeks.

Any young people found unsupervised, on the streets, may be approached by officers and questioned. Young people found to be truanting will have their names recorded and will be directed to return to school. This operation will be ongoing.

*Keeping them safe.*

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**Community News**

**Orara Valley Physi**

*Its dance- with a difference!*

Physi is elegant, glamorous and challenging. Its fitness, fun and friendship. It's posture, poise, flexibility and core strength. Orara Valley Physi is a not-for-profit Club that provides dance classes and routines to girls and ladies of all abilities aged from 4 to 84.

We invite you to come along to some of our classes and see what Physi is all about.

**Classes are held at Coramba Hall and resume on 11/02/2016 for 4-12yr.**

**Ladies classes resume 18/2/16.**

4, 5 & 6yrs:  
4.15pm-5.00pm  
7 & 8yrs:  
5.00pm-5.45pm  
9,10,11& 12yrs:  
5.45pm-6.45pm

**Ladies Classes: 7.00pm-8.00pm**

(classes free for 1st term)

For more info call Lynne on 0452 226 717 or Leonie on 0400 430 632 or find us on Facebook

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**Hockey Fun**

Come & Try a New Sport

Equipment Supplied

Date: Saturday 13th February

Venue: Hockey Fields Stadium Drive

9.30am - 12pm   Ages 5-8 yrs & 9-12yrs
Cost $2.00

Sausage Sizzle & Drink Provided

BYO Joggers, Hat, Drink Bottle, Sunscreen
Skin fades only if you have them...

North's Hockey Club

Orara Hockey Club

Nigel 0429643842

Sue 0423661669