Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The year has started particularly well and in most cases, our children seem settled and happier in their classrooms. The Year 5 & 6 people are particularly delightful role models for the whole school & when I speak to them they are very comfortable with the peaceful way they are all managing themselves & each other.

The Year 5’s have been conscientious in the buddy duties with our new kindies and the relationships between both are obviously strong already.

The attitude with all of our seniors seems very mature, most seem really been to succeed academically and their work ethic is noticeably strong. Let’s hope it lasts! I’m sure it will. They are all very lovely children.

**Canteen UPGRADE**

With much help from Mrs Madelon Scully, I have had a couple of meetings at school from Jock Graham, the Environmental Health Officer (Food) from Lake Macquarie City Council.

He was exceedingly helpful with his information. Yes, we can use the kitchen in the hall while the existing canteen is extended & refurbished and he has given me very fruitful ideas on how this can happen with the minimal of expenses & yet pass the regulatory requirements of the health department.

Regarding the internal refit, again he has given me some realistic ideas in the planning & layout. Now I just need people to do it. I have an electrician. I need a plumber, not to change where the sink is, but to install a new sink, taps & a dishwasher, so if we have any "plumbing Dads" that would be great. I’d get a furniture removalist to take the existing 5 fridges to the hall and maybe we could have a working “B” to remove all the existing internal shelves & cupboards. It wouldn’t take long if we had a few hands.

The serving opening would face the sandpit, on the same side as the existing entry door to the canteen. This way, teachers on playground duty could easily observe what was happening & teachers in the demountable can view that area in class sessions.

It's a very exciting time, though a bit busy. If we all work together, "we can do anything!"

Currently, I am acquiring 3 quotes from builders, which is Departmentally mandatory for auditing purposes.

Congratulations to our Canteen Committee for their commitment in having a go to get the whole show up and running. At our last meeting for the canteen it was a profitable exercise where the more experienced canteen volunteers shared their knowledge & expertise with those who are keen but haven't "done it" before. The
outcome was to work together, give it a go, work out what sells & what doesn’t, work out what is possible to do & what presents difficulties, keep some old “favourites” on the menu & re-assess in a few weeks. People were full of praise for the way Mrs Davinia Glendenning ran the meeting and thanks so much to all the folk who came to have input.

A decision was made at this meeting to abandon the idea of purchasing a coffee machine for parents to access at the school for the following reasons:-

- Who would clean it? Who would set it up? How?
- It’s a school, not a coffee shop.
- People who have time to drink coffee could use the time helping Mrs Callen with the reading program.

Other suggestions included having it set up in the hall & a playgroup could be established because there are toys from the previous playgroup under the tiered seating.

In the interim, other parents who weren’t at the meeting are in favour of the coffee machine & would like to have a say. They have suggested we ask the whole school community for their ideas. This is not a problem, so at the end of this newsletter we invite your response, requesting you send it back at your earliest convenience.

Thanks so much to all those folk who have volunteered their time. The canteen is open 4 days a week now and maybe it won’t be long till Tuesday opens too. We are very grateful.

**NOTE**
The Canteen Committee have unanimously decided to name our Canteen the “NOURISH CAFÉ.”
This suggestion came from Maya & Solomon France. Congratulations to you both and thanks to all the children who submitted entries.

**TEACHER TRAINING and DEVELOPMENT**

Mrs Callen has a slightly different role this year. Her position is now called a "LAST". (We always manage to come up with strange anagrams!) It stand for “Learning and Support Teacher.” Not only does she still play the same role with reading support, but now she adds behaviour support to the role. Last year she completed on-line training in Communication, working with one of our children as her research assignment, but this year she has enrolled in the on-line behaviour course. We have done heaps of work in this area anyway, as a whole school staff, so Carol is already well-versed & practised in the scenario. The course will add yet another string to her bow.

Ian Davies, Jen Connolly and Paul Searant are attending an Assistant Principals’ Conference this Wednesday. These are very important meetings where they are kept informed of any changes in Educational policies or practices, they have the opportunity to network, and leadership training is emphasised.

On Thursday, Carol Callen & I will join all the other Principals in the district for a conference regarding the outline of the new role her position mandates.

Also on Thursday, Loren Newell and Daniel Linsell will receive their training in understanding the Best Start test for Kindies and training in follow-up procedures for Yrs 1 & 2.

Next Monday, 25th February, Carol Callen & I will be attending a conference at the University of NSW regarding the implementation of the new National Curricula. The English curriculum is to be implemented next year, 2014 and Maths the year after.

This year will see a lot of training & development in our Whitebridge Community of Schools & already we are arranging joint learning sessions together utilizing all the knowledge & expertise that already exists in our schools.
**CURRENT SCHOOL ENROLMENTS**

For your information we now have 290 students enrolled in 12 classes at our school. 3 new students have just arrived. We welcome Jayden White in kindergarten and Seth White in Year 2. We also have Jasmine Bruce in Year 1 (1H). To these new families, welcome to our school community.

![KIDS' CORNER](image)

Here is such a delight to write. We have so many impressive kids and I wish I knew the name of the boy who guided a parent to her destination yesterday. Without being asked he just offered help, again with fabulous manners. So, whoever you are, be proud, and thank you.

♦ Congratulations to Tyran Cameron who was operating remote devices for our "Happy Birthday" film clips at assembly yesterday. As happens with technology it took a while and many attempts to get it to work. He didn't fluster. He didn't give up. He just persevered, and hey presto! It finally worked, much to the glee of little 6yr old Isabella Graham who was celebrating her birthday on the stage.

♦ Congratulations to the following children who have been elected as class student councillor representatives for the next semester:

1H - Mia Wallace Saffron Francis
1K - Isabella Graham Manning Gregory
2D - Darcy Powell Akaylah Lewis
2M - Jeremiah Azzopardi Sofia Figueroa
3D - Jagger Done Kihara Stewart van Est
4N - Lara Tessier Kurt Murphy
3/4B - Bryce Nicholas Charlie Hickey
5B - Kiara Tanner Logan Marshall
5/6C - Jack McRory Tehani Morris
6A - Kayla Stanley-Gilfoyle Skye King

♦ We also have 4 kindergarten representatives who will hold that position for a term so we can give as many children as possible a chance at leadership opportunities:

KN - Kaila Webster Jet Hoffman
KS - Kennedy Evans Levi Handscomb

**IT'S A BOY!**

Jackson Corbic in Year 1 has just been presented with a little baby brother called Mika. Jackson is very excited and promises to help with lots of jobs at home. I believe mum and baby are doing very well and we all look forward to meeting this little man very soon. Congratulations!

**GLENROCK GROVE**

As you are probably all aware, work has begun on clearing the ground for Glenrock Grove. The engineers hope to finish their part by July when the building of 21 houses will commence.

19 of them will be on the perimeter, and 2 will be in the centre.

Prices for the homes, between 2 & 3 bedrooms, start at $595,000 & work is expected to be finished by this December, weather permitting.

As I get any other information, I will keep you informed.

**SPORT IN SCHOOLS**

Our Sport in Schools program is up and running, with every child participating each Thursday for the whole of this term. There are still quite a number of children who have not paid for this program. If payment could be paid as soon as possible, this would be greatly appreciated as this program is part of the child’s sport activities for the term.
CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE
I have been asked to explain to new families at our school why some children call me "Mrs Rainbow" instead of Mrs Harvie.
This orginated when a new lot of kinder children confused me with other grandparents at our school.
So I used a rainbow ribbon around my neck to distinguish me from other staff, & then Mrs Richardson started calling me "Mrs Rainbow". (It also helped with the problem that Mrs Hardy & Mrs Harvie were both staff members.)

Feedback from several parents proved very positive, as rainbows create a feeling of warmth and comfort.

Outside school hours, I am in charge of Westlakes Palliative Care Volunteers. Rainbows are one of the symbols we use, particularly with children.

Any parents or carers who need to be away from children for any length of time, may choose to say these words: "Whenever you are sad or lonely, think of me, & know that I am sending rainbows of love, from my heart to yours."

Children find it easy to picture this in their minds, & it helps them feel safe & secure.

Helen Harvie (Mrs Rainbow)
School Chaplain

STUDENT BANKING VISIT
On Monday, 11th March we will have “CRED” the Commonwealth Bank Student Banking mascot here to talk to children about Student Banking.
Then on Wednesday, 13th March representatives will be here from 8.30am to 9.30am, for parents wishing to open bank accounts for their children. Parents need only to show their driver's license to apply for an account.
This will happen in our quiet room.

If parents are unable to come on the Wednesday, you can open an account at the Commonwealth Bank by supplying your child’s birth certificate.

Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal

SURF SAFETY & AWARENESS PROGRAM
After School Programs & Weekend Programs
8 & 12-hour programs available
Fun and safe, qualified teachers
FREE QUIKSILVER PACK worth $150.00 For every surfer!
Kid's Yoga

For preschool age

Come along and have fun as your children stretch and strengthen their bodies, and experience the many benefits of yoga, in a calm and happy environment.

$10 per Family

Monday: 10am-

11am

Charlestown Library
4/2/2013

Phone Sandra on 0420 321 119

Kid’s Yoga

For preschool age
COFFEE CLUB SURVEY

Please respond to this survey at your earliest convenience.

1)  Are you in favour on the purchase of 2 coffee machines for parents?  YES NO

2)  Where would they be located?  a) Hall  b) Canteen  c) Other

3)  How would it operate? Please respond to each.

Payment?

Setting up?

Cleaning?

(In reality, we need to have answers to these questions and a group of volunteers to make it viable.)

Pam Richardson
On behalf of the
Kahibah PS Canteen Committee