

An Introduction to...

Bellata

Public School



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subject:

Our School
What is so special about our school?
General Information
School Award System
Accommodation and Grounds
Canteen
School Aims
Curriculum
School Uniform
Support Services
Homework
School Banking
Written Notes
School Fees
Bus Travel
Parents & Citizens Association
Newsletter
Computers
Sport and Physical Education
Creative Arts
Intensive Swimming

Kindergarten:

Age
Injections
Checkups
What to Take to School
Children's Health
What your child learns
English
Maths
H.S.I.E.
Science and Technology
Expressing
Art
Children's Safety
Enjoying your children's school life
Helping them learn

BELLATA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mission Statement

**“Proud to be aiming for excellence in education,
using the many strengths of the small school situation.”**

School Features

Situated off the main highway, Bellata Public School has some well grassed play and shaded areas and tree-lined boundaries. The school is a two classroom and library facility.

The school was established in 1899.

Bellata Public School receives many Kindergarten students from the Mobile Pre-school and sends many students into Narrabri and Moree High Schools and Farrer Agricultural High School in Tamworth, as well as many other private boarding schools.



WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT OUR SCHOOL?

Each child is treated as an individual.

Children who attend this school have the opportunity to further grow and develop intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, aesthetically, morally and spiritually.

They have the opportunity to experience and participate in teaching and learning programs which are designed to help them take their place in, and contribute to, society.

The school actively promotes a caring and safe atmosphere. Student welfare and discipline are high priorities.

Basic skills are tested for Years 3 and 5 in May in the newly introduced NAPLAN exams. Year 6 are tested in computers.

Students are given every opportunity and are encouraged to participate in extra - curricula activities such as eisteddfods, debating, public speaking, writing and poetry competitions, local shows, representative sport, external English, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Computer competitions and other extra curricula activities. Commendable successes have been achieved in all of these areas.

Each classroom has up-to-date computer facilities.

The school has been classified as a Country Areas Program (CAP) school, acknowledging it as being geographically isolated. Each year the school runs a number of exciting CAP programs.



GENERAL INFORMATION

BELLATA PUBLIC SCHOOL,
GURLEY STREET,
BELLATA, N.S.W., 2397.

Telephone 02 - 67937514

Facsimile 02 - 67937462

E-mail bellata-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

ROUTINES

Monday to Friday	8.45am	School opens
	9.00am	Morning lessons commence
	11.00am	Recess
	11.20am	Mid-morning lessons commence
	1.05pm	Lunch
	1.45pm	Afternoon lessons commence
	2.45pm	Lessons cease
	2.50pm	Assembly
	3.00pm	Students dismissed.

SCHOOL COLOURS

Maroon and Gold

SPORTS HOUSES AND COLOURS

Chappell - Maroon

Goolagong - Gold

STAFF DIRECTORY

Mrs Vivianne Fouracre	Principal
Miss Melinda Squire	Teacher
Mrs Helen Hubbard	Part-Time Teacher / RFF Teacher / Librarian
Mrs Gail Eulenstein	Senior School Assistant (Admin)
Mrs Mary Anne McPherson	Senior School Assistant (Admin)
Mr Ivan Bettens	General Assistant

SCHOOL AWARD SYSTEM

An ongoing award system, carrying over from year to year, with various levels of achievement has been established.

This is how it works:

7 yellow cards = 1 maroon card
7 maroon cards = 1 gold card
3 gold cards = 1 honour badge

Students can earn yellow cards for assembly awards, good class work, excellent behaviour and good manners, for being resourceful and responsible, for commendable playground behaviour and for reaching certain targets within individual classrooms.

ACCOMMODATION AND GROUNDS

Our accommodation is of timber construction.

Every room is air-conditioned for summer and heated in winter.

The rooms are light and airy, creating congenial working environments.

Emphasis is placed on displaying children's work and promoting their efforts.

The library is very well resourced.

The school covers an area of 1.5 hectares, including watered grass play areas and landscaped gardens.

A large play area is used for soccer, hockey, cricket, softball, T-ball, basketball, netball and volleyball.

There is fixed equipment, climbing equipment, a timber fort and a shaded sand pit area.

The school is fortunate to have both the Tennis Club and Golf Club within easy access.



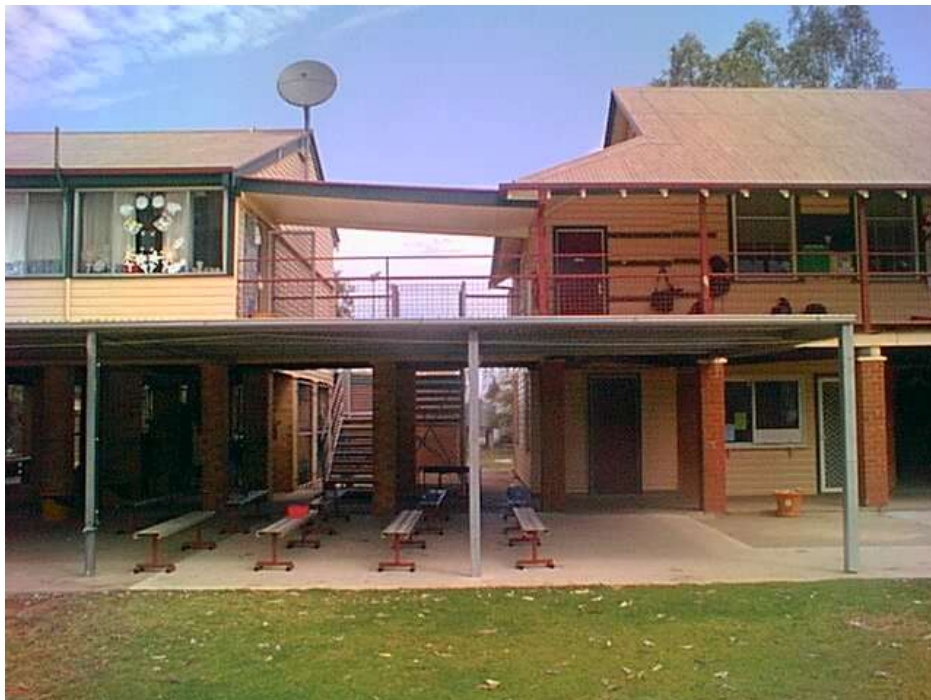


CANTEEN

The school is serviced by a volunteer canteen on Fridays.

Children order lunches by writing their name, class and order on a paper bag, including the correct money where possible and placing it in the container outside the canteen.

The canteen offers a variety of nutritious, well-priced foods. Price lists are periodically sent home.



BELLATA SCHOOL AIMS

- * To teach and appropriately develop the basic skills of literacy, communication, investigation, problem-solving and expression.
- * To provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge, understandings, attitudes and values.
- * To provide a curriculum that meets the needs of children and resources that complement current trends in education and society.
- * To encourage children to pursue cultural interests and healthy physical activity.
- * To create an environment that is conducive to learning and where tolerance, co-operation and friendship prevail.
- * To foster a co-operative relationship between school and community and encourage parent participation in school activities

CURRICULUM

The school provides a well-balanced program of educational experiences for all students in the six Key Learning Areas. These are:

English
Mathematics
Science and Technology
Human Society and Its Environment
Health, Physical Education and Personal Development
Creative and Practical Arts

The Curriculum documents issued by the Department of Education and Training form the basis for the planned learning experiences.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



The wearing of a school uniform is actively encouraged at Bellata Public School. A metal **school badge** is available for purchase from the school.

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING

GIRLS

Summer

Maroon/white check dress. Orders available through the P&C.

Brown sandals/black leather shoes and white ankle socks

Maroon school printed sloppy joe may be worn.

School hat - available from school

Winter

Slacks - Maroon/grey check. Orders available through P&C.

Midford brand lemon blouse

Maroon school printed sloppy joe

School tie

Black leather shoes, white ankle socks or black stockings

Dress - Maroon/grey check with gold stripe tunic. Orders available through P&C.

Lemon long-sleeved Midford brand blouse (no skivvies)

School tie

Black leather shoes, white ankle socks or black stockings

Maroon school printed sloppy joe

N.B. The winter dress uniform is to be worn on all official occasions.

BOYS

Summer

Grey shorts
Lemon short-sleeved shirt
Brown sandals or black leather shoes with grey socks
Maroon school printed sloppy joe may be worn.
School hat - available from school

Winter

Long grey trousers or grey shorts
Lemon long-sleeved shirt
School tie
Black leather shoes with grey socks
Maroon school printed sloppy joe

SPORTS UNIFORM

Girls

Maroon pleated sports skirt with maroon or black gym pants
OR maroon shorts
Gold polo T-shirt with collar and printed school logo
Sports shoes with white socks
School hat
Maroon trackpants may be worn in winter instead of skirts.
Skirts and trackpants should not be worn together.

Boys

Maroon shorts
Gold polo T-shirt with collar and printed school logo
School hat
Sports shoes and white socks
Maroon trackpants may be worn.

Sports day is Friday. Students should wear their sports uniform on that day.



SUPPORT SERVICES

Our school enjoys the services of a number of student support services.

School Counsellor

Available to assist with individual assessments, counselling and assistance regarding behaviour.

Speech Therapist

From Community Health; is available to establish individual programs with students.

Community Nurse

Available to assist in all health related issues and activities.

Dental Clinic

Available at Narrabri District Hospital Phone 67-921666

Visiting Clergy

Provide religious development and instruction for all denominations once per week.



HOMEWORK

Homework provides a natural link between the school and the home. At home students should have the opportunity to practise, consolidate and extend the work of the classroom. They should be given opportunities to develop home study habits.

In addition to incidental homework tasks, regular **home-reading** is expected. All students will be given a Homework text in which homework is to be completed each week.

It is recommended that each day parents:

- *Discuss the events of the school day with your child.
- *Review tables and spelling with your child.
- *Listen to your child read or read with them.
- *Check for any notes or information from school.

SCHOOL BANKING

Students may open a Commonwealth Bank account at school. Banking is conducted by our Senior School Assistant, Mrs Gail Eulenstein, on **Mondays**. Students bring their money in their deposit book. Application forms are available from the school office.

WRITTEN NOTES

Absence from school

When a student is absent from school, be it for sickness or for any other reason, an absence note, explaining the absence, should be sent to the class teacher upon the student's return. Please ensure that all notes explaining absences are dated.

If your child is likely to be absent a number of days, we would appreciate a phone call or a message passed on to us about the impending absence.

Absences for which no note of explanation is received, or absences where good reason is not given, must be recorded as an "absence without reason". We are required by law to do this. Officers of the Department of Education and Training visit the school periodically (at least 4 times a year) to check our class rolls for high or frequently unexplained absenteeism. They then follow up by visiting parents.

SCHOOL FEES

Each year parents are required to pay a Textbook Fee. This fee is a portion of the total cost of textbooks that are issued to students. The rest of the cost is met by the school and the P&C. Once textbooks are received in the school, the fee is calculated. It is usually about \$50 per student.

Please note that this is not an optional fee. It may be paid in instalments.

BUS TRAVEL

All out-of-town students have free bus travel. Two country buses, one East and one West, deliver and collect students each school day.

Bus proprietors are:

Mr Ivan Bettens 02 - 67546837 (east)
Mr John Murphy 0439 255510 (west)

Some students are eligible for a travel (conveyance) subsidy to drive their children to their nearest bus pick-up point. Details and application forms are available from the school office.

PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

The school has a very supportive and active P&C Association to which all are welcome.

The P&C meets the fourth Monday of each month in the school library, currently 7pm. Membership is \$2.

The prime objects of the P&C are:

- to promote the interest of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation;
- to assist in providing the equipment and resources required by the school.

NEWSLETTER

Each Tuesday a newsletter is sent to each family via the eldest student in the family. This highlights school, P&C and community activities.

Please check your child's bag every Tuesday for the school newsletter.

CREATIVE ARTS

Music/Drama and Dance are part of the school curriculum. Suzie Tibbett comes in to teach dance and Mrs McPherson teaches music/drama to all students.

COMPUTERS

The school is well equipped with computers and interactive whiteboards for use in classrooms. All the computers are intranetted. (linked). Students K-6 are exposed to a wide variety of activities. They have Internet access. The school also has an Interactive Whiteboard in both classrooms.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Friday is sports day. Physical Education lessons occur at least once a week.

The emphasis is on participation, enjoyment and skill development. We aim to provide as wide a variety of sports and games as possible. All students are given opportunities to develop skills in athletics, team sports and swimming.

The school competes in a small schools athletics carnival with the Western district small schools. Students in Years 3-6 are encouraged to participate in PSSA sports. There is a Bellata Swimming carnival held in term 1 each year.

INTENSIVE SWIMMING

Each year the school holds an intensive swimming school. This is usually held in November at the Narrabri pool. All children are encouraged to attend. K-2 and any poor swimmers from 3-6 go to the pool for 2 weeks and the remainder 3-6 go for the second week only.

KINDERGARTEN

IS MY CHILD OLD ENOUGH TO START SCHOOL?

The Department of Education and Training guidelines state that children must be 5 years of age by 31st July in their year of enrolment in Kindergarten.

However, from our experience of observing children over many years, it is the older, more mature child who has the greater advantage in adapting to the learning environment of the school. Conversely, it is the younger, less mature child who usually experiences difficulties and delay in adapting to the school environment.

We recommend, for the benefit of your child, that (s)he be close to 5 years of age or older at the beginning of the school year.

You must provide the school with proof of your child's age prior to enrolment. A birth certificate, hospital card or Baptismal record is sufficient. Please bring this proof along when returning the enrolment form.

DOES MY CHILD NEED IMMUNISATION?

It is recommended that your child has up to date immunisation prior to enrolment. Immunisation to combat tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria and measles are recommended.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents of children starting in Kindergarten class of primary school to provide an Immunisation Certificate at the time of school enrolment.

DOES MY CHILD NEED A CHECK-UP?

Examinations by your doctor and dentist are encouraged.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO TAKE TO SCHOOL?

Students are expected to take their lunch, play lunch, a water bottle and a library bag. Kindergarten students will be provided with their stationery requirements.

If other items are needed, a note will be sent home detailing them.

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

Starting school is a big change for children.

There are some things you can do to make your school a happier place for your child. Over the next few months, try to let your child get used to.....

- putting on and taking off clothes
- putting on and doing up shoes
- eating and drinking without help
- carrying and using a tissue or handkerchief

It is important that your child knows how to.....

- use and flush a toilet
- ask clearly for things
- say their name and address
- cross a road safely

Also, try to get your child used to.....

- recognizing their own name in lower case letters
- playing with groups of children the same age
- sharing toys and taking turns at activities
- staying at a friend's or relative's house for a few hours without you around
- caring for and putting away play things



ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Regular attendance is very important to your child's success at school, **BUT**, keep your child at home if they have a sore throat, runny nose, coughing, diarrhoea, skin rash, inflamed eyes, nausea, ear ache or any common contagious disease.

The Department of Education and Training requires that parents send a note to the class teacher to give reasons why your child was absent from school. Whilst a phone call is always welcome, it is not sufficient.

Let your children know that school is important by establishing routines for:

- going to bed early, getting up early, dressing, eating...
- arriving cheerfully on time, ready to learn

A HEALTH PROBLEM which may affect all schools is **head lice** (nits).

Check your child's hair regularly and don't be surprised or upset if your child gets them. Many children do. Please inform us immediately if your family has an outbreak of head lice as early notification to the students can control a major outbreak.

Head lice, nits, don't do any harm but they do make the head feel itchy. We have information at school on how to treat the problem and your chemist will be helpful.

It is suggested that you organize a pre-school Screening for your child with Community Health. This screening will test such things as hearing and eyesight.



WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD LEARN?

When asked, “What did you do at school today?”, many children will reply, “Nothing much” or “We just played”.

In fact, the children do many different things which may be called “play” but which are actually an important part of learning

It is important to remember that all children learn at different rates.

Please do not expect your child to achieve particular skills at the same time, or earlier than other children.

ENGLISH

Your child will be learning to read books as well as other signs, labels, names and pictures.

The children will

- be writing their own names
- be writing their own stories
- begin to develop their handwriting skills
- learn to listen to and follow instructions
- learn new words, new ways to make sentences and new ways to express their ideas
- use their own language as a basis for reading activities
- listen to stories and poems
- act out short stories

MATHEMATICS

Number, Space, Measurement and Working Mathematically

Your child will be introduced to the basic concepts of:

- groups
- numbers 1 - 10
- informal measurements and shapes
- looking for patterns and relationships in all sorts of materials
- the meanings of some mathematical terms
- preliminary problem solving

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)

Students will develop;

- a better understanding of themselves and others
- an ability to talk about themselves and their families
- an understanding of the local environment

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science is more than a body of knowledge. It is also a process of investigation. Technology is concerned with the purposeful and creative use of resources in an effort to meet perceived needs or goals.

Students will develop:

- an enriched view of themselves, society, the environment and the future
- an enthusiasm for future learning of science and technology

EXPRESSING

Art, Craft, Music, Physical Education, Health and Safety

Students will enjoy the world of music through singing, responding and playing. They will learn to express themselves, their feelings and their creative ideas by painting, modelling, drawing and constructing.

They will learn about safety, health and good manners.

Each child will be involved in activities to develop skills in climbing, throwing, catching, running, skipping and balancing.

ART

It is recommended that you send along an old shirt, apron or smock, labelled with your child's name, to be kept at school and used for protecting clothes when painting or pasteing.



ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY

Help your child to learn:

- their first and last name
- their address
- their phone number
- their parents' names
- that school is an enjoyable experience and an important part of their future

Teach them that they must:

- refuse rides with strangers
- ask before putting something unfamiliar in their mouths
- cross streets safely and at corners and crossings
- not step out between parked cars or in front of or behind buses
- remain seated in buses and not kneel on the seats facing the rear of the bus
- not ride a bicycle without a helmet (or without an adult until they are 10 years old)
- always get out of a car on the passenger's side, even if they are in the back seat



ENJOY YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL LIFE

Our school tries to be open and friendly, and parents are welcome in the classrooms.

*Visit your school:

- gain information about Kindergarten programs.
- talk with your child's teacher if you are having difficulties with your child at home, or if your child is having difficulties at school.
- observe classroom activities.
- find out if there is anything you can do to help your child at home.

*Take an active part in:

- P&C the fourth Monday of each month
- Canteen and other school groups

*Volunteer your help:

- assist your child's teacher on request
- share your hobbies and collections with students
- explain your job or work
- share pictures of a trip
- P&C activities

*Assist in activities such as:

- going on excursions
- reading to groups of children
- helping out with art / craft / writing / maths/reading groups
- helping with sport
- helping with computer

*Try to:

- look in your child's bag each day for pieces of work etc.
- have a special place to pin up your child's work
- show you are interested in what your child is doing at school
- reply to school requests promptly
- read the school newsletter each Tuesday
- advise the teacher / school of any planned absences
- contact the school to clarify any matter

TO HELP THEM LEARN

Give them responsibilities.

Encourage your child to:

- put away toys
- hang up own clothes
- do simple household chores
- listen to others
- help brothers and sisters
- consider the feelings of others

Imitation is a way of learning. help your child to be a good listener and to show consideration for others by setting a good example.

- wash hands before a meal
- brush teeth after meals
- wash hands after going to the toilet

Do you:

- share their school experience
- read them a story every day
- refrain from comparing your child to others
- talk to your child about what they do at school
- speak positively about teachers and classmates
- write messages for your child in lower case letters
- walk with your child
- encourage them to acquire interests
- ask them to share the school day with you

