Welcome Back
Welcome back for the 2013 school year. I hope everyone had a safe, happy relaxing holiday break.

A big welcome to our new students - Dominic Taverna, Lachlan Barlow, Kai Sheils, Miranda Ham, Olivia, Isabella & Thomas Jachim, Isabella Ferguson, Alex Price and Will Ryan.

We would also like to welcome our new parents - Luke & Kate Barlow, Richard & Kate Jachim, Lisa & Scott Sheils, Amos & Carolyn Ferguson & Karli Verbeek & Colin Ryan and their families to our school.

Back To School BBQ
The Year 5/6 students will host a ‘Back to School Barbecue” at the school next Thursday the 14th of February commencing at 6pm.

The evening will be a chance to catch up after the Christmas Holidays and to meet our new families, whilst serving as a fundraiser for the Year 5/6 Narrabeen Excursion.

All Year 5/6 families are asked to provide a large bowl of salad on the night. Bread and meat will be supplied by the school. The cost of the night is $10 per family. Please bring your own chair and drinks. As part of the Department of Education Code of Conduct Policy no alcohol is to be consumed on the school premises or at school functions where children are present, so soft drinks only! Also no smoking is allowed on the school grounds at any time.

The Year 6 students will be organising a disco and games to entertain the younger children. The School Captains will be announced on the night. If you will be attending the night please complete the RSVP as soon as possible for catering purposes.

No Hat, No Play
A reminder that all students are required to wear a broad brimmed school hat in the playground at all times during Terms 1 & 4. Sunscreen is also provided for students to use. Students without hats will be required to sit on the verandahs for their own sun protection.

Pancake Day
Next Tuesday all students K-6 will be involved in making pancakes and eating them. If your child has a food allergy please let us know prior to that day.

Emergency Contact Details
A page is attached to this newsletter for you to update your child’s emergency contact details. Please complete the form and return to school as soon as possible.
School Website
A copy of the school newsletter is available from our school website. The website also features photos, the Annual Report, Minutes from P. & C. meeting and the Bunnaloo Ballyhoo. The website can be located at the following website

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

Contacting the School.
If you wish to speak to one of the teachers it is preferable to phone the school before 9.15am between 11-11.30 (during recess) or between 1-2pm (lunch) or alternatively after 3.20pm. You can email the school on

bunnaloo-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

A message can also be left at the office at other times. Our preferred method of communication is by phone so that things can be dealt with immediately.

Town Permission Note
As in previous years we have produced a ‘Travel Around Bunnaloo’ permission note that provides permission for students to walk around the Bunnaloo Township for such things as the ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ and events at the Bunnaloo Community Centre. Parents will be informed if students are going to be leaving the school grounds, but a permission note will not be required. Please fill out the permission note attached and return it to school as soon as possible.

Anaphylaxis
The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit.

This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for the student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Small School’s Swimming Carnival
The Small School’s Swimming Carnival will be held at the Deniliquin Swimming Pool on February 19th, 2013 commencing at 10am.

There will be races for all students from Kinder to Year 6, catering for all abilities. Students will need to be at the pool by 9.50am so that we can start on time. They don’t need to be in uniform but each student is to have a t-shirt to wear between events and plenty of food, drinks, sunscreen and a hat. The Bunnaloo P. & C. will be catering a barbecue on the day and the pool canteen provides snack foods and cold drinks. The day usually concludes between 2.30-3pm. Transport to and from the pool is a parental responsibility. Please complete the attached consent form and send it to school as soon as possible. Pool entry is to be paid on the day and is also a parental responsibility.

The Deniliquin Swimming Carnival for students who qualify will be held on Friday 1st March at Hay.

Fruit Break
We will once again be having a fruit break early in the morning between assembly and recess. Students can eat any fruit and vegetables. It is advisable to have the fruit already cut up as the students only have five minutes to eat it.

Student Banking
Student Banking with the Commonwealth Bank is held on a Wednesday. Students are asked to please take their deposit books to the office on Wednesday mornings. If you would like your child to participate in this please contact Joy for more information.

Notes & Money
All new families will receive a recycling envelope to use when sending money or permission notes to school. If any existing families require a new one please contact the office. Please indicate in the envelope what the money is for. The envelopes will be returned at the end of the day.

Unless otherwise stated in the newsletter please make all cheques payable to the Bunnaloo P.S.

Homework
A copy of the homework requirements for each year level is included with today’s newsletter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher.
Asthma
If your child suffers from Asthma they will need an up to date Asthma Plan from your doctor.

Jewellery Policy
The only item of jewellery that your child is permitted to wear are watches, sleepers or stud earrings. No other items are allowed due to O.H. & S. regulations.

Library
Library lessons for all classes will be held on Thursdays. Students may borrow up to three books per week. All students will require a large draw string bag (or a pillow case) to transport their books in. Borrowing of books will commence next Thursday 14th February.

Book Covering
Books that have been sent home need to be covered and returned to school no later than Monday the 11th of February.

Reading Mums / Dads
As in previous years, we require help with our Reading Program. If you are able to help with reading (9.30-11am) once a week or once a fortnight can you please fill out the form attached indicating which morning would suit you best and return it to school as soon as possible?

Our reading program will commence on Monday 11th February. The continued support from parents of our reading program is very much appreciated.

Bev
Noela Barlow will be filling in for Bev Rankin while she is on leave.

Questions
If you have any questions about anything at school please do not hesitate to contact either the office or your child’s classroom teacher.

School Grounds
Thank you to Nick & Ann Stuart for all of their work over the holidays to maintain the grounds and have them looking first class for our return.

A new sprinkler system to water the playground area has been added over the holidays.

Fridge
A fridge is provided on the Year 3/4 verandah for K/1/2 and Year 3/4 students to put their lunches in to keep cool. Year 5/6 students are able to use the fridge in their classroom.

Maths Homework Books
Every student in Years 1-6 will receive a Maths Homework Book. Parents are required to purchase these books at a cost of $12 per student. Please make cheques payable to the Bunnaloo P.S.

Book Club
Twice a term leaflets will be sent home from the Scholastic Book Club. You are not obliged to purchase any of the books, however if you do our school receives bonus points that we can use to obtain free classroom supplies. If you have any questions about Book Club please contact Joy.

All orders for Issue 1 of Book Club are to be returned to school by Wednesday 20th February. Please make cheques payable to the Bunnaloo P.S.

Raffle
Thank you to all the families who supported our raffle on the concert night last year. A total of $875 was raised from the raffle and this will go towards subsidising excursions in 2013.

Emergency Contact Details
Each year we need to update our emergency contact details for all families. A page to record this is included with this newsletter. Please complete the form and return it along with the signed medical form to school as soon as possible.

Absence Note
Attached to this newsletter is a page of Absentee Notes for parents to use when a student is absent. We appreciate a phone call before school if your child will be absent for any reason.

Forms / Permission Notes
Please complete the attached permission notes, medical information/permission form, and emergency contact details form and return them to school as soon as possible, thank you.
Dear Parents

Homework requirements for children in Years 5/6 this year are similar to last year. Each week children are to complete one unit of their Maths homework book; when completed these are to be placed on my desk by Friday morning at the latest. When corrected these will be handed back on either Friday afternoon or Monday morning. If children don’t understand a question (which sometimes happens as a question may occur in the book before the concept has been fully taught at school) either help your child with the question, tell them to ask me for help the next day. Errors from the previous week need to be corrected each week as well.

Spelling words will be given out each Monday and spelling tests will take place each Friday morning. This year, Year 5/6 children will work through a range of spelling activities at school with me, and will be given a list of words that relate to these activities to learn each week for a test on Friday.

Children should be reading at home on all weeknights. At year 5/6 level some of this reading can be to themselves but it is vital that you listen to them read at least twice a week. Please sign, date and list the pages that your child has read to you on their reader card.

Children are not allowed to change a book unless it has at least one signature next to it. The home reading system at Year 5/6 level involves quite a bit of trust between teachers, parents and students. It is vital that students read all of their reader before moving on to the next one, so that they can fully develop their reading and comprehension skills.

Occasionally other homework will be sent home, particularly if any work hasn’t been finished in a reasonable time frame at school.

Children will also be required to do research for projects at different times at home during the year.

If you ever have any queries regarding your child’s homework please don’t hesitate to call me.

Darren
HOME READING

Each night children are expected to read for 10 - 15 minutes from their home reader to an adult who is then asked to sign and write the page number the child reads to. It is really important that you are actually listening carefully and are watching the text as they read. Reader folders will be checked each day and those who have not read at home will need to read for 15 minutes at recess. This is a system of trust. I would prefer that the children read the books thoroughly, comprehending what they read, rather than rushing through the levels.

SPELLING

The children will write their words in their home spelling book on Monday. Each night they need to do "Look, Cover, Write, Check" of their list words. These will be checked when they read each morning. This helps words get into long term memory. There will be a spelling test each Friday.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be sent home each Monday and needs to be returned to the homework tub by Friday each week. Homework for Years 3/4 consists of a maths unit and spelling/language sheet. If your child has a problem with homework and you are unable to help please send it to school with a note for me to help them. Homework will be corrected and then returned to the children on Monday with mistakes highlighted. These need to be re-done before starting next week’s homework. Children will receive stickers on their charts for neatly completed homework and work that is all correct. Fifteen stickers on a chart means they can choose from the lucky dip box.

EXTRA HOMEWORK

Sometimes your child may have extra homework if class work is not completed in the time allowed. Hopefully this will be rare.

BOOKS TO COVER

The following books are to be covered at home in your child’s choice of contact.

* Reader Folder
* Home Spelling Book
* Maths Homework Book
* Signpost Mentals Book

I have found that it’s easier for the children to recognize their books if all books are covered in the same contact.

If you do not have contact at home to cover the books please return them to school until you get some as they will be needed each day.

- Covers for the other books will be completed and put on the books at school by the children.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything at any time please write a note, phone or call in to talk about it.

Cheryl Marchment
Dear Parents,

Homework is not meant to be difficult; it is just further consolidation on what is being taught at school.

Children in Kinder, Year One and Two will receive homework every week. It will be handed out each Monday and must be returned before or by Friday. All homework is explained to the children and should not be anything they do not understand. Children are also expected to read every night to an adult or an older sibling.

Kinder
Each child will have four activity sheets to complete for the week. You may explain any directions to them and watch them do it, but don’t do it for them. These sheets involve the sound they are working on for the week. Please make them aware of the sound of the letter, not its name. You can also use the letter chart I sent home, to make sure they are writing the letters correctly. Every fortnight your child will bring home a book that we have made at school. They are to read that book every night to you as well as their other reader. When they are reading make sure they are pointing to the words. There is also a checklist page, only tick the words if the child says them correctly. Make sure your child brings the readers back every day signed.

Year One and Two
Each child will receive a maths book and spelling sheets for the week. The children must complete one unit of maths a week. Read any explanations to them, but don’t give them any answers. Your child will receive a reader every night. Please make sure you sign the sheet as well as tick any words on the home side of the words page. Year one students will also have a card copy of the spelling words for the week that they must learn and Year two will need to write their words out every night and return the home spelling book to school each day. Both spelling lists need to be read to you and signed on the bottom of the page.

When To Do Homework
Please understand that straight after school is not always a good time to do homework or reading. Give the child time to wind down, unless they are keen to do it. Also sometimes the morning can be a good time, if time permits. It is important to also remember that it is not good for them to do all the homework in one night after being at school all day.

If you are finding that you and/or your child are getting upset, stop, leave it and send it to school and I will help them. If they are spending more than half an hour on reading and homework a night, remembering they only have to do at least one spelling/sound sheet a night and half a page of maths, to finish by Friday, there may be a problem, so please discuss it with me.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Lisa
BUNNALOO TOWNSHIP PERMISSION NOTE

I give permission for my child / children ___________________________ to walk around the Bunnaloo Township as part of organised activities for 2013. I realise that my child / children will be supervised by school staff at all times whilst outside the school grounds.

Signed: __________________    Date:  __________

SMALL SCHOOL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL

I give permission for my child / children ___________________________ to attend the Small School’s Swimming Carnival to be held at the Deniliquin Swimming Pool on Tuesday February 19th, 2013. I understand travel to and from Deniliquin is a parental responsibility.

Signed: _______________________    Date: ________

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

We will be attending the Back to School Barbecue on Thursday 14th February

FAMILY NAME: ____________________

Number Attending - Adults: _____ Children: ______

SCHOOL FEES

FAMILY NAME: _________________________________

□ I enclose $25 for School Fees
□ I enclose $30 being for School Fees and P. & C. Membership
   (Please make cheques payable to Bunnaloo P. & C.)

MATHS HOMEWORK BOOK
   (Students in Years 1-6)

FAMILY NAME: _____________________________

I enclose $___ for the Math’s Homework Book/s (Books are $12 each)
   (Please make cheques payable to the Bunnaloo P.S.)

READING MUMS / DADS

I am able to help out with the Reading Program for 2013.

Days preferred are : ____________________________

_________________________

Signed: ___________________  Date: ________________
If your child is going to be absent from school please call staff in the school office to let them know as soon as possible.

Please send this completed note to school on the first day back after your child’s absence.