Athletics Carnival at Ulong
My apologies for any inconvenience caused with the postponement of the Ulong Athletics Carnival last week. We received the postponement notice after school hours on Wednesday, which made it difficult to try to contact all parents.

This situation highlighted a difficulty with communication to parents and carers outside school hours. I am looking at implementing the use of either the Schoolbag App or a school Facebook page, which could provide a solution to this problem.

A busy Term 3
The first month of Term 3 will be exceptionally busy. The following dates give an overview of what will be on during this time. Each activity will have a further detailed information note to go out early next term. So be prepared to be inundated with notes.

Week 1:
Monday 13th July: Staff Development Day.
Staff from our school will be joining other Orara Valley schools for a combined staff development day at Karangi Public School. The topic for the day will be ‘Kidsmatter’.

‘Kidsmatter Primary’ is a mental health and wellbeing initiative for Australian primary schools. It provides proven methods, resources and support to identify and implement whole-school strategies to improve student mental health and wellbeing.

I attended a training day for this initiative a few weeks ago, and will be sharing my training with staff from Lowanna and the other Orara Valley schools. I’m sure this will complement the welfare strategies we are currently implementing at Lowanna.

Thursday 16th July:
This is the new date for the Ulong Athletics Carnival. All lunch orders will carry over to this date.

Week 2:
Monday 20th July: ‘Musica Viva’ performance at Coramba

Tuesday 21st July:
Orara Valley Athletics Carnival

Week 3 - Education Week
Monday 27th July: School Performance at Park Beach Plaza

Wednesday 29th July: Open Day at school which will also incorporate Book Week, with a Book Fair and Book Week Parade. Start to think creatively for book character parade costumes for your children.

Friday 31st July: Orara Valley Principals’ Meeting.

Week 4:
Thursday/Friday 6th and 7th August: Principals’ Conference in Coffs Harbour.
Learning lots at school

Student Reports
School reports will go home on Thursday 25\textsuperscript{th} June.

Every Day Counts

\textbf{Primary School Attendance}

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important:
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

\textbf{Getting in early}
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.
What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they are ill.

It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term, if it can be avoided.

**Day off** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, please contact us to let us know, or write a note with an explanation for their absence.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with their classroom teacher as early as possible.

Kind Regards,
Alison Hawken
Our fabulous new School Office

Lowanna P&C News
Don’t forget our last day of term this Friday is an extra special event, a **Mufti Day**, where we farewell Mrs Benfield who will be on maternity leave ‘til next year.

Our P&C will have a special recess and lunch to celebrate for just a **gold coin**!

No regular canteen on Friday.

**What’s coming up at school?**

**Friday 26/6**  
*Mufti Day* - last day of term  
*Gold coin* = special P&C recess and lunch!

**Happy Holidays!**

**Week 1**  
**Monday 13/7**  
Staff Development Day  
**Tuesday 14/7**  
Students return - Term 3  
**Thursday 16/7**  
Ulong Athletics Carnival

**Week 2**  
**Monday 20/7**  
‘*Musica Viva*’ at Coramba  
**Tuesday 21/7**  
OV Athletics Carnival

**Week 3 - Education Week**  
**Monday 27/7**  
School Performance at Park Beach Plaza  
**Wednesday 29/7**  
Open Day, Book Week, Book Fair and Book Week Parade  
**Friday 31st July:**  
OV Principals’ Meeting

**Week 4:**  
**Thurs/Friday 6&7/8**  
Principals’ Conference