Welcome back to the 2016 school year and a special welcome to our 43 new kindergarten students who have settled into school so confidently. We are very excited to be back at our beautiful school and looking forward to the many things we have planned for the year.

**Executive Staff**
- Co-Principals – Mrs Kerry Tulloch & Mrs Melissa Merchant
- Assistant Principals
  - Mr Rod Ryan (K-2) *
  - Mrs Lyn Wood (3-6) *
  - Miss Lani Williams (Organisation) *

**Teaching Staff**
- KR - Mrs Liz Ryan
- KT - Mrs Trish Tuft
- K/1C - Mrs Carmel Rigby
- 1R - Mr Rod Ryan *
- 1/2B - Miss Beth Whiteley
- 2M - Miss Mady Murray
- 2/3W - Miss Lani Williams *
- 3G - Miss Amanda Godfree
- 3/4P - Miss Katrina Punton
- 4W - Mr Mike Wilson
- 4/5B - Mrs Linda Brislane
- 5/6J - Mr Mark Jackson
- 5/6W - Mrs Lyn Wood *

**Teaching Support Staff**
- Library - Mrs Michelle Lowry
- Reading Recovery/EAL - Mrs Amy Dorfling
- RFF and Aboriginal Programs - Mrs Bec Perkins
- Learning and Support Team Coordinator - Mrs Lorna Tavener
- Music - Mrs Linda Davis
- IT Support - Mr Rod Dransfield
- Band Mistress - Mrs Alison Ross
- Counsellor - Mrs Sue Colditz
- School Wellbeing Officer - Mrs Mel Shoesmith
- Community Liaison Officer/Band - Mrs Virginia Healey

**Administrative and Support Staff School**
- School Admin Manager (SAM) Mrs Lori Salt
- School Admin Officer - Mrs Angela Edwards, Mrs Karen Dickson, Mrs Mylee Cheers
- General Assistant - Mr John Wood
- School Cleaner - Mrs Liane Hunt
- Learning Support Officers - Mrs Tina Jones, Ms Tash MacArthur, Ms Katrina Read, Mrs Virginia Healey, Mr Rob McMahon
- Canteen Manager - Mrs Jackie Medlock
- Palms OoSH - Mr Ross Loy
OUR STUDENTS EXCEL

2016 Leadership Team

We would like to introduce our 2016 Student Leadership Team - Lewis, Alex, Tomas, Oscar, Sage, Evie, Ruby Mae and Isabella. Congratulations to our Leadership Team who did a fantastic job presenting their first assembly yesterday. Our next Assembly will be on Thursday, 3 March.

2016 House Captains

Congratulations to our 2016 House Captains - Charlize & Preston (Shelley), Taj & Billie (Boomerang), Lachlan & Abbey (Elizabeth) and Ellise & Ashtyn (Blueys) - who led our school sports houses at our recent swimming carnival on Wednesday. We look forward to seeing more of our House Captains throughout the year at our cross country and athletics carnival.

WELCOME TO TERM 1

The following events are happening over the coming weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, 15 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting at 7.00 pm @ “The Recky”. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 24 Feb</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival at Taree Pool for qualifying students only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 26 Feb</td>
<td>Kindergym commences for Kindergarten and Yr 1 students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, 3 Mar</td>
<td>School assembly at 2 pm in the hall. All welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, 16 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs, 17 Mar</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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2016 Green Team
We are very excited to announce the 2016 Green Team - James, Bonnie, Ava, Mikayla, Ballie, Matisse, Kirsty, Asha, Tyson and Grace. This leadership group has an environmental and citizenship focus and will work on a number of important tasks around the school.

GREEN TEAM Roles and Responsibilities

- 'Adopt a Beach' – Boomerang Beach 'Taronga Blue Project'
- School garden - planting, weeding, watering, mulching etc
- School waste & recycling improvements – garbage audit
- Helping Mr Wood in the school grounds
- School Canteen – Fridays
- Bush Track rejuvenation
- Breakfast Club
- Fruit & Veg Month activities

Class Captains – Term 1
Congratulations to the following students on being selected by their peers to be the Term 1 Class Captain. As part of this role they will be responsible for representing their class and completing important jobs around the school. We wish them all the best in their important new roles.

KT Callum Ivy
KR Bodhi Lucy
K/1C Cody H Charlie
1R Jem Millie
1/2B Lillian Cody O
2M Adam Zeb
2/3W Swain Abbie
OUR STUDENTS EXCEL

Class Captains - Term 1 (Continued)

3G  Jembe  Madison
3/4P  Paige  Luke
4W  Daniel  Stevie-Lee
4/5B  Maya  Cooper
5/6J  Noah  Gabrielle
5/6W  Ely  Summer

2016 Swimming Champions
Congratulations to the following students who are talented swimmers and are our swimming age champions for 2016. These students were announced at our Friday morning assembly.

Junior Girl:  Leila
Junior Boy:  Zennon
11 yrs Girl:  Gabrielle
11 yrs Boy:  Cooper
Senior Girl:  Samantha
Senior Boy:  Oscar

Welcome Kindergarten
Welcome to our new Kindergarten students who have settled in so quickly. It is always a highlight for us to see these new little faces joining our school community.
SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Getting to Know You Interviews
Thank you to all our parents and carers for your interest in our parent/teacher “Getting to Know You Interviews”. If you did not receive a note or would like to make an appointment please contact the office to make an appointment. The interviews are a wonderful time for you to share with us information about your child.

2016 Swimming Carnival
Our annual swimming carnival was held on Wednesday, 10 February. Well done to all students who participated by swimming in a race, cheering and supporting their sports house. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who worked so hard to make the day a great success.
INFORMATION FOR OUR PARENTS

School Band
We are looking forward to another exciting year of music with our school band. Unfortunately we have been advised that there has been a sad loss in the family of our band mistress, Alison Ross. The start date for the band program has therefore been postponed until further notice. We will inform band parents and carers as soon as we know when the program will commence. Further information has been sent home with band students this week.

Working With Children Check
All our school volunteers need to have a current working with children check. This simple process can be completed at http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check You will then need to present at the RMS to receive your WWCC number. We love volunteers at our school and know that this process helps keep our children safe.

If you don’t have a current WWCC check, we ask that you complete this process as soon as possible. Please bring in your certificate with your verification number to the school office. Please note that parents will not be able to volunteer at the school without a current WWCC.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TEACHERS

Introducing our new teacher Beth Whiteley – 1/2B
Hello to the community of Pacific Palms. My name is Beth Whiteley and I am super excited to be the new teacher of 1/2B. I have recently moved from the beautiful beaches of Currumbin on the Gold Coast to the superb beaches of the Palms. Talk about spoilt! I graduated last year from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) and am thrilled to join the wonderful teaching and support staff here. I look forward to getting to know you all and look forward to a fantastic year.

Introducing our new teacher Katrina Punton – 3/4P
Hello everyone, my name is Katrina and I will be teaching 3/4P this year. I grew up in Newcastle and graduated from Newcastle University with a Bachelor Arts/Bachelor of Teaching. After graduating I travelled and moved to England where I taught for two years. This experience provided amazing support and learning opportunities within my first few years of teaching.

Upon returning to Australia I moved to Wilcannia to work as a Learning and Support Teacher while I completed my Master in Special Education. I am very excited to join Pacific Palms Public School and look forward to working with your amazing school team and community.
P & C NEWS

Canteen - Volunteers
The Canteen is seeking more volunteers. If you are interested and able to help out in any way please see Jackie in the canteen from Wednesday to Friday, or provide contact details to the front office. Thank you!!

P&C Meeting - Monday, 15 February 2016
An invitation is extended to all families to come along to our P&C Meeting on Monday, 15 February commencing at 7.00 pm at the Pacific Palms Recreational Club. We would love to see some new faces.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

With great delight, we extend a very warm welcome to all our families as we begin the 2016 school year. This year we have welcomed many new families to our school and our community, which is very exciting. We offer you all a very warm Pacific Palms welcome! The children have settled in very quickly. It was wonderful to see their smiling, eager faces.

We have 321 students and have therefore established 13 classes for 2016. Students were placed into their new classes last week and are well into the process of learning routines, expectations and boundaries with their teacher and classmates.

Our 43 newest students in Kindergarten started with happy faces, giggles, laughter and fun! Thank you to our amazing Year 6 buddies who have been taking such good care of them. A special thank you to the P&C for organising a wonderful introduction to our new families last week. The ‘TEA and TEARS’ event was a huge success. Parents, grandparents and friends swapped stories and shared laughs over a cuppa and treats. It was lovely to make some new contacts for canteen volunteers.

Kerry and I will be working collaboratively in the co-principal role this year. Generally Kerry will be available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and I will be available Monday to Friday. We look forward to sharing our expertise across all aspects of the principal role to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for all students in our care. We will be providing more information about the co-principal role at the P and C meeting on Monday evening.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with our school community and look forward to many opportunities to pursue this during the year.

Kerry Tulloch and Mel Merchant
Co-Principals

“Learning is an experience. Everything else is just information” Albert Einstein
RESPECT IS THE KEY

PACIFIC PALMS PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

12 February 2016
“Quality learning in a safe and happy community”
www.pacificpal-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

EXCELLENCE - RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY

ISSUE 1 | TERM 1 | WEEK 3

PACIFIC PALMS NETBALL CLUB

REGISTRATION DAY

Thursday, 18th February 2016
from 3 pm - 5.30 pm at
Pacific Palms Public School Hall

- Seniors (18 yrs +) - $120.00
- Juniors (11-17 yrs) - $100.00
- Net Set Go (5-10 yrs) - $85.00

If you have not received your “MyNetball Id” contact Jill McSweeney.

Please note that all payments are online and must be made at time of registration.
(Please note: Online registrations are card only)

Uniforms

Uniforms will be available for purchase on Registration Day. New uniforms - $55. Second hand uniforms $30.
(Please note: Uniform sales are cash only)
2016 TERM 1 ACTIVITIES

Feb 3 Week 2: Getting to know ASHOW and getting to know you games

Feb 10 Week 3: Sailing done at the Aquatic Club. This is an opportunity for kids to have a go at sailing in a completely untippable dinghy. Kids can’t swim here but we hope to have the RFS water slide as well so the kids will need their togs and a towel

Feb 17 Week 4: Cooking: Make your own banana split with all the trimmings

Feb 24 Week 5: Water games and water safety down at Coomba Pool

Mar 2 Week 6: Games and races down at the foreshore

Mar 9 Week 7: Craft

Mar 16 Week 8: Come and learn more Tae Kwando skills taught by the famous local Master, Faye Shacklock

Mar 23 Week 9 Musical games

March 30 Week 10: Water games and water safety down at Coomba Pool

April 6 Week 11 Making stilts from tin cans

For further information, please call Felicity Carter on 0411 566 593
“Quality learning in a safe and happy community”

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

RESPECT IS THE KEY

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

EXCELLENCE - RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY

ISSUE 1 | TERM 1 | WEEK 3

SPASH OUT FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Take on Australia’s biggest swimming event by setting your swimming goal and help support people with a disability in your community so they never miss out on the opportunity to swim.

KIDS DISCO

for 5-12 year olds

Friday February 26, 5.30 – 7.30pm

YMCA Sports Hall

Groove to the sounds by DJ Flav

$5 disco entry and $2 sausage sizzle

RSVP at reception by February 19

Fri 4 March 6:30pm

TUNCURRY BEACH BOWLING CLUB

TIME: 6.30PM - 8PM

COST: $5

AGES: PRIMARY STUDENTS YEARS 3-6

PRIZES AVAILABLE | FUN GAMES

CANTINE AVAILABLE

NO ALCOHOL | NO DRUGS | NO PASSOUTS

All Blue Light events are drug and alcohol free and supervised by Police Officers

www.pacifcppal-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

• Compulsory Schooling Conference

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

• Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

• Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.