PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

FAIRNESS FOR ALL

The majority of Australians would recognise the name Gonski, and most of them would understand that he has something to do with schools. David Gonski is a successful businessman whose name became synonymous with the report he and his panel delivered to the Federal government in early 2012. The report essentially exposed the fact that Australian students were falling behind their counterparts in other developed countries, and highlighted the growing gap between successful and low-achieving students.

All children should have access to the best possible education, regardless of where they live, the income of their families, or the schools they attend. The Gonski report led both Federal and State governments to adopt a new school funding model that resourced schools based on the needs of their students. In NSW public schools, this was delivered through the Local Schools, Local Decisions reforms and the Resource Allocation Model (RAM). Finally, schools like Batemans Bay High School were no longer missing out.

Since the introduction of the RAM, the school has received over $300,000 in equity funding each year to better address the needs of students. This has been allocated through our school planning process which gives parents the opportunity to determine school priorities and ensure the resources are actually directed towards improving student outcomes.

You may not be aware of some of the strategies that are making a difference at this school.

These include:
- Offering increased teacher time and tutorial assistance to HSC students, improving the levels of retention and performance throughout Years 11 and 12.
- Running an Outreach Centre in partnership with Karabar High School, enabling students unable to attend school for a variety of reasons to continue working towards an HSC.
- Employing a Technical Support Officer to ensure school computers are working and allowing teachers to integrate technology more effectively into lessons.
- Guaranteeing students are no longer without textbooks and other resources as the Australian Curriculum is implemented across English, Mathematics, Science and HSIE.
- Providing Learning Support in and out of the classroom to students who are struggling to meet national benchmarks.

Gonski is not a debate between public and private schools, nor is it a controversial policy to be contested by elected officials at either end of the political spectrum. Some see Gonski as being about money, and understandably so, but it is really about fairness. With that said, this week is National Gonski Week. It represents an opportunity for parents to defend their children’s right to the best possible education and demand accountability from those responsible for shaping it – be they inside the school or out.

Mr Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
**Whooping Cough**

There is an outbreak of whooping cough in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and is worse at night. The infection can occur even in fully vaccinated children.

- Children with symptoms should see a GP.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken five days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades. If your school aged child has younger siblings, it’s a good idea to check that they are up to date with their vaccines.

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**Year 7 SWIM SCHOOL (Sport)**

Year 7 sport groups will be able to take advantage of our aquatics programme during Thursday sport. *This is a compulsory part of the curriculum and ALL students are expected to attend.*

- **Year 7 Dates:** Thursday, 5 & 19 November  
  Thursday, 3 December  
- **Times:** 11 - 12.40pm  
- **Venue:** Batemans Bay Swimming Pool  
- **Transport:** Bus  
- **Cost:** $7 per week (pool entry and bus)

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**Student Achievement – Katelyn Allison Year 8**

Katelyn has made a great start to Batemans Bay High School, showing the kind of pride and dedication expected of all students. She is achieving at a high standard in all subjects, particularly English where she has shown a keen work ethic and outstanding level of participation.
MAYOR’S FAVOURITE
Students at Batemans Bay High School achieve some great things. One of these students is Jasmine Jarrett-Glasser, who recently received an award for the Mayor’s writing competition and a Distinction in English for the university ICAS test 2015. Congratulations Jasmine on your great achievements.

We hope this also inspires other students to aim for high achievements.

Story and photo by Codey Carpenter

PACMAN
On Tuesday, 13 October our sports committee organised a “Pacman” dodge ball game at lunch time.

It was every man and woman for themselves, an ecstatic and chaotic event. All years had a great time thanks to our sports committee.

Our sports committee helps to make days here in school more exciting and bearable. Instead of Tuesday at lunch, games have been moved to Thursday.

More fun things are to be expected in the upcoming weeks.

By Stella Cross

BATTLE OF THE KINGS
Last Friday our school chess team went to Moruya Primary School and competed in the chess event. Only two phrases could be heard in the library, "check" and "check mate." You could hear the placement of pieces setting up a play and the intake of breath when someone lost an unprotected piece, all waiting for the final word that would finish the round.

Batemans Bay played well and thanks to their hard work came out on top! When presented with the prize they thanked the Principal and the host for allowing them to come and participate and then congratulated the other teams for their efforts. Bodalla, with a team of students in Year 5, only lost by 2 1/2 points.

By Stella Cross
What’s On Term 4

Week 4
Mon to Fri
26-30 Oct  HSC Exams
Tue 27 Oct  Year 6 to 7 Transition small group visit
Tue 27 Oct  Open Night 6-7.30pm for Year 5 and 6 students and parents
Tue 27 Oct  Warners Bay HS Band Tour - P5 & 6 MPC
Fri 30 Oct  World Teachers Day

Week 5
Monday to Friday
2-6 Nov  HSC Exams
Wed 4 Nov  Working with Horses Year 9 Agriculture
Thursday to Friday
5-6 Nov  Creative Arts Excursion Sydney Year 11

Community News

FOSTER CARERS WANTED
Anglicare are currently looking to recruit Foster Carers in the Eurobodalla Shire.

Foster Carers provide a safe home for children and young people who are unable to live with their families. This can be over night, for a few days or longer including permanent full time care.

Anglicare provide training and ongoing support to our foster carers. If you are interested in learning more please contact:

   Edith 4475 0901

SOUTH COAST MUSIC SOCIETY
BATEMANS BAY

Anna Goldsworthy
Pianist and Author

A journey of music theatre which is based on her memoir, Music Lessons

Sunday, 1 November
3.00pm
St Bernard’s Church
Batehaven

Tickets at the door or
online, $35
www.southcoastmusicsociety.com

School Matters regularly includes community information and advertisements. The School does not endorse or accept responsibility for these activities. Attendance at or use of these services is at the discretion of the students.