NEWSLETTER NO.7 – 19th March 2014

From the Principal

NAPLAN 2014
On 13 – 15 May, our students in years 3 & 5 will undergo NAPLAN testing (national testing of literacy and numeracy skills). These tests are mandated in all Australian schools and provide a measure of student performance. This should always be considered in conjunction with school testing. There is support available for students with a diagnosed disability, and if parents are concerned about the testing, please raise this topic with your child’s teacher.

Basic Skills for learning
I have copied John Fleming’s basic skills for learning and have pasted them here for the reference of parents. If kids get these basics right, they will have a successful educational experience. The reason I have added them here is so that parents are clear about what we do at school. This formed the basis of the discussion John had with parents at his presentation at couple of weeks ago. Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school.

Great Advice from Michael Grose
Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence.

During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

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Reading Hierarchy
1. Alphabet
2. Blending, tracking, segmenting/phonics
3. Sight vocabulary
4. Syllables
5. Comprehension
6. Fluency

Spelling
1. Listen to the word
2. Break it up into parts
3. Say or write the word

Writing
1. Vocabulary
2. Sentence construction
3. Modelling
4. Sharing
5. Moderation

Handwriting
1. Tall letters same height
2. Small letters same height
3. Straight up and down
Great Advice from Michael Grose cont.../
Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there’s been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children’s grievances. This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship.

Here’s a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Stay calm and rational
It’s natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they’ve come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Get the all facts
Once you’ve calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there’s a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can’t see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It’s the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. Assess whether to go to school or not
Kids, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope.
If your child has a recurring problem that he can’t solve himself, or you think adult intervention maybe needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child’s teacher or year level coordinator.

4. Go through the right channels
Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child’s teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it’s easier to approach them directly.

5. Look for solutions rather than blame
Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child’s teacher as an ally, not a foe. “I’m really worried about Jeremy. He’s been coming strangely lately and I need some help” is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what’s best for your child. Listen to your teacher’s viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6. Stay in touch
Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can’t be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child’s teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other.
Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support
This week’s rule is focused on the antibullying message that is a focus in Queensland for next week. Treating people safely, with a caring attitude with respect in a team is what being a great kid is all about and this matches so well with our school rules and ethos: Safety, Teamwork, Attitude and Respect. This week’s learning is all about – Bullying, No Way – we are STARS.

Concreter
Is there anywhere in our parent community a concreter that we could talk with regarding the footpath to the Stop, Drop & Go zone.

Support-A-Reader Workshops for Parents
We are running another Support-A-Reader workshop on Thursday 27th March in the school library from 9.30-11.30am. This workshop is for parents who would like to learn strategies to assist your child to develop great reading skills. If you are interested in attending, please let the office know.

Principal Word of the Week
A great predictor of success in literacy, particularly reading is a wide vocabulary. Most classes have instituted a ‘word of the week’ and to support this, I thought I also could have a word of the week. Many of these words will come from [URL to dictionary website] which focuses on words that can be used every day. My word of the week this week is:

Expeditious
Expeditious (ex-pe-di-tious) adj. Acting or done with speed and efficiency. **Cobuild Dictionary website:**
[http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild/](http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild/)

RELAY FOR LIFE
This year the staff at Bucasia State School are putting in a Relay for Life team! The Relay for Life is an opportunity to get together with your community to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer.

In order to help us fundraise we are going to be holding a number of events at school.
- **Guess the Easter Eggs Competition** - starting on **Thursday the 27th March**. Students can guess the number of Easter Eggs for a kind donation of 50c a guess. This will be held outside the library and drawn on our last parade for the term (Thursday the 3rd of April). The jar must not be opened at school.
- We are also going to be having an **Easter Bonnet/Wacky Hat Day** on **Thursday the 3rd April** for a gold coin donation.
- On the **Friday 16th May** we are going to hold a Purple Day. Everyone is encouraged to come to school dressed in purple or wear something purple for a gold coin donation.

Your support will be appreciated! Please contact Jess Swettenham for further details. To donate go to [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au) and look up our team Bucasia Bullets.

P&C Notices

Next general meeting
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th May at 6.30pm in the school library. All welcome.

Easter Eggs
We are well aware that Easter is at the end of the school holidays this term, however we will still be doing our end of term Easter celebrations. Please bring in a bag of Easter Eggs to the office if you would like your child/children to participate in classroom Easter Egg hunts during the last day of school this term. We are asking for a small bag of hunting solid eggs (the ones about the size of five cent piece). **ONLY** one bag per family. If you could drop these into the office before Wednesday 2nd April, it would be appreciated. These will be then distributed to the teachers to use in class for egg hunts etc.
If you do not wish your child to have chocolate, please bring in a substitute treat for your child in a plastic ziplock bag with your child’s name and class clearly written on the bag. (Also if you would like to limit the amount of chocolate your child receives, you can put only the amount of chocolate eggs you want your child to have in a ziplock bag with their name and class). If you do not wish your child to participate in this event, please discuss your wishes directly with your classroom teacher.

Easter Bonnet Parade
Easter Bonnet parade will be held on Thursday 3rd April. Please start decorating your Easter Bonnets for what is always a fun filled event.
Amanda Upton
Amanda Upton has kindly offered her talents of Machine Embroidery. If anyone would like to use her services of embroidering school related items with their child’s name or school logo, please see Amanda Upton after parades on Thursday at the tables situated outside the library. She has examples of her work and prices are available upon application. Her email address is justforkeepsembodery@gmail.com

5 Cent Challenge
5 Cent Challenge will be starting in week one of term 2, so start collecting your 5 cent pieces. The classes will be joined up again into 7 groups, with pairing done according to location. Prep B & Prep M, Prep 1IC & 5C 18 & 1/2K, 2B & 2/3BR, 3P & 3/4W, 4A & 4B, 5/6B & 5/6S. Who will win this year? Last year Ms Armstrong’s and Mr Brandon’s classes (this year’s grade 5 students) won the pizza party (mainly due to Mr Brandon’s love of a pizza party and personal contribution of 5 cent pieces). Or will the Grade Three’s win back the title they won when they were in Prep and Grade 1?

Tuckshop Volunteers
Marika, our tuckshop convenor is always happy to see new and returning volunteers for our school tuckshop. So if you are able to assist, please contact Marika during opening hours. As always please do not hesitate to contact me or any P & C member with any enquiries or concerns you may have. Have a great week.
P & C President, Sarah-Jane Thompson 0429613249.

Student of the Week – 13th March

Congratulations to the following students for achieving Student of the Week last week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep B</th>
<th>Mrs Becker</th>
<th>Tahlia</th>
<th>Well done for your super enthusiastic attitude &amp; great job of participating in warm-ups!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep M</td>
<td>Mrs McCauley</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>For a fantastic improvement in letter and sound knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr P/1</td>
<td>Mrs Clarke</td>
<td>Jaida</td>
<td>For being an absolute pleasure to teach. You are doing so well in all subject areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1S</td>
<td>Ms Sweetenham</td>
<td>Blake</td>
<td>For having a positive attitude and trying very hard every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1/2K</td>
<td>Ms Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>Seth</td>
<td>For working extra hard to catch up on missed work. You’re a superstar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2B</td>
<td>Mrs Berts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2/3BR</td>
<td>Mrs Buttel &amp; Mrs Redman</td>
<td>Tylee</td>
<td>For demonstrating excellent understanding of number lines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3P</td>
<td>Mrs Peltonen</td>
<td>Tein</td>
<td>For writing a sensational sentence during writing warm-ups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3/4W</td>
<td>Mrs Williams</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>For working exceptionally well on his own historical narrative of a convict.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4A</td>
<td>Ms Armstrong</td>
<td>Lily-Rose</td>
<td>For always being a fabulous helper and courteous towards others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4B</td>
<td>Mr Brandon</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>For improved classroom attitude and work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5O</td>
<td>Mr O’Hara</td>
<td>Taylah-Jayne</td>
<td>For excellent use of rhetorical questions in her writing. Well done!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5/6B</td>
<td>Miss Brooks</td>
<td>Daffa</td>
<td>For amazing sentence work in our English writing warm-ups this week. You really enjoyed our “Fear and danger” topic.</td>
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</tbody>
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Community Notices

Helping Hands Bucasia Outside School Hours Care – Your child’s “home away from home”
Helping Hands Bucasia provides quality childcare for school aged children. Located on school site guarantees safety and convenience for children and their families. We offer a pick-up and delivery service to Prep and Year One classrooms so you have peace of mind that your little ones are safe at all times. Our qualified staff ensure your children are fully supervised at all times.
Service opening hours: Before School: 6:30am – 8:50am, After School: 3:00pm – 6:00pm, Vacation Care 6:30am – 6:00pm
We currently have vacancies for Before & After School Care and Vacation Care. For more information, enrolments and bookings contact Amy on 0427 007 113.

The Northern Beaches Girl Guides Unit
Now has vacancies for girls from the age of seven. Come along, have some fun and meet new friends.
WHERE: Girl Guide Hut (next to the kindy), Fisher St, Bucasia
For more information, please call Lyn on 4954 6985.

QSchool app
You can now download the QSchools app and subscribe to receive the latest news from our school on your smart phone or tablet. QSchools is free and available from the iTunes store and Google Play.
- Access the latest school news and calendar events
- Receive emergency announcements and information around school closures
- Search for the nearest school by current location, postcode, school name or suburb and view school contact details
- Follow multiple schools
- Available to download free via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play