Dear Parents and Community Members

Last week the students in our school were lucky to be involved in some excellent learning experiences with other schools in the area. I was lucky to be able to be a part of all of the events that occurred and was very proud of the way our students participated and represented our school. Well done, Raleigh!
Katrina Meenahan

Swag of Tales

Last Wednesday afternoon the majority of our school attended a one man show called ‘A Swag of Tales’ at Urunga Public School. Thank you to the parents who helped to transport our students to and from this great performance. It was a very entertaining and educational show that explored the history of a family starting in London, before convict transportation to Australia, and through to the Gold Rush and bushrangers.

GRIP Leadership

On Thursday our Student Leaders attended the GRIP Leadership Conference in Coffs Harbour. The leaders learnt skills to enhance their leadership at our school and did this in a fun and informative way. Read on to find out what they thought about the day.

District Cross Country

It was a beautiful day in Bowraville last Friday and the students of 3-6M had a fabulous day outside of the classroom. It was wonderful to see everyone cheering on their peers, offering encouragement and congratulating each other on their achievements. All of our students participated and completed the 2 or 3km tracks, depending on their age.

We would all like to congratulate Kyle on his 7th place in the 10yrs boys 2km event. Kyle will now go to Sawtell in a couple of weeks to compete at the Mid North Coast Cross Country event. Well done Kyle and we wish you all the best for your next race!

“Raleigh Public School has creative and performing arts programs that allow all students to develop their individual talents.”
**Bellingen Show**

A huge thank you to Joanne Hodgson, Charmaine Grace, Teresa Cowley and Karen McMahon for creating the amazing Raleigh School display at the show. It looked fantastic and it was wonderful to see our students showing their families and friends the great things they have been doing! Thank you also to Karen and Charmaine for packing the display up. We really appreciate your time and help!

Our school choir also sang on Saturday morning at the show. Our wonderful choir teacher Mei conducted the choir in singing a selection of songs they have been learning. Your voices sounded amazing and you made Raleigh very proud. This was the first time that our new School Song was sung in public. We had many very positive comments about what an amazing song and choir we have, well done!

**GRIP Leadership Recount**

On Thursday all four of the Student Leaders woke up exceedingly early to attend the GRIP Leadership Conference at 9:00am. At the conference we enjoyed a couple of comedy skits including Loud Noises!, Papa Fairies Pizza and their very own movie. We also learnt valuable leadership skills including how to take opportunities when they are right in front of us, how to stand up for yourself and others and for what is right. We also did fun games like paper, scissors, rock. We are all sure that we’re glad to have attended. Kristin, Miles, Wade and Jacob.

**Stewart House Donation Drive 2015**

Please place a $2 coin or equivalent into the envelope provided last week, complete entry details on the back and return to your school to be eligible for the draw. Envelopes must be returned to school tomorrow.

**Recent Media Reports**

In recent weeks there have been media reports on university studies comparing academic outcomes for public and private school students in Australia. I was not surprised that these found no difference between public and private schools, once student background was taken into account. What did make a difference were things like the age and gender of the child, their health status, the initial stock of skills that the child has before commencing school, their parents’ level of education, the neighbourhood they grow up in, household income and the number of books in the home. This reinforced the findings of other studies, some of which have found advantages for public school students in social development and university performance. Accordingly, congratulations Raleigh parents – your children are receiving an excellent education, and you are saving thousands in school fees every year! If you missed the 60 Minutes report on this subject, go to [www.9jumpin.com.au/show/60minutes/stories/2015/april/public-vs-private](http://www.9jumpin.com.au/show/60minutes/stories/2015/april/public-vs-private)

**NAPLAN this week**

Today our year 3 and 5 students sat the Language Conventions and Writing NAPLAN tests. Tomorrow they will complete the Reading paper and Maths will follow on Thursday. Please ensure that your child is going to bed at a sensible time and having a healthy breakfast to help them concentrate during the sessions.

**Jamie Oliver Food Revolution Day**

On Friday, we will again be participating in Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution Day. We will be cooking a delicious ‘Squash It Sandwich’ and then enjoying these for lunch. Please make sure that your child has paid their $4 by tomorrow morning (Wednesday). We have allowed an extra day as the event is not until Friday. If you have paid for the term for KiK this is included in the term price and you do not need to pay additional money.

**25 Nights Reading**

Well done Orion for reading for 25 nights.