Welcome everyone to the 2016 school year. We would especially like to welcome our new families. Our school is fortunate to have so much to offer and a team of dedicated staff who strive at all times to do their very best for the children. I am sure that this year will be one where we achieve amazing things together. As a staff we have great plans for the year and a clear direction of where we would like to go. It is exciting and we will keep you updated. Our Newsletters come out on a Wednesday each fortnight and important information that we need to get out in between is emailed. We do aim to give you as much notice of events as we can.

Teaching Staff
This year we welcome Miss Ashley Mooney to our school. Miss Mooney is teaching Kindergarten. It looks like both students and teacher are settling in well.

I am teaching 1/2 with Mrs Stump, who takes the class when I am on principal duties.

Miss Hunt and Miss Paull have kept the students they had last year, they have just all moved up a year and grown taller over the holidays. Mrs Cameron will be taking the release of these two classes.

To inform you all of what is happening in our classrooms we will be hosting a parent information afternoon next Monday, 15th February 16. In these sessions we will look at our timetable, where parents can help in our classrooms, communication and homework. If you can make it we would love to see you. 1/2 will be at 3.20pm, K at 3.40pm, 3/4 at 4.00pm and 5/6 at 4.20pm.

We are supported by a great team of other staff. Mrs Hattingh supports students with Mini Lit, Multi Lit and Spell It, Mrs Jenny Holcombe in our office is able to assist you with all your questions and needs,
Mrs. Robyn Holcombe in the library each Wednesday to borrow and return books, Brett is responsible for that first impression of our grounds and May keeps our school clean after hours.

**School Leaders**  
Congratulations again to our School Leaders on their appointment to Parliament. Our Prime Minister is Stella Carolan, Deputy PM is George Powell, Treasurer is Lachlan O’Brien, Minister for Transport is George Wilkins and Sports Minister is Hamish Chappel. I look forward to meeting with them this week to make some short and long term plans.

**Assembly**  
This week the Parliament will lead their first assembly. As a staff we have looked at each week having a class present and item at assembly. This week Miss Hunt will start us off with a debate. We would love for you to join us at 2.45pm. There will be no assembly on the week of PSSA swimming in Narrabri.

**Sport and PE**  
This term we are trialling a new way of having sport. Each child will be put into a sport for a 5 week session, rather than doing class sport. This allows us to take advantage of the expertise of staff also. In Term 1 we are starting with cricket, swimming, tennis and games. Children will work out with their teacher which activity they will start with and any equipment they will require.

Swimming will now be done as PE for the next few weeks on a day during the week that suits the class and when a parent is available to assist. Each teacher will inform their class of when this will be. If you are available to assist, please contact your child’s teacher.

**Dates for the Year**  
At the end of last year we looked at the 2016 school calendar and planned all the dates we could. This includes PSSA sporting trials, excursions, sports carnivals and school terms. This calendar is attached to the newsletter. Please have a look and let us know if there is anything glaringly obvious we have overlooked or dates that are not going to work. Past newsletters, photos and all our school information can be found on the website and it is updated regularly. Have a look at:  

**Swimming Carnival**  
Next Tuesday, 16th February is our school swimming carnival. It is held at the Narrabri Pool and no busses run on the day. Parents need to have children to the pool for roll marking at 9.15am. Children are able to dress in house colours: Apollo Blue and Gemini Green. K/1 children are able to use a floatation aid to enter into freestyle and be part of the day. We will as always be looking for some parent assistance.

**NOTE**- The District PSSA carnival is on next Friday 19th February in Narrabri. This is only 3 days after our carnival. We need to send entries in straight after our carnival. Anyone 8 or over finishing in the top 2 in a final is eligible to be entered. On the day in Narrabri if you pull out of an event you are unable to compete again that day. For that reason, if your child is in top 2 in any event that they are not prepared to compete in at Narrabri, you need to let us know on the day.

It is cricket season with the following events planned:  
**Pink Stumps Day**  
Once again I thank Kim Powell for her organisation of our Pink Stumps day. We are being joined this year by Pilliga and Rowena schools. The following is information about the day.

**Pink Stumps Day in BJ is on Again in 2016**  
**When** - Friday 26th February from 9.30am  
**Where** - Burren Junction Town oval  
**Invited** – EVERYONE !

Please mark the date in your diaries and come along for a great day of cricket and fundraising for the McGrath Foundation.

Kathy Barber and Jake Packer from Cricket NSW will be there to ensure everyone gets involved and enjoys the Milo blast cricket format.

If anyone would like to contribute anything to sell on the day to raise money for the McGrath Foundation, please contact Kim Powell – kim@powellfarms.com.au or 0447964396

If you or anyone you know would like to donate online our Fundraising Page link is -  
Copy, paste and send this link to your friends

See you on the 26th and remember to wear PINK !

**Sam Holcombe Fundraiser**  
This weekend Burren Junction is hosting a fundraiser for Samantha Holcombe. Sam is a past student of BJPS and has been involved in cricket with our students a number of times in recent years. Attached to the newsletter is information about the day and a list of auction items. It should be a fun afternoon of cricket with 3 matches for your
entertainment. Thank you to everyone who has helped out with the event in any way. Many of the clubs and organisations from Burren are assisting in some way. Our P&C is running the drinks. On the day if you are able to assist selling drinks, even for a short time we would be most appreciative. I had a practise hit last weekend and can assure you I will not be one the selectors are looking at! Raffle tickets are $5 each and available for purchase at school if you are unable to make it on the day. There will be a working bee to set up the marquees after school on Friday, any help would be appreciated.

Exemption for wet weather clarification
After talking with the Home School Liaison Officer towards the end of last year she was able to clarify wet weather exemptions. This application for exemption will only be accepted when the council has deemed the road closed. Road closure information can be found at: http://www.narrabri.nsw.gov.au/index.cfm and http://www.walgett.nsw.gov.au/

Eisteddfod
Narrabri Eisteddfod will take place in May this year. Speech and Drama section is the 24th-26th May. Entries into these sections close on 27th February. If you would like your child to be nominated into any of the sections please fill in the attached form and return with money prior to Thursday 25th February. We cannot accept children verbally advising that they are entering. Sandy Shearer is once again happy to assist students, however will not be chasing up entries. We are unable to give a timetable at this stage, as it is dependent on entries. While we would love every child to compete in something, we are aware that multiple entries mean multiple trips to Narrabri. Please discuss the options with your children and return forms and money ASAP to the office.

I give permission for my child/ren ________________ to enter the following sections

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Signed ___________________ Total money included _______________