Swimming Carnival
Our annual swimming carnival will be held next Wednesday 8th February. All students from Years 3 to 6 will be required to attend. Students in Year 2 who are turning 8 this year and are able to swim 50m unaided can also participate. Parents are welcome to attend and lend their support. Normal lessons will run the morning of the carnival and students will depart for the pool at 12pm. Please return permission notes and money by Tuesday 8th.

Sports in Schools
The Sports in Schools program for Term 1 will begin next Monday 6th February for students in Kindergarten, Years 1 & 2 and K6W. The cost of the program is $36. Permission notes must be returned by Friday 3rd February and payment for the program is required by Monday 13th February. If families are experiencing difficulty paying for the program, please contact the principal.
Please remember to send a water bottle with your child for this activity.

Flip Gymnastics
Students in Years 3-6 will be taking part in the Flip Gymnastics program on Tuesdays this term. Permission notes need to be returned by Friday 3rd February and payment for the program is required by Tuesday 14th February. The cost of the program is $45. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the principal.

2012 House Captains
Congratulations to the house captains and vice captains for 2012. They have all been busy preparing and teaching chants in their house groups for the upcoming swimming carnival and are doing great job.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House Captains</th>
<th>Vice Captains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>Charlotte Singh</td>
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<td>Leah Henry</td>
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<td>Lucas Thompson</td>
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<td>Cook</td>
<td>Jessica Summons</td>
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<td>Matthew Blackburn</td>
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<td>Phillip</td>
<td>Tiana Salas</td>
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<td>Alyssa Mosedale</td>
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<td>Solander</td>
<td>Zali Kolbe</td>
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<td>Aaron Ellison</td>
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Principals Message
Welcome back to all members of our school community and a special welcome to our new students and their parents. All students have settled into their 2012 classes well and as you can see many programs are up and running. There has been some community concern about the composite classes in our school. There are “pros and cons” for composite classes but the reality is that every “straight” grade class is a composite class with a mix of abilities. I know our teachers have spent a considerable amount of time (including during the school holidays) preparing and planning as grade teams. I thank them for their professionalism and commitment to our students. If parents have concerns I am happy to meet with them at a mutually convenient time. Also Parent/Teacher interviews will take place in Week 4. I do ask that your understandings of teaching and learning programs and class structures are not based on hearsay and misinformation.

Cathy Lucantonio
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

At the beginning of the school year it is a good opportunity to remind parents and carers about some basic, but important information.

- If you wish to speak to your child’s teacher please make an appointment time that is convenient for you both. Teachers have a duty of care that they owe to all students they are supervising. For this reason it is difficult for teachers to discuss issues or concerns whilst they are supervising, teaching or on playground duty.
- The school has a number of students with nut allergies. Our recommendation is that students do not bring any foods that obviously contain nuts, such as peanut butter or nutella, or cakes and biscuits that contain nuts. This is based on the NSW Health Policy guidelines to ensure the safety of all students at school.
- The safety of children is paramount. Adults must take responsibility for the safety of ALL children around and near our school. Parents are asked to ALWAYS park legally outside the school. Please be aware of parking restrictions outside the school particularly the “Drop-Off Zone” in Brighton Street. Parking illegally can put children’s lives in danger and Botany Bay Council rangers patrol the area on a regular basis. There is no parking for parents within the school grounds.
- Every child should have a school hat at school every day. The school has a “No Hat, Play in the Shade” policy. If they do not have a hat, the children must sit in the shade.
- The DEC requires information in writing if your child is absent from school for any reason. On the day of return to school a note indicating the date and reason for the absence, should be given to the class teacher. The Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) reviews school rolls and attendance regularly as the rolls are legal documents.
- School begins at 9am each day. If your child is running late in the morning, we request that parents write a note to the class teacher explaining why their child is late. School finishes at 3pm each day. Kindergarten finishes at 2:30pm in Term One. If you need to pick up your child early, please go to the school office. The office staff will contact your child’s teacher by phone and your child will be sent to the office with their bag. This procedure must be followed as partial absences need to be noted in class rolls.
- Birthdays are special so please inform the class teacher of any plans for a celebration at school. It would be appreciated if cupcakes, muffins or cake slices are sent, or if sending a large cake it is sliced into the required number of slices before bringing it to school. Please remember some students have allergies to nuts, chocolate and dairy products.
- We request that you label all items of clothing and equipment brought to school with your child’s name. Please check the labels regularly to ensure they are legible. Labelled items can be quickly returned to students.
- Lunch orders can be made online for Bossy Cafe. Information is available at the office. The school office cannot accept any lunch orders.
- Parents who wish to supply their child with a mobile phone to bring to school need to write a letter to the Principal indicating that the child has their permission to bring the phone onto school grounds. Phones must be switched off during the day and handed to the class teacher in the morning.
- Bicycles and scooters should not be ridden on the school playground.
- Dogs, with or without leashes, are not permitted on school grounds at any time.