We would like to welcome back all of our students to school this year and hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas with their family and a relaxing break over the holiday season. It has been great to hear about all the adventures that our students had, whether they stayed at home or headed away for a well-deserved holiday.

Last week our new Kindergarten students had an individual interview and literacy / numeracy assessment, Best Start, with Mrs Fielding and Miss Sevil before officially commencing ‘big school’ on Friday. It was rewarding to see them full of confidence and settling straight into routines, which only goes to show how valuable our Prep Class was. We also have many new enrolments. It is wonderful to have such healthy numbers at our school.

This year our school will be investing a lot of time in the areas of teaching and learning as a means to ensure that our students are receiving the best educational opportunities. We will also be targeting Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL) in the classroom in the form of a state-wide Central Schools’ focus, which explicitly teaches children the art of learning.

**Kindergarten Kiddies Commence School**

After two days of Best Start testing with Mrs Fielding and Miss Sevil, Kindergarten students had their first day at ‘big school’ on Friday, and what a wonderful day it was! Mrs Fielding is taking a Kindergarten class of 17 students and Miss Sevil is taking a Kindergarten/Year 1 class consisting of 8 students in each year group. Being able to offer such small classes to students commencing their educational journey ensures that they achieve to their potential. Following the extended Prep Class last year, most settled into school life and routines with ease.
Congratulations Caitlin and David

We were ecstatic when we heard the announcement that our 2014 Secondary School Captain, Caitlin McNeill, was awarded the ‘Young Citizen of the Year’, and that David Ridgewell, who spends many hours assisting students in the school, received an OAM for services to the Manilla Community. Congratulations Caitlin and David for your outstanding and well-deserved recognition.

New Staff

We would like to welcome the following staff to our school community.
Vanessa Christakos (pictured right) – English / Library.
Petrice Cox – Relieving Assistant Principal
Holly Goodman – Year 2.

Canteen News

Mrs Alison McCarthy has commenced a new job in the Health Services, therefore she has had to relinquish her position as Canteen Manager of Manilla Central School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison for the wonderful work that she has undertaken in our school over many years and wish her all the very best in her new career. We will certainly miss her.

In Alison’s absence, Mrs Freestone and Mrs Nye have been busy organising the canteen in order to ensure a seamless start to the year. We thank them for this and would also like to put a ‘plug’ in for the very tasty salads and fruit salads that are being made and sold at the Primary and Secondary canteens. They are delicious and also encourage students to maintain a focus on healthy eating.

Swimming Carnivals

The Secondary Swimming Carnival will take place this Wednesday (4th Feb) at the Manilla Pool.

The Primary Twilight Swimming Carnival will take place next week, Thursday (12th Feb) at the Manilla Pool.

School Photos

Our school photos will take place quite early this year due to us working with a new photography company, ‘The School Photographer’. I believe that our community will be quite satisfied with their work.

The date for our school photos is Tuesday, 10th February, 2015. The school photo envelopes will be sent home as soon as they arrive. As photos are so early in the year, there will be a quick turn-around of envelopes going home and needing to be returned to school. As we also use the photos in our school handbook and on occasions throughout the year, it is best that they are taken in Term One. The 10th February was the only date that the School Photographer had spare.
New Shorts
The new school sports shorts have arrived. They look wonderful. Can I stipulate that they are sports shorts and are not a part of our day-to-day uniform? They will go on sale this Wednesday in the Primary and Thursday in the Secondary at a cost of $16.

New Students
It is exciting to welcome new students to our school:

Isabella Ormiston, Year 2 and her brother, Jack, Kindergarten;
Seannah Meredith, Kindergarten & her brother Locklin, Year 3;
Kaitlyn Davy-Darlington, Dwayne Brown, Paige Adams, Year 7;
Noah Gairns, Lachlan Brigden, Year 8;
Willow Kiem Year 9;
Dakotah Kiem Year 10;
Finlay Gairns Year 11; and
Nicole Lye Year 12

PRIMARY PRATTLE

Primary Staff Changes
For the last two years Miss Kylie Burford has been teaching in the school. Kylie has accepted a position at Woolomin Public School for 2015. This is much nearer her home and will allow her family time. Kylie did a marvellous job at our school and always had the interests of students at heart. She will be missed.

In Kylie’s place as the Year 2 teacher we welcome Mrs Holly Goodman (pictured right). Holly has come to us after teaching Year 2 at another school. She is extremely excited about her new job!

Mrs Petrice Cox is relieving as the Assistant Principal and also teaching a Year 3/4 class with Mrs Nist.

Mrs Rachel Felstead returns as a full-time teacher after being on maternity leave. Miss Chloe Adams did a wonderful job replacing Mrs Felstead in 2014. Miss Adams will continue supporting student learning in the school for some time each week. She is spreading her wings and going to work with secondary students one day each week.
Students from Years 2 to 6 recently voted for Year 6 Captains of the Sporting Houses. Providing opportunities for, and developing skills in student leadership are valued at Manilla Central School. Their first task, a big one, will be assisting with the swimming carnival in a couple of weeks.

Congratulations to the following students:

**Namoi:**
Captains – Jessica Paull and Chelsea Yates  
Vice-Captain – Chalmonie Fletcher

**Barwon:**
Captains – Patrick Ratcliffe and Samantha McCubbin  
Vice-Captains – Meegan Taylor and Lachlan Hall

**Gwydir:**
Captains – Jai Morris and Millie Sutherland  
Vice-Captains – Andy Mitchell and Ashanti Fletcher

**Peel:**
Captains – Neil Harvey and Hope-Maree Withers  
Vice-Captains – Curtis Vickery-Baxter and Kaesha Cash.

*The Captains L to R:  
Front – Millie Sutherland, Hope-Maree Withers, Kaesha Cash, Ashanti Fletcher, Chalmonie Fletcher, Chelsea Yates and Meegan Taylor.  

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**Congratulations Mr Willis**

Congratulations to Jonathan and Amy Elliott who announced their engagement whilst on holiday in Hawaii.
Apology and Correction

Whilst the name, Kurt Sing, accompanying the photograph of the Primary Captains for 2015 was correct, in the article it was mistakenly written as Kurt Butcher in the final Newsletter for 2014. Apologies Kurt!

Secondary Sports

Welcome back to what is set to be another busy year in sport for Manilla Central School- Secondary site.

Welcome to Mr David Weekes who will be relieving Mrs Taylor’s position in the PDHPE and Sport areas whilst she is on Maternity leave.

HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2015 Announced!

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected by their peers to be leaders of their house for this year.

ADARA: Captains: Jeremy Murison, Chelsie Riley
Vice Captains: Lachlan Kemp, Sophie Kemp

SIRIUS: Captains: Matthew Pryce, Jada-Lee Sing
Vice Captains: Anthony Spires, Angel-Rae Kennedy- Boddy

ZEMOS: Captains: Ashley Arnold, Deklan Dixon
Vice Captains: Maree Coomer, Mackenzie Mackay.

This Wednesday, our Annual Swimming Carnival will be held at Manilla Memorial Pool, 9.00am for 9.30 start. All students are to report to the High School as per normal school day where rolls will be marked and then students will walk down to pool under staff supervision. Students will be dismissed from the pool at 3.10pm. If parents wish to collect their children any earlier, they can do so in person at the pool by signing out with one of our staff.

Parents and spectators are all welcome to come and support.

Important Dates to Remember for Term 1, 2015 - Zone and North West Sport :

- 20th February - Regional Secondary Swimming entries due
- 27th February - Secondary Boys and Girls Basketball Trials
- 6th March - Regional Swimming Carnival - Armidale
- 9th March - Secondary Boys and Girls waterpolo trials
- 10th March - Secondary Boys & Girls 15s and OPENS Touch Football Trials
- 24th March - Secondary winter trials (15s and Opens Rugby League, Soccer and Netball Trials)

Watch this space next week for the swimming carnival results and photos.
Need help managing stress or anxiety?
If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8-17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.
2015 Homework Planner

Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2015 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year.

Doing Well in Class

Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.

Eight Ways to Get Your Kids Organised

Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday's half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely.

Smart Foods to Boost Learning

Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory?

Parents Pool their Tips

Ask your child to write all their teachers' names on their timetables and make a copy for the fridge. If they have a mobile phone, have them take a photo of their timetable so they have it with them all the time. Read more tips from experienced parents.

Benefits of Team Sports

If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated.
Year 6 Farewell Lunch

At the end of 2014, Year 6 had their farewell luncheon at the RSL Club. The Lotus Flower Restaurant did an excellent job in catering for the event. It was wonderful to have so many family and friends supporting the students as they exited Primary School.

COMING EVENTS - WEEK 2

Mon, 2nd Feb  -
Tue, 3rd Feb   -
Wed, 4th Feb  Secondary Swimming Carnival
Thu, 5th Feb   -
Fri, 6th Feb   -

Manilla Central School, as a service to the school community, may publicise non-school events which may be of interest. Manilla Central School does not endorse or sponsor these events and accepts no responsibility for the service provided.

Tue, 10th Feb  2015 SCHOOL PHOTOS
Thu, 12th Feb  Primary Twilight Swimming Carnival