NEWSLETTER NO. 10 – 30th April 2014

From the Principal

Anzac Day
Thanks to all parents, teachers and children who represented our school on Anzac Day. I personally, love the smaller beachside ceremony as it made Anzac Day so accessible for so many of the students. I was, justifiably I think, very proud of our school.

From Left: Robert, Ariahn, Lavinia, Bronte, Katie, Ari
Kneeling: Lulu

Our School Captains participated in the Anzac Day service at last week’s parade.

.../2
Support A Talker
Our school speech pathologist, Vicki O’Hara will be conducting a ‘Support A Talker’ workshop in the school library on Wednesday 7 May from 9 – 11 am. Good oral language is very necessary if children are to be good readers and writers. This workshop explores how to assist your child to be a better talker (sometimes, that doesn’t seem like a good idea, but I assure you, it is!). Please RSVP to the school office. As with other workshops we attend, younger children are able to attend with their parents keeping in mind the other participants.

Class Newsletters
Bucasia teachers have been very busy planning their units of work for this term. Newsletters from each class will be coming your way soon to inform you of what is currently happening in classrooms. Many parents find they are able to integrate some of the learnings into their home life. Thank you to everyone who really do work with us in regard to student learning! A partnership is always more successful than everyone simply doing their own thing!

Parking on all streets around the school
We have some extremely upset neighbours! Residents on Old Shool Pt Road, Kemp St and Boden St have complained that they cannot drive out of their driveways because of cars parked in front of them. Residents on Old Shool Pt Road are not having their bins emptied because the truck cannot get to the bins and they are not allowed to leave them on the road. As you can imagine, this is extremely upsetting for them. PLEASE, observe the golden rule and do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Residents are now photographing cars and sending the information through to Mackay Police, traffic branch and the Council. Please be aware that this could result in a blitz on parking and end up with some fines!!!

I encourage parents to always use the stop, drop and go in the mornings instead of dropping their children off at other entrances.

| School Attendance Improvement – Target 95% |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Prep            | 93.45%           |
| Year 1          | 92.41%           |
| Year 2          | 94.81%           |
| Year 3          | 92.69%           |
| Year 4          | 93.97%           |
| Year 5          | 93.36%           |
| Year 6          | 93.64%           |

For children to learn successfully, they need to be at school every day. I am absolutely thrilled with the amount of children who have 100% attendance, as I tell them every term and reward them with rather random prizes! If a child misses a day a week it means they will miss 40 days in the school year or over a month of their education each year. This is a huge amount for them to catch up. I have checked and recorded the percentage of attendance for all classes this year and have printed them here. When looking at the breakdown of absences it is surprising to note how many of them are ‘holidays’. In one year level 41% of the absences were due to additional holidays — this is a lot! Please consider the fact that taking additional holidays may future disadvantage your child as they miss valuable learning.

New cyber safety website
The Meet the creeps cybersafety website helps parents and students become aware of online scams, social media pitfalls and cyberbullying. The joint Telstra and Queensland Government project aims to equip middle school students with the skills to keep safe online.

Haircuts, jewellery & nail polish etc
I am extremely proud of how the children at this school present themselves in full school uniform. There is some jewellery creeping in and this becomes an issue if it is lost or taken. Please ensure your child is not wearing any, and then there are no issues in this regard.

A reminder also that ‘tracks’ and Mohawk style haircuts are not part of our uniform policy. If children really like these styles, I really encourage them to have their hair cut in this style on the first day of the Christmas holiday!! It’s then a really special treat.

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 [http://www.wordthink.com/](http://www.wordthink.com/) which focuses on words that can be used every day. My word of the week this week is:  

**Exacerbate**

**Exacerbate transitive verb.** To make more violent, bitter, or severe; to irritate or make worse.

The continued delays were greatly exacerbated by the lack of workers on the project. [Cobuild Dictionary website: http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild/](http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild/)

School Notices

**Lost Property**
Our lost property trolley is full to over-flowing. Please come and look to see if you own any lunch boxes or water bottles. Anything unclaimed by next Wednesday will be sent to charity.

**Grade 6 Graduation BBQ Sizzle**
When: Saturday 3rd May  
Where: Bunnings  
Cost: $2/sausage and $2/drink  
Buy a sausage to support the Grade 6 Graduation BBQ!

Reminder to all grade 6 students. Places are still available on the roster for parents who are willing to help and donations are still welcome. Thank you to all those who have already offered their help and brought their donations in. If there any further queries, please contact Sally McGlashan on 49548286 or 0449758286. Thank you.

**Purple Day**
Purple Day is Friday 16th May. The school community is encouraged to wear purple and donate a gold coin to Relay for Life. The money goes towards our Relay for Life team and to help people with cancer.

**Chappy Day**
On the 22nd students are encouraged to wear odd socks and give a gold coin donation. The money raised will go to support our chaplain, Nick with the work he does at our school.

**Student Absences**

When students are absent from school, whether they are sick, for family reasons or weather events, it is important that the school is informed. You can do this by either ringing the office on the day the student is absent and/or the student can bring in a note on their return. If the school is not informed we are now required to contact the parents or carers to seek an explanation. If we are unable to make contact we cannot assume the reason and must record the absence as 'unexplained', which will then appear on the child's report card as an 'unexplained absence'.

**P&C Notices**

Next general meeting
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th May at 6.30pm in the school library. All welcome.
Amanda Upton
Come see Amanda Upton after Parades on Thursday at the tables situated outside the library if you would like any school uniform embroidery done. Her email address if you need to contact her is justforkeepsembroidery@gmail.com or visits our facebook page at www.facebook.com/justforkeepsembroidery.

5 Cent Challenge
5 Cent Challenge will start being collected weekly as of today, so start bringing in your 5 cent pieces. Reminding you the groups are Prep B & Prep M, Prep/1C & 5O, 1S & 1/2K, 2B & 2/3BR, 3P & 3/4W, 4A & 4B, 5/6B 5/6S. Stacie Forbes will collect each week and the leader board will be given each weekly newsletter and on parade. So next week we will have the leader board for you.

Mother’s Day Stall & Raffle
This stall will be held on Friday 9th May in the afternoon. Order forms (inserted in last week’s newsletter) need to be returned to the school by Wednesday 7th May. No late orders will be taken as gifts are pre-packaged. $5 per gift and siblings can order too however it is the student who will choose the gift, not the sibling so please keep this in mind. Volunteers for the Stall in the afternoon on Friday 9th May will be needed. We will also be holding a raffle this year in conjunction with the stall. The prize is a beautiful embroidered towel set donated from Just for Keeps, and a gift voucher from Northern Beaches Day Spa. Tickets will be $1 for one or $2 for three. These will be on sale outside the library before school until Mother’s Day. The winner will be drawn on Friday 9th May and so not to spoil the announcement for the winning Mum, we will notify everyone else on Wednesday 14th May in the newsletter.

Mother’s Day Gift Wrapping
Anyone available next Tuesday 6th May at 9am to help wrap the gifts for Mother’s Day please see Kylie West or Myself. We will be wrapping in the library and the more volunteers we have, the lighter the workload. We only have a small amount of wrapping left so if you are available that would be fantastic.

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.

Library Notices

Volunteers Needed
Do you have some spare time? We are in need of help to contact new books, so we can get them onto the shelves for the students to borrow. If you can help, please contact Sue Drew in the library. Thank you.

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.

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

New Softball Season
Softball Season commencing 17 May 2014
Mackay Softball Association is inviting new players to join the 2014 Softball Season
All age groups from TB all to A Grade
Please contact: Hawke - Cheryl 0428 182 248, Angels - Linda 0427 114 955, Dragons - Maxine 0439 376 887.

Bucasia Child Health Clinic 2014 Dates

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Clinics at Bucasia State school, Kemp St

To make an appt ring 49683863