DIARY DATES

**FEBRUARY**
- Thurs 19: Cross Country Stage 1
- Thurs 19: Assembly 2.30pm
- Fri 20: Cross Country Stage 2 and Stage 3
- Wed 25: Zone Swimming Carnival
- Wed 25: P&C Meeting 2pm

**MARCH**
- Wed 4: Canteen Meeting 2pm
- Wed 25: P&C AGM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our scripture lessons will be beginning next week. As in the past, we will have lessons in ethics available for those students who have opted out of scripture in the past. I will be sending home expressions of interest very soon with those senior students who have indicated an interest in ethics education.

Yesterday morning I had the pleasure of handing out badges of office for our 2015 sports house captains. Each of the recipients was a worthy candidate for the position and I’m confident they will lead their houses in an enthusiastic and sportsmanlike manner. Many swimming awards were presented as well and the conduct of the whole assembly was exemplary. Congratulations to all involved.

Over the past two days we have been visited by Josh Cohen who has been providing professional learning in PD/H/PE to our teachers. Students have been involved in many challenging and fun activities during these sessions and teachers have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the delivery of quality lessons in this area.

Our kindergarten children have settled very well into their school life at the Brush. Accordingly we will start them on full days this coming Monday February 23. I’m sure they will all be looking forward to the full “Big School” experience.

Meeting teachers to discuss your child’s progress or behaviour can be daunting, but there’s no need to feel anxious. Remember, you and the school are partners in your child’s learning. Whether it’s regular parent-teacher interviews or a one-off request for a chat, these useful tips will help you get the most out of your meeting.

Go with the right attitude
Try to approach the interview with a positive and relaxed attitude. Don’t be afraid to raise your concerns but give the teacher the opportunity to fully explain their thoughts.

Plan to communicate
The parent-teacher interview is not the only time you can discuss your child with the teacher, but many parents find it’s their only opportunity to visit the school. Ask the teacher how you can best communicate with each other in the future.

Don’t let issues brew
Don’t leave it until you’re upset or very worried before you contact the school. Stay in touch with the teacher as best you can and when a concern arises, send a note to say you need to chat.

Teachers like to talk about the good stuff too
If you don’t go to parent teacher interviews, you’re also missing out on the chance to hear really positive things about your child they may not tell you themselves.

After the meeting
It is important to discuss the meeting with your child and congratulate them on their strengths. If the teacher suggested things you could do at home, discuss these with your child and commit to following through with them.

Regards,
Phil Rees

P&C
The next P&C meeting is on Wednesday February 25 at 2pm in the staffroom. The P&C AGM will be held on March 25. All P&C and canteen positions will be appointed.

CANTEEN NEWS
CANTEEN MEETING
The next canteen meeting will be held on Wednesday March 4 at 2pm in the staffroom. Those involved in canteen or anyone wanting to become involved are most welcome to attend.
UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop will be closed on Mondays until further notice. Hours for the uniform shop will be Tuesday and Thursday 8.45 – 9.30am.

VOLENEERS NEEDED
Calling all mums, dads, aunties, uncles, grandmas and pops....we need your help! Our canteen desperately needs helpers to keep it going. If you can help for a day or even an hour please contact the school canteen on 6553 4443.

THE TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between March 9 and April 2. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday February 27. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

WINGHAM BRUSH CROSS COUNTRY
We are looking forward to fine weather but not too hot for our Cross Country events. Thursday February 19 sees our K, 1 and 2’s running around the school oval commencing at 9.30am and concluding by 10.15am. It’s great to see all the K, 1 and 2’s running around the school at lunchtimes and getting fitter. They are so keen!

The example set by our older children is very positive and I think we will see some great running at the Stage 2 and 3 Cross Country on Friday February 20 commencing at 9.30am. We are going to start with our 12/13 boys and follow this with our 10 years girls because we have boys and girls in these divisions that will be travelling to Port Macquarie later in the day to compete at the Touch Junior State Cup. We wish these children well and also Miss Dixon who is coaching. We will then resume the usual order with our 8/9’s, 10’s, 11’s and 12/13’s running the arduous course.

Children are encouraged to wear their house colours and at the conclusion of the races a presentation assembly will follow where results will be acknowledged. We are looking forward to maximum participation similar to the swimming carnival but if you do not wish your child to run could you please send a note explaining your reason for not running.

SUN SMART SCHOOL
Wingham Brush is very proud to be a Cancer Council “Sun Smart” school and we enthusiastically promote the wearing of hats and the use of sun screen. This year we are also encouraging the wearing of sunglasses to protect the eyes. This year the wearing of hats has been the best ever. Keep up the great work Wingham Brush!

WINGHAM BRUSH ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
An early reminder that our Field Events Day will take place on Monday March 30 and our Athletics Carnival on Thursday April 2. At the Field Events Day the High Jump, Long Jump and Shotput will be decided and on the Athletics Carnival we will be running the 100m, 200m and 800m as well as Novelties and Ball Games. The Field Events will take place on our school grounds and the Athletics Carnival will take place at Wingham Central Park.

Through P.E lessons we will be treating high jump, long jump, shotput and running. More information will follow as we get closer to the event.

MANNING ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held at Taree Aquatic Centre Pool on Wednesday February 25. Notes have gone out to the eligible swimmers and need to be returned with the $5 levy by Monday February 23. Transport is by private vehicle.

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR POSITION
A unique opportunity exists to fulfil a critical role in assisting the road safety of school students who use a school crossing. The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) requires a School Crossing Supervisor, available to cover the morning and afternoon responsibilities for Wingham Brush Public School at the crossing on Wynter Street during the hours 8.15 – 9.15 am and 2.45 – 3.45 pm, 10 hours per fortnight. Applications close March 1. To apply for this position please call (02) 4924 0642 or online at www.rms.nsw.gov.au

COMMUNITY NEWS
WINGHAM NETBALL CLUB 2015 REGISTRATIONS
At the log, Central Park, Wingham on Friday March 6 from 4.30 to 5.30pm and Saturday March 7 from 9 to 10.30am. A laptop will be available for online registrations. Competition starts May 2. Enquiries to Angela 0409 085 342.