



#### Value of the Week

**Excellence.** We do our best to achieve excellence. Have you done your best?

#### School Calendar

##### December

- 14** Primary End of Year Assembly
- 15** Secondary End of Year Assembly  
Matt Smith Music Memorial  
1pm – 3pm
- 16** Last Day of Term 4

##### January

- 30** Years 1-6 Return  
Years 7, 11 & 12 Return
- 31** Kinder, Years 8, 9 & 10 Return

**BCS welcome students from:**

**Booral, Bungwahl, Coolongolook,  
Karuah, St Joseph's, Stroud & Tea Gardens**

**to orientation day for  
Year 7 2017.**



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## ➤ PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

### **Australia's declining international performance**

Anyone reading the papers or listening to the radio over the last week would have heard about Australia's 2015 PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) results and the fact we appear to be making very poor progress as compared to other countries. It has even been suggested we are going backwards. Some of the recent headlines were certainly alarming, *"Why Australia's PISA results are a catastrophe"* (Financial Review), *"PISA results don't look good"* (ABC News) *"Australian schools are in 'absolute decline globally",* says PISA report (ABC News), *"Australian school students two years behind world's best performing systems"* (Brisbane Times) but I believe we need to keep a level head and analyse what the implications are for not only Bulahdelah Central School but education across the state.

We would hope that these results aren't going to be used to justify significant changes to the current funding arrangements or to once again blame schools and their teachers. Student performance is a very complex area and research by such people as John Hattie point out those individual and family characteristics which have four to eight times the impact on student achievement which is significantly more impact than teachers have on a student's achievement. This is of course not to lessen the important role we, as educators, have on improving the outcomes of our students.

Those of you who have followed the Gonski funding story would be aware that *The Gonski Report* concluded that investing as early as possible in high quality education for all students presented a cost-efficient strategy that would have the greatest impact on improving overall performance. We are yet to see the full funding delivered to school and as I've written previously,

there is a danger that this may not happen if the Federal Government changes the funding agreement signed between them and the NSW Government.

Interestingly the Gonski review of school funding actually predicted that Australian students would continue to decline in academic achievement if something wasn't done about ensuring an equitable resource allocation to schools. These latest results from PISA, highlight the concerns about equity and resource allocation in education. The Australian Education Union says the results shows the urgent need for investment in disadvantaged schools through the full six years of needs-based Gonski funding to 2019. It's important that our school continue to be able to implement our programs funded under the Gonski needs-based school funding if we want to see real change in both teaching and learning, change that is actually embedded into our school. If we were to lose that funding our current and future students would be put at a real disadvantage compared to those students in bigger centres and bigger schools.

Your child and our students deserve to be funded at an adequate level that reflects their different needs and enables resources to be directed to where they are needed most. Our students should be allowed to achieve their very best regardless of their background or circumstances and it is only through the continued provision of a well-resourced, high quality education that this will become a reality.

### **Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year**

The years seem to go quicker with every passing year. Next year will bring its own challenges and rewards. I look forward to again working with an outstanding staff and community to continue the work in making Bulahdelah Central School a school that we can all be proud of now and into the future.

All the best for the festive season and I hope you all have a happy and prosperous new year. *Don Hudson*



*This Christmas we wish that all your hopes and desires come true. May the Christmas magic make all your aspirations and dreams real.*

*As you relish the goodies, decorate every nook and corner of your home and enjoy the get-togethers...*

*May the joy and festivities continue to radiate in your lives, long after Christmas is gone.  
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!*

*From the staff of Bulahdelah Central -  
Merry Christmas!*





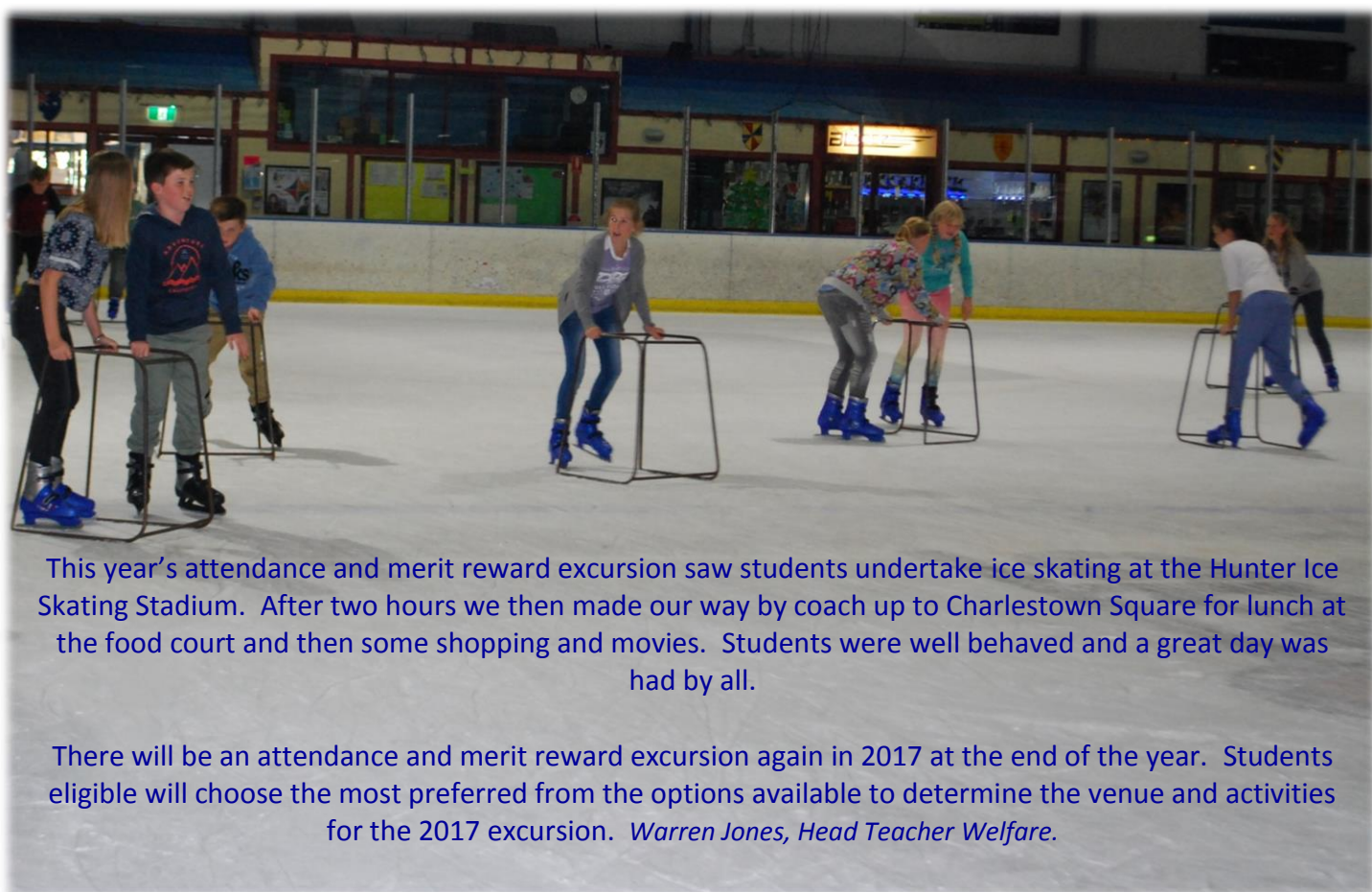
### ➤ DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:

As we conclude another year of teaching and learning at BCS, I reflect on our successful students and staff who have extended their learning and expertise throughout the year.

For some, success is reflected in gaining academic recognition such as being at the top of the class or improving their ranking, for others it may be gaining knowledge in an area that they have been persevering in. For many it is personal satisfaction of applying themselves diligently throughout the year or getting work submitted on time.

Some students and staff will be proud of their sporting achievements, or their creative triumphs. For some it will be about creating and maintaining social relationships at a personal or professional level. Whatever it is that you look back on for the last twelve months with a sense of pride and success, at whatever level, I hope that the staff and students have been a supportive contributing factor to your happiness.

I would like to wish all the staff, students and volunteers of Bulahdelah Central a safe, relaxing and enjoyable break and look forward to seeing everyone in 2017. *Deb Gilbert*



This year's attendance and merit reward excursion saw students undertake ice skating at the Hunter Ice Skating Stadium. After two hours we then made our way by coach up to Charlestown Square for lunch at the food court and then some shopping and movies. Students were well behaved and a great day was had by all.

There will be an attendance and merit reward excursion again in 2017 at the end of the year. Students eligible will choose the most preferred from the options available to determine the venue and activities for the 2017 excursion. *Warren Jones, Head Teacher Welfare.*





Bulahdelah Central School students have already begun their studies for 2017. The new Year 11 Hospitality class is off to a brilliant start under the compacted curriculum mode. The students have fewer subjects and are studying their courses at twice the speed of the traditional classes resulting in the class already completing an impressive amount of work to do with hygiene and safety in the commercial preparation of food. Of course we are greatly benefited by having the commercial Trade Training Centre available for the students to use for their practical lessons. This allows the practical lessons to be a much more valid and authentic experience.



In their first practical lesson students produced a variety of delicious freshly baked breads. The students used the Hobart mixer, combi oven and commercial dishwasher for the first time. As you can see the results were very impressive.



The second practical lesson was Apple Galettes where the class used paring knives to slice the apples and cut the pastry. An emphasis was placed on the presentation of the food, both an individual and catering plate.

*Liz Smith, Hospitality Teacher.*





### ➤ REL. DEP. PRI.

In the last Newsletter for 2016 the busy Primary schedule keeps moving along quickly.

Today we had our final Primary

Assembly and awarded many students with the 'Premier's Reading Challenge' and 'Sporting Challenge' certificates, as well as two 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' (PBL) Awards to Thomas McInerney and Polly Sullivan. Semester Two reports are being sent home with students this week. Wednesday's assembly is a marvellous opportunity to acknowledge the many students who have worked soundly in their academic and school pursuits this year. I do hope to see you at school on Wednesday morning, 14<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 10:30am.

On Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, Year 6 are celebrating their graduation from Primary with an excursion to Inflatable World in Taree. Mrs McDonald and I will accompany the students on their graduation celebration. As Friday arrives, we will farewell not only our Year 6 students as they embark on their journey to High School next year but also to all students as they complete their 2016 classes. A reminder to all students that they are expected to attend school up to, and including, Friday.

The busy week, term and year have been supported and led by our wonderful Primary staff and assisted by the School Office and Secondary faculties. I would like to thank all teachers and staff who have supported our Primary students in 2016. Many committed efforts have gone into making the best educational opportunities possible for our students this year. It has been wonderful to join Bulahdelah Central School this year and to work alongside such dedicated teachers and staff. Thank you also to the efforts of our parents and school community in supporting our students in 2016. I thank also, all Primary students for your efforts and participation in class, school and community events in 2016.

By your efforts I have seen potential come to life, success come from persistence and celebration come from dedication. May your efforts continue to climb in your academic learning next year.

In 2017 we will be busily starting the year with a new program arriving for K-2 students. The Early Action For Success (EAFS) initiative will bring additional support to all Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two students in both English and Mathematics. This four year program will support our K-2 students as they begin the early years of their education. The Language, Literacy and Learning (L3) will continue to develop and support K-2 students and we will embark on extending this educational framework into more senior classes.

I invite parents and school community members to assist the education of our students by joining as a P&C member in 2017. By participating in P&C our Primary students will have the support that as an educational community we can achieve. I am very keen to work with all teachers, staff, parents and school community members next year in planning and delivering engaging, contemporary and challenging educational programs for all our students. Please join us in our Primary education journey at Bulahdelah Central School.

Merry Christmas to all students, staff, teachers and school community members of Bulahdelah Central School. *Rod Pye*





Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated on the day following Christmas Day, when servants and tradesmen would traditionally receive gifts known as a "Christmas box" from their masters, employers or customers, in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth nations. Boxing Day occurs on 26<sup>th</sup> December, although the attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place either on that day or a day later.

In the liturgical calendar of Western Christianity, Boxing Day is the second day of Christmastide, and also St. Stephen's Day. In some European countries, notably Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and Scandinavia, 26<sup>th</sup> December is celebrated as a Second Christmas Day.

Various competing theories for the origins of the term circulate in popular culture, none of which are definitive. The *Oxford English Dictionary* gives the earliest attestations from England in the 1830s, defining it as *"the first week-day after Christmas-day, observed as a holiday on which post-men, errand-boys, and servants of various kinds expect to receive a Christmas-box"*.

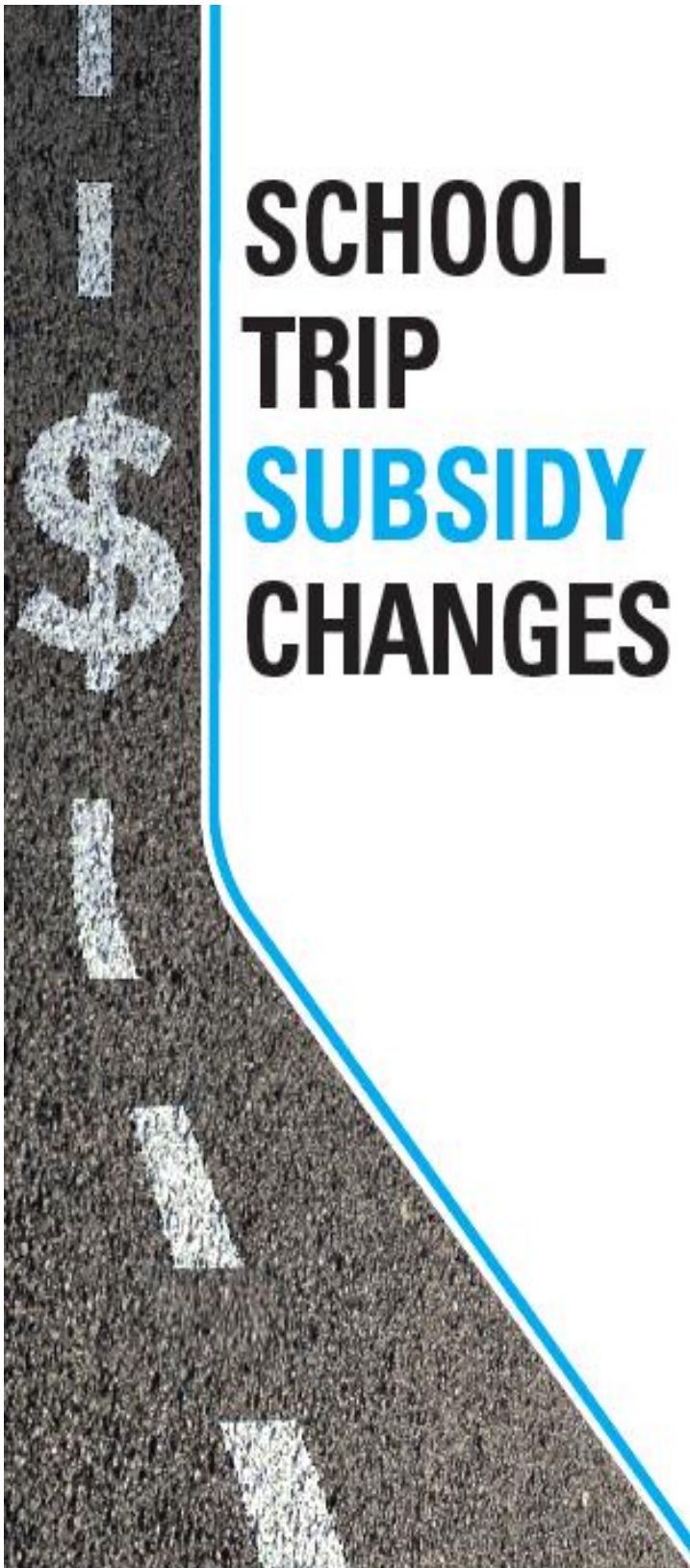
The term "Christmas-box" dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and among other things meant: A present or gratuity given at Christmas: in Great Britain, usually confined to gratuities given to those who are supposed to have a vague claim upon the donor for services rendered to him as one of the general public by whom they are employed and paid, or as a customer of their legal employer; the undefined theory being that as they have done offices for this person, for which he has not directly paid them, some direct acknowledgement is becoming at Christmas.

In Britain, it was a custom for tradespeople to collect "Christmas boxes" of money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas as thanks for good service throughout the year. This is mentioned in Samuel Pepys' diary entry for 19<sup>th</sup> December 1663. This custom is linked to an older English tradition: since they would have to wait on their masters on Christmas Day, the servants of the wealthy were allowed the next day to visit their families. The employers would give each servant a box to take home containing gifts, bonuses and sometimes leftover food.

The European tradition, which has long included giving money and other gifts to those who were needy and in service positions, has been dated to the Middle Ages, but the exact origin is unknown. It is believed to be in reference to the Alms Box placed in areas of worship to collect donations to the poor. Also, it may come from a custom in the late Roman/early Christian era, wherein metal boxes placed outside churches were used to collect special offerings tied to the Feast of Saint Stephen, which in the Western Church falls on the same day as Boxing Day.







# SCHOOL TRIP SUBSIDY CHANGES

## What's happening?

**From 20 December 2016, the Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy will be progressively phased out and replaced with the new School Drive Subsidy.**

This change will make it fairer for everyone who drives their children to school or to the nearest public transport location.

If you're a parent or guardian currently receiving the PVC subsidy, you can choose to stay on it or switch to the new School Drive Subsidy after 17 January 2017.

## What are the main changes?

If you're driving one or more eligible students from the same household to the nearest public transport pick up point or to school, the new School Drive Subsidy will be paid 'per trip' (for the complete school trip). This 'per trip' payment is different from the current PVC subsidy, which is paid 'per student'.

Other differences include:

- A flat per kilometre rate (indexed annually to the cost of living) will apply under the School Drive Subsidy, unlike the flat payment per distance band in the current PVC subsidy.
- The requirement to do a special return trip each morning and afternoon will be removed.
- The 300km per trip payment cap will be removed.
- The limit of eight trips per year for distance education students to attend mini-schools during term time will be removed.
- The PVC subsidy rates will remain at 2017 levels in 2018 and beyond.
- Payments to third parties will stop (e.g. payments to a bus operator hired by parents from pooled PVC subsidy payments).

Note, you can't be on two schemes at the same time.

If you add new students after 17 January 2017, **all** eligible students will automatically go onto the new School Drive Subsidy, including existing PVC subsidy students.



## How do I check which scheme is better for me?

Check the comparison calculator at [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive)

## What do I need to do?

**If you want to stay on the existing PVC subsidy, you don't need to do anything.**

Assuming the school trip doesn't change, your payments will continue for all existing students until they leave school or until you need to re-apply because a student is moving up to Year 7 at high school.

If the school trip changes because you move homes or the student changes schools, you will need to re-apply under the new School Drive Subsidy.

Remember, you can't re-apply for the PVC subsidy after 20 December 2016, but you can switch to the new School Drive Subsidy at any time after 17 January 2017.

**If you want to switch to the new School Drive Subsidy, apply online at [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive)**

Just like the PVC subsidy, payments will be made twice a year, around August and February, based on the student's school attendance for the preceding semester.

The online application process only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete.

If you don't have access to the internet, feel free to call **131 500** for assistance.

After you've applied and been approved for the School Drive Subsidy, payments will be made automatically into your bank account twice a year.

You won't have to re-apply until a student reaches the end of Year 6, or until you next update any details — such as a change of school, school trip or address.

## What happens if I stay on PVC now but want to add a new child later?

For new eligible students, you can either:

- Add the new student into the new School Drive Subsidy and also switch the existing students to the new scheme, or:
- Stay on the current PVC subsidy where existing students are covered, but not add any new students and not receive any additional subsidy.

## What are the distance requirements under the School Drive Subsidy?

School year band	Minimum distance to school/TAFE		Minimum distance to the nearest public transport pick up point (where available)
Infants and Primary students (Years K-6)	More than 1.6km straight line distance OR at least 2.3km walking distance	AND	More than 1.6km straight line distance OR at least 2.3km walking distance
Secondary students (Years 7-12)	More than 2.0km straight line distance OR at least 2.9km walking distance		More than 2.0km straight line distance OR at least 2.9km walking distance
TAFE	More than 3.2km walking distance		More than 2.0km straight line distance OR at least 2.9km walking distance

You can read about these changes in more detail at [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive)

## Frequently asked questions

### Which will be better for me – PVC or School Drive Subsidy?

It depends on:

- How many children you have on the scheme.
- The type of school they attend (boarding school, day school or mini-school).
- The distance you need to drive.
- If you have children to add to your school trips in the future.

You should consider staying on the PVC subsidy if you're receiving a PVC subsidy for more than one child.

We suggest you check which scheme is better for your individual circumstances by using the online comparison calculator at [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive)

### What are the School Drive Subsidy rates?

You can find the latest rates for the School Drive Subsidy and the PVC at [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive)

**The deadline for new applications for the existing PVC subsidy is 20 December 2016.**

Keep in mind, if you stay on the current PVC subsidy, you won't be able to add new students after 17 January 2017 without switching **all** the existing PVC students to the new School Drive Subsidy.

### Need more information?

Find out more, including examples of school trips, at [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive) or call **131 500**.

TRC/PVC DL/ TD 004 10/2016



Transport  
for NSW

*William Shakespeare  
invented the word  
"assassination".*

*Believe it  
or Not!  
or Not!*

back to  
School



**RESUMPTION DATES FOR  
STUDENTS**

**TERM 1 2017 ARE:**

**MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> January**

**Years 1-6**

**Years 7, 11 & 12**

**TUESDAY 31<sup>TH</sup> January**

**Kindergarten**

**Years 8, 9, 10**



➤ **UNIFORMS:**



## BULAHDELAH NEWSAGENCY

situated in Stroud Street, now stocks the BCS girls' uniform - navy skirts, shorts and long pants.

**Open:**

Monday to Friday 6am – 5pm

Saturday 6am – 12noon

Sunday 6am – 12noon

Navy Skirts	Sizes 2-18	\$25
Navy Shorts	Sizes 2-18	\$35
Navy Long Pants	Sizes 4-18	\$44

BCS UNIFORM PRICE LIST 2016		
ITEM	SIZE	TOTAL COST
<b>SCHOOL SHIRTS</b>		
School Shirt - LW Reid		\$25.00
Senior School Shirt (white)		\$25.00
<b>SPORTS UNIFORM</b>		
Sport Shirt		\$25.00
Sport Shorts		\$20.00
<b>JUMPERS</b>		
Hooded Jumpers	4 - 14Y	\$40.00
	14 - 24	\$45.00
<b>PRIMARY</b>		
Primary Check Shift	4 - 8	\$40.00
	10 - 12	\$45.00
	14 - 22	\$55.00
Primary Hats		\$10.00
Navy Unisex Shorts		\$15.00
<b>SAFETY GEAR &amp; CALCULATORS</b>		
Apron		\$8.00
Safety Glasses		\$5.00
Calculators		\$23.00
<b>ART BOOKS</b>		
Art Books		\$9.00
Photography Books		\$9.00
Hanging Emblem		\$4.50

All other school uniforms and supplies are available, including shirts pictured below, from the BCS office after 10am from Monday to Friday. We have included a price list of various uniforms and school equipment that your child may require, for your perusal.



BCS uniforms are also available from **BT Fashions** located in the Coles complex in Tea Gardens (prices may vary).

**Open:**

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm





*“There is nothing more inspirational than a teacher dreaming about being able to give flight to a child’s dreams.”*

