Welcome!

A very warm welcome to all parents, students and staff to the 2016 school year.

An especially warm welcome to all new members of our school community.

Our school has a proud tradition of excellence in sporting, cultural and academic achievement.

Our priorities for 2016 include: continuing implementation of the new curriculums, providing teachers with ongoing professional development to ensure the best quality teachers are teaching our students and continuing to work with the community to develop links to our indigenous community, preschool and parent body.

These priorities among others will be best achieved with the continuing support of parents and families working with teachers in the best interests of children.

I look forward to an exciting and successful year for the students of Marks Point PS.

New staff:

We have several new staff members joining us this year.

Mrs Raquel Davis joins us as our new assistant principal; Mrs Sherrene Dawes joins us as our Reading Recovery and RFF teacher. Miss Kate Sullivan will work with 2/3B each Monday and Mrs Michelle Yeo will be with us once a fortnight working with 5/6D while Mrs Davis works on staff professional development.

Welcome!

Classes:

We will be running six classes this year:

KJ – Mrs Johns (Mon – Wed),
  Miss McDonell (Thurs – Fri)
1L – Mrs Laverick
1/2M – Mrs Morris
2/3B – Mrs Banks (Tues – Fri), Miss Sullivan (Mon)
4/5G – Mr Gleeson
5/6D – Mrs Davis

Mrs Vallender will continue as our Learning Support Teacher (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and Miss McDonell will continue as our Librarian (Monday, Tuesday) and work with KJ on Wednesdays once a fortnight.

Class Formation:

There are always many questions about how we form our classes, particularly composite classes.

Composite classes many years ago used to be based on academic ability; however that is not the case now. When forming classes, we are aiming to have the most cohesive group of students in a class to allow for maximum learning. This means that we do not put all of the academically brighter students in the ‘top’ composite. We look at social compatibility and try to get a gender balance where possible.

All students in a grade will be completing the same level of work, regardless of which composite class they are in.

As our curriculum is based on stages, with two grades making up each stage (ie. Years 1 and 2 are both Stage 1) composite classes are the norm in most schools with even larger schools grouping two grades together.

If you have any questions about class formation or composite classes, please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions you have.
P & C Meeting:

Our P & C meeting will be held on Thursday 18th February at 5.30pm in the library.
If you would like to be a part of the P & C this year, I urge you to come along.
The P & C Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th March.

Happy News:

Congratulations to Mrs Gibson and her family who welcomed baby Annelise Jane to the world on 12th January. Annelise weighed 3.4kg and mum and bub are both doing well.

New Financial Management System:

This year our school, along with all Lake Macquarie and Newcastle primary schools, will be transferring to a new financial management system (SAP). This process will be undertaken during all of Term 2 with me and the office staff completing training in the new system throughout the term.
During the transition, we will be receipting limited amounts of money. Please also be understanding if the office staff look a little frazzled during the transition as it is the biggest change to office systems in schools in many years.

Hats:

A reminder that students need to wear a school hat to school during Terms 1 and 4.

Branded baseball caps are not part of our school uniform.

Please ensure your child has a school hat to wear each day. Hats are available through the uniform shop for $12.

School Hours:

8.30am Playground supervision begins
9.00am Classes commence
11.00am Recess
11.20am Classes resume
1.05pm Lunch
1.55pm Classes resume
3.00pm End of school day

(Please note there is no supervision after 3pm)

School Executive and House Captains Induction:

Our school executive and house captains will be inducted at our first whole school assembly for the year on 25th February at 2.15pm. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend.

Playground Equipment:

Our playground equipment has been inspected by Kidsafe and recommendations for changes will be sent to us in the next couple of weeks. As soon as we have the information I will share it with the community and act on it to keep our students safe.
Absences:

A reminder that school attendance is compulsory for all school aged children.

Parents must ensure:
1. their children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a government or registered non-government school or, registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Home Schooling.
2. their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for instruction.
3. they provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone call, written note, text message or email. The 7 day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act (1990).
4. they work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school. This includes communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child’s attendance or engagement with school.

(Student Attendance in Government Schools: Procedures 2015).

It is believed that the computerised threats are originating from outside Australia, in every case the threat has been designed to cause disruption and there has been no danger to students or staff.

I would seek to reassure you that our school has a detailed emergency management plan.

In the event that we receive any type of threat the students and staff would be immediately evacuated and the NSW Police engaged to investigate, we would ask at this time that you support the school by not contacting or attending the school as this can interfere with our capacity to manage the event.

The school will always seek to keep parents informed whilst prioritising student and staff safety.

Our school would give early communication via Facebook.

If you have any concerns please contact me so we can discuss in further detail.

Miss Deborah Hall
Principal

School photos:

School photos will be taken next Thursday, February 11, 2016. Students are to wear full school summer uniform. If you would like a family photo, please collect a payment envelope from the office.

Home reading:

We are currently reviewing our home reading program. Full details of the review program will be sent home within the next two weeks.

Before that time we are still encouraging all students to read at home with their parents.

And a final note:

As you may be aware there have been numerous hoax bomb threats to schools across Australia since the beginning of the school year.
Announcements

Please check lost property and collect any items that may belong to you.

Weekly Program

Classes Begin: 9:00 am and finish 3:00 pm
Tuesday - Scripture
Thursday - School Banking & Assembly
Friday - Breakfast Club & Sport
Canteen - Mon, Wed, Fri
Uniform Shop - Thurs 2:30-3:00 pm & Fri 8:30-9:00 am

Notes Sent Home

School photo envelopes
Beach activities for Years 4-6
Community Notices

Belmont Automotive Service Centre

Delivering Personalised Service
All types of servicing to all makes & models • All types of mechanical repairs
Suspension kits • Exhaust repairs • Computer diagnostics • Rego checks (inc. LPG)

Brand McNicol (Proprietor)
Lic. 50281

Tel: 02 4347 7022
Fax: 02 4347 7023
Email: belmontautomotive@bigpond.com
Mail: PO Box 399 Wyong NSW 2259

ENROL NOW FOR 2016

AT THE STUDIO
Mon - Fri 3:30-8:30pm
5/468 Pacific Hwy, Belmont

ONLINE
2016 TIMETABLE
AVAILABLE NOW
KCDANCEHQ.COM.AU

PHONE
0404 043 405

KCDANCEHQ

REGISTRATION DAYS
MONDAY 8TH FEB 4-6.30pm
WEDNESDAY 17TH FEB 4-6.30pm
AT CAVES BEACHSIDE RESORT

INTRODUCTION TO NETBALL CLINIC
FRIDAY 12TH FEB 5.30-7pm
AT THE CAVES NETBALL COURTS
FOR CURRENT AND NEW PLAYERS
ALL WELCOME

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER
FUN-FILLED SEASON

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 11th February - School photos
Friday 12th February - Beach activities commence
Tuesday 16th February - Swimming carnival

Lake Macquarie Junior Rugby Club Presents

JOEY RUGBY

Friday nights 5th and 12th February
5.30 - 6.30pm
4 - 10 year olds
Walters Park, Speers Point

Come along and learn how to play rugby!
Whether you're 5 years or 10 years, we will put you through some basic rugby skills
and learn how to play and have lots of fun playing rugby union.
There will be skills training and games provided by coaches, trainers and 1st grade
players from our club and for the older kids we will teach you how to tackle.
There will be a BBQ for the participants after each session both Fridays, and don't
forget to bring mum and dad! They can come down and relax after a hard week at
work and watch you kids have some fun.

For further information contact
Junior President: Robbie Taylor 0417 109 588

Respect, Responsibility and Excellence