DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**FEBRUARY**
- Thursday 5th: Mrs Gittoes absent
- Friday 13th: Guyra Swimming Carnival
- Tuesday 17th: Camp Out training - Mrs Gittoes
- Thursday 19th: Armidale Swimming Carnival
- Friday 20th: Small School Swimming Carnival
- Monday 23rd & Tues 24th: Mrs Gittoes absent

**MARCH**
- Wednesday 4th: Transition Commences
- Thursday 19th & 20th: Principal’s Conference Tamworth

**APRIL**
- Thursday 2nd: Easter Hat / Assembly

**TERM 1**

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I’m sure that most of the students have grown centimetres and they all looked so grown up in their summer uniforms with new black school shoes and wide brimmed hats.

**Kindergarten 2015**
Welcome to Bridget Foster. After successfully completing transition she has happily settled into her kindergarten class and she is thoroughly enjoying sitting next to Mosie.

**Classes for 2015**

**Mrs McIntyre** will be teaching for four days per week. K-2 Mon to Thursday.

**Miss Waters** will be teaching 3-6. On Mon, Tues and Thurs she will be taking years 3 and 4 or stage two from 9.20 until 1.15 for intensive English and Mathematics.

3-6 will work as a whole class on Wed and Fri with Miss Waters.

**Mrs Purvis** has accepted a temporary position for one day a week at Black Mountain and Ben Lomond on a rotational basis so she will be doing two days per week on Wednesday and Thursday at Bald Blair implementing her Learning and Support role and Release from Face to Face. She will be taking 3-6 for Japanese, You Can Do It and sport.

**Mrs Gittoes**
On Mon, Tues and Thurs she will be taking years 5 and 6 or stage three from 9.20 until 1.15 for intensive English and Mathematics.

Wednesday she will be taking transition. Thursday afternoon and Friday she will be teaching K-2.

I look forward to seeing every student being challenged and extended in all subject areas during 2015.

It is a sheer privilege to welcome back my highly skilled and dedicated staff, super students and supportive and committed parents to the 2015 school year. This is my sixteenth year as a teaching principal at this great school and really it only seems like yesterday when I commenced. I’m so proud and honoured to be principal and I was truly touched to think that our school’s wonderful P&C nominated me for the Guyra and District Citizen of the Year. I love leading, managing and teaching at our marvellous school and I looked forward to another productive and successful year. Remember that if you ever have a problem or concern I’m just a phone call away.

Everyone looks so relaxed and enthusiastic to return to another fantastic year of learning academically, emotionally, culturally, socially and in sporting endures. The rain has certainly given us something to smile about and the school grounds are looking a picture. Marvellous what can be achieved when you have a mower that is working. Sadly our school’s mower broke four days before the Christmas holidays hence we had to wait four weeks until Mr Vanderwolf could fix it.

It was marvellous to see all of our students eager to commence the new school year. Each student raced into the school to see which room they were in and they couldn’t wait until the assembly to hear which teacher they were going to have. One student even wanted to know what play we are going to do on concert night.

Farren, Jessie & Patrick our Year 6 Leaders for 2015
Regular School Attendance
Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.
School is compulsory and you must send your child to school every day. Do not keep your child away from school for the following:
- Birthdays
- Shopping
- Minding other children
- Routine check-ups or care such as hair cuts
- Minor family events
- Sleeping in
- Because they don’t want to attend a sporting carnival or event

I have attached an information sheet for parents and carers about regular school attendance and there are some changes in 2015. Please read carefully and if you have any concerns or don’t understand something just ring the school for clarification.

An ‘Exemption from School’ for family holidays can no longer be granted. You can have family holidays in school time however it will be marked on the roll as absent with an “A”. Sadly approximately 100,000 students are absent from school every day.

An ‘Exemption from School’ form can be used for overseas holidays or for three months touring around Australia. (See attached Departmental information sheet).

Medical Update
If your child has a medical condition or food allergy please let us know immediately.

Lamb & Potato Festival
Wow! Wow! Wow! The 29th L&P Festival was the biggest and best festival ever held and as Mr Bearup a well-known local identity said confidently and without doubt on Saturday -the best event that Guyra had ever, ever staged.

A big thank you to those parents, about 50% and 100% of staff who gave up their valuable holiday time to work at this year’s festival. It was truly appreciated and the P&C and school should receive nice cheques in the coming months for their ongoing commitment.
Parents please remember that we need at least one parent from every family to help out at each fundraiser because as the saying goes “Many hands make light work”.
Again this year Betty Sheelah and Jan Day enthusiastically sold tomatoes on behalf of our school and today Donna deposited $2184.50 in our school account. A sincere thanks to Blush Tomatoes for their kind donation of tomatoes.

Attached to this newsletter are notes for families to fill out & return to school. Could you please do so at your earliest convenience.

Transition
Transition will commence on Wednesday 4th March. If Mrs Gittoes is absent or at a meeting on these days transition will not occur.

Attention Families Waiting on Private Transport Payments
After enquiry to the Private Transport office today, this payment has changed to the second week in February.

Homework Centre
Homework Centre will commence this Thursday 29th January and will held every Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. The cost is $7.50 per child/hour. Please let Mrs Gittoes know if your child/children will be attending.

New Art Initiative
Every year at Bald Blair our students complete excellent examples of quality art work. To help preserve these beautiful pieces of work we have purchased art portfolio display books to keep each imaginative and creative masterpiece free from ripping and harm.
Each year the teachers/students will put the art work into their own folders and after the following years Guyra Show the folders will be sent home with your child if you wish to purchase the folders. Each folder is $6.00 per student.
I must say that the students work in the folders look stunning and what a wonderful way to keep students treasured pieces in one safe spot.
Complete the attached form if you would like to purchase a folder for your child/children.

Guyra Swimming Carnival
The Guyra & District Swimming Carnival is on Friday 13th February. On completion of our school’s annual intensive swim school the following swimming squad was selected to participate: Wylie, Archie, Bridget, Claudia, Lettie, Maryam, Nakita, Ingrid & Zoe.
The following week on Friday 20th February all students from K-6 will participate in the Highland Small Schools Swimming Carnival at the Guyra Pool. Keep this date free as more information will follow.