iPAD CONNECTIVITY

In 2016 we experienced issues with some iPads because of a bug in Apple's operating system that prevented iPads from connecting to the internet within the Department of Education's network.

Over the Christmas holidays Apple released a fix for the issue, but only for those iPads which had the latest operating system installed. The iOS 10.2 update now allows iPads to reliably connect to the Department's filtered web service. The only problem is that not all iPads are able to have iOS 10.2 installed as their operating system.

Older iPads such as iPad 2 and the very first iPad mini are only capable of running iOS 9, and will therefore continue to have connectivity issues. It appears that Apple is not intending to release a fix for this older operating system.

We are in the process of renewing the school fleet of iPads to the latest model iPads which operate iOS 10, but of course the upgrade comes at great expense and will take some time. In the meantime, there will be students with school iPads which will not be able to connect to the internet inside our network.

Similarly, if you send an iPad to school that is either incapable of running iOS 10 (the older model iPads) or has not been upgraded to 10.2, these iPads will have connectivity issues at school.

We urge you to upgrade devices to 10.2 if you are able to. If yours however is an iPad which cannot be upgraded, you may wish to consider purchasing a current model iPad which is capable of running 10.2.

We do apologise for the situation we find ourselves in, but we hope you appreciate that all public schools in NSW are in the same position and the problem is beyond our control.
Any parent seeking advice on the purchase of a new iPad should contact the school. Class teachers will be able to advise.

Please note the connectivity issue does not affect MacBooks and only impacts on iPads while connecting to the network at school.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The school swimming carnival has been rescheduled for Wednesday 22 February, from 9am to 12pm at Corrimal Pool. Buses will depart the school at 8:45 and return at approximately 12:15. We hope you’re able to join us for the carnival.

In the event of wet weather, the carnival will need to still proceed. A message will be posted on Skoolbag on the morning of the carnival to advise whether we are taking competitors only or all senior students.

CLASS INFORMATION SESSIONS
Next week all parents are invited to attend afternoon information sessions (Wed 22 & Thu 23 February) to explain class routines and expectations. Please note that sessions are not intended to be forums for individual interviews; these may be arranged at other times.

All information sessions will occur in classrooms and a free sausage sizzle will be held on both afternoons. Come and stay for a while and get to know your child’s teacher.

Kinder:  (Ms Sinton) Thu 23 Feb, 5:00pm
K/1: (Mrs Duncan) Thu 23 Feb, 5:00pm
1/2C: (Mr Couchman) Thu 23 Feb, 4:00pm
1/2F: (Miss Fitzpatrick) Thu 23 Feb, 4:30pm
2/3: (Mrs Myers/Mrs Millet)
  Thu 23 Feb, 3:30pm
3/4A: (Mrs Anderson/Mrs Hart)
  Wed 22 Feb, 5:00pm
3/4S: (Miss Sturzenbecher)
  Wed 22 Feb, 3:30pm
5/6: (Miss Brule) Wed 22 Feb, 4:30pm
4/5/6: (Miss Shorter) Wed 22 Feb, 4:00pm

OUTSTANDING BAND FEES
A number of families have outstanding unpaid band fees from 2016. New invoices have been sent home and we would appreciate having these accounts settled as soon as possible.

Please contact the school immediately if you are unable to make payment.

NEW SIGNS
Do you like our new entry signs? They’re designed to remind everyone who enters our school what our main focus is ... kids. As the signs say, please do everything you can to keep all children happy and safe. In particular, please don’t approach someone else’s child to reprimand them. Instead, talk to school staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as 2017 SRC members.

Gwen S & Mack C, Kinder
Astrid P & Abdullah A, K/1
Tilly C & Jayke G, 1/2C
Cheye V & Darius G, 1/2F
Miriam O & Jed P, 2/3
Zoe F & Eli C, 3/4A
Marli S & Sam O, 3/4S
Matilda L & Will C, 5/6
Lexi P & Nick O, 4/5/6

STAFFING
We’d like to welcome Julie Sims, whom you’ll see Wednesdays and Thursdays in the office.
**P&C MEETING (repeat message)**
The first P&C meeting for the year is scheduled for Tuesday 21 February at 7.00pm in the 3/4S classroom. Please come along and take part in the school’s decision making process. It would be great to have your company! I’ll be talking about our school priorities for the year and we’ll have a general Q&A about life at MOPS.

**SPORTS HOUSE CAPTAINS**
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as 2017 sports house captains and vice captains.
- **Paterson:** Armita A & Flynn C (C) Soraya S & Mandela K (VC)
- **Lawson:** Ayla H & Nick O (C) Tien M & Spyro K (VC)
- **Kendall:** Jasmine R & Cody B (C) Matilda L & Malachy R (VC)
- **Gordon:** Erin T & Will C (C) Francine S & Ben L (VC)

**LIFE EDUCATION**
The Life Education van is visiting in Week 5 from Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 February to run programs across all classes. Notes have been sent home. The cost is $5 per student.

**INTERRELATE (repeat message)**
Interrelate teaches sexuality and relationship education in NSW schools. The topic of sexuality is handled with sensitivity, openness and humour. The program offers an interactive approach to learning, using audio-visual materials, discussions and games.

Interrelate staff will hold two evening sessions on Tuesday 7 March in the school library. Parents should attend the sessions with children.

Session 1 is entitled, “Where did I come from?” and targets students in Years 3-6. This session begins at 6:00pm.

Session 2 is entitled, “Preparing for puberty” and targets students in Years 5 and 6. Years 3 and 4 students may also attend at parents’ discretion. This session begins at 7:15pm.

The cost is capped at $30 per family for one session or $35 per family to attend both sessions. Notes have been sent home.

**BAND INSTRUMENTS**
When band starts up next month, we’re hoping to welcome new students choosing to play a brass or woodwind instrument. These sections of our band would be greatly enhanced with more players. If you are interested, please contact the school for further information.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
**FEBRUARY/MARCH**

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Hopefully, the worst of the extreme heat is now over for the summer. It’s good to be able to get back to a focus on learning, in comfortable conditions!

Peter Holmes
Principal
RED MERIT AWARDS

Kinder: Mara B, Amber H, Mack C, Gwen S
K/1D: Penelope T, Jenna M, Abdullah A, Will T
Year 1/2C: Cheye V, Levi R, Jay L, Kinda H
Year 1/2F: Hannah T, Namkhai C, Tzeh L, Lance M
Year 2/3M: Phoenix B, Zali W, Karim I, Tamikah T
Year 3/4A: Lucy L, Georgia T, Rade D, Elijah W
Year 3/4S: Ari P, Fatimah M, Luca W, Qasuer A
Year 5/6B: Kataraina O, Bellana FD, Flynn C, Rupert PK
Year 4/5/6S: Armita A, Spyro K, Alexis P, Harry L
Library: An P, Caitlin C

GOLD AWARDS

Gold awards were awarded to Jacob F, Zoe F, Yadin
Congratulations!

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS’ AWARDS

Congratulations Noah L for citizenship in the playground
Rade D for thoughtful and supportive actions towards his peers

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Congratulations Liam H, Shilah T and Elijah Z for receiving the Principal’s Award; each for helping to look after our school. Thank you!

CLASS OF THE FORTNIGHT

The Class of the Fortnight was not awarded this week.

CLASS ITEM

No class item was scheduled for this week. Please join us for assembly on Monday 27 February for a movie presentation by 1/2F.

MOPS FM

We hope to screen the first episode of MOPS FM for 2017 at the next assembly.
MAKING WORDS IN 1/2F
Saleel A: “I had to copy some words and then I had to make them. I made them out of plasticine. These words help you to read and write. They’re on the wall in our classroom.

When someone wants to write a new word, they get a piece of paper and give it to Miss Fitzpatrick. She writes the word on the paper and puts it on the wall so everyone can see it. I like the wall because it helps me to learn!”

HOMEWORK, THE MOPS WAY!
Stage 3 students were given a choice of homework projects to kick off the year and Bellana F decided to create a video about her learning and upload it to YouTube. She has her own channel so it seemed like the sensible thing to do! Her video is clever, creative, funny and truly amazing! You can watch it here.

“Miss Brule gave us a homework sheet where we could choose something we wanted to do. One project was to talk about 2017 and that’s what I chose. We had to say two things we learned last year, one thing we want to zero in on this year, another thing we hope to learn in 2017, and seven different things we want to work on.

I was thinking about making a video and Dad suggested putting it on YouTube. Dad taught me how to edit and he had lots of good ideas. So I made my video. Hope you like it!

I have my own YouTube channel and one thing I do on it is unboxings. That’s where I shoot a video of opening mystery packs of different things and seeing what you get inside.

I also create and upload gaming videos which are really popular now and they’re a lot of fun too.

There are also challenges like quizzes up there. Dad thinks of questions about DC Comics (which he really loves) and we have lots of fun filming the quizzes. You’ll have to watch them to see what happens whenever we get an answer wrong!

Having your own YouTube channel inspires others to be creative and it pushes me to try new things too. Why not give it a try yourself? It’s a lot of fun!”
Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

Meeting Notice
The AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) was formed by Aboriginal People to improve the education of their children. We share our cultural knowledge with educational bodies to Close the Gap and help our kids get the best out of the education systems.

ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND.

The next meeting of the Northern Illawarra AECG is:

Date: Wed, 15th February 2017
Time: 3:45pm for 4:00pm start
Venue: Bellambi Public School - 1 Owen Park Road, Bellambi

*Afternoon Tea Provided

Don’t forget to bring $2 if you would like to become a member of our AECG.
Come along and have a yarn, share ideas and help our children’s education grow.

Enquiries, rsvp and apologies to:
Secretary: Donna Rout
Email: aecnorthernillawarra@gmail.com
President: Julie Street-Smith
Mobile – 0422 020 380
When kids ask “the” questions...
Interrelate has the answers!

Interrelate is a specialist organisation with over 90 years’ experience teaching sexuality and relationship education in NSW schools. Interrelate educators are highly trained and skillful presenters.

The topic of sexuality is handled with sensitivity, openness and humour. The program offers an interactive approach to learning, with a variety of audio-visual materials, discussions and games.

Session 1: Where did I come from?
1-hour session: Years 3-6

Session 2: Preparing for puberty
1-hour session: Years 5-6
Years 3-4 can attend at parent’s discretion

Specialty books are available for purchase on the night. Keep a look out for flyers (coming home with your child before the program) outlining session content.