PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

KAREN'S ABSENCE — Due to family commitments Mrs Clark has had to take leave for 2 weeks, returning on Wednesday 1st March 2016. Normally I work at the school on Thursday and Friday but will be working 5 days per week in Karen's absence. I have personal knowledge of the school programs and we don't anticipate any disruption in their delivery. To date it has been a great 1st week with exceptional behaviour both in the classrooms and in the playground.

LIFE EDUCATION – This personal development program, which is an important part of our curriculum starts this week. To ensure as many students as possible attend, the school has subsidised the cost by 50%. If your child talks about a giraffe named Harold they are referring to the main character in this interactive presentation.

MEET & GREET - Last week's “Meet & Greet” was a great success with numerous positive comments being written in our visitors' book. A big thank you to the parents who attended on the day. I know the children love to see mum, dad and grandparents at school and the teachers appreciate the opportunity to touch base with you.

SWIMMING LESSONS - The school has also subsidised this important program in the hope that all children will be able to swim or at the minimum be water safe. This program commences next week so please make sure you return your permission note and money by this Friday.

VISITORS' BOOK — ALL parents, carers & visitors are required by the department to sign in at the front office BEFORE entering onto school grounds. Even if you will only be 2 minutes!!!

Mr Dave Roberts
Relieving Principal
'MEET & GREET'
Last week Taree Public School had our annual 'Meet & Greet' BBQ. This day was a great opportunity for our parents, carers, grandparents and Community to come along and meet our wonderful staff, have a chat and enjoy a bbq lunch.

BASKETBALL TRIALS
On Thursday the 18th of February, four students participated in trials for the Regional Basketball Team. Clayton Thorpe, Javyne Byers, Ashton Matheson-Towers and Michael Armstrong all participated at Forster Public School. The tryouts were demanding with a number of very good basketball players from around the area competing to fill the 5 spots on the team. Unfortunately no one from Taree Public School made the regional team but they all competed well and showed great sportsmanship after the trial. Well done.

HANDWRITING TIPS
Students who struggle with handwriting may know the content, but have trouble putting their knowledge/thoughts onto paper. Creating messy, illegible writing after so much effort is frustrating and demoralising, and will lead to more learning issues as the student falls further behind.

General Tips
✓ Find a pencil grip that works and invest in a few.
✓ Write letters in multiple contexts, e.g. sand, shaving foam, foggy mirror, concrete using chalk, etc.
✓ Warm up hands before starting to write.
✓ Encourage correct body posture, e.g. sit at the desk, not laying on the floor, etc.
✓ Encourage your child to learn keyboard skills.
✓ Put the alphabet in plain view when working on writing.
✓ Help your child with written homework, e.g. let them dictate to you.
✓ Use cutlery to eat to encourage fine motor skills
CLASS 3/6 BURRANG

Welcome back for 2016!

Since returning to school, the students in 3/6 Burrang spent the first few days re-acquainting themselves with classmates and some new students with some fun "getting to know you" activities.

Following this, the students have spent the past week beginning to build their understanding of how to write Persuasive texts.

In this unit the students will complete reading tasks such as:

♦ identifying arguments for and against animals making good pets
♦ sorting arguments for and against an issue
♦ identifying the structure of a discussion and a text reconstruction.

In the Writing component, the students will explore the structure of discussions. They will contribute to the joint construction of this text type and will also write their own discussion.

In the speaking and listening component of the unit the students will express their point of view about an issue and they will hold a mini discussion. We hope to follow this up with a trip to Billabong Koala Park later in the term.

In Mathematics, we have begun the term by focusing on different addition, subtraction, multiplication and division strategies. This will help to give the students a refresh of skills they learnt last year, while trying to extend them with new strategies.

We have also been discussing the rights and responsibilities of:
♦ students
♦ teachers
♦ parents
♦ and what the expectations in the classroom and school are.

Our library day this term is on a Wednesday so please have books ready to return each week.

We are a drink bottle friendly classroom and students are able to keep their drink bottles on their desks during learning time.

Homework goes home every Monday and is to be returned by Friday.

This term the students will also be taking turns to take home the Mystery Jar. This involves the students choosing an item to put in the jar and writing three clues about the item. They then present this to the whole class for them to guess the item from their clues.

If you have any queries or problems please don’t hesitate to make an appointment at the office.

A BIG thanks to Mr Murray for taking such great care of the chickens over the Christmas holidays. Also, for coming in on Sunday to weed the vegie garden and fix the fence, so the chickens can’t cross the road. The students were very excited this week to have their chickens back at school.

Looking forward to the year ahead!

Mrs Raymond
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
We would like to acknowledge the Biripi people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Biripi Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginals.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
TAREE CITY NETBALL CLUB - New and existing members are welcome to register for the 2016 season. For more details please email tareecitynetballclub@hotmail.com OR find us on facebook OR you can contact Kelly on 0412 202 145
TAREE TIGERS HOCKEY CLUB - is looking for players in 2016 for both Junior & Senior competitions. No matter what your age or ability we have the junior Boys or Girls or senior team just for you. We have a registration day on Tuesday February 23rd 5.00 to 6.30pm, then a Registration and first training day on Monday February 29th from 4.45pm to 6.00pm at the Taree Hockey Centre. If you would like to just come and try before you decide you are very welcome also. Contact Karl Williams on 0413333383 or Tony Lewis on 0418510986 for more information.
YMCA SWIM-A-THON - Sunday 28th February—Swim & Slide Fun Day—10am—1pm. $5.00 entry fee will go to our Simathon to help support people with disabilities in our community. Register Now at YMCAswimathon.org.au
APOLOGY ANNIVERSARY 2016—Thursday 25th February—10.30am-1.00pm at Manning United Church—Contact Christine at Biripi ACMC 6591 2425 or 0497 251 143.
DADS PLAYGROUP— A great way to meet and chat with other Dads & play with your kids at the same time. 10.00am—12pm Saturdays (27th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Mar, 2nd Apr). For more info phone Darren 6553 3992 or 0427 454 827 or dharrison@uniting.org
COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TUCKER TIME—Come along and learn new healthy recipes to feed your mob at home. Every Tuesday fortnight starting in February at 147 Cowper Street Taree, Inc. Rivercity. 1pm—2.30pm. FREE to attend—Transport available and children are welcome. Phone Jess Maher on 6552 5088 for info or bookings

A SAFETY REMINDER
Please remember the 40km/hr school zone speed limit.
To increase motorists’ awareness of the school speed limit, triangular dragon’s teeth road markings are painted on the road to indicate that you are entering a school zone.

Taree Public School is proud to be a part of the ACMF Program.