NEWSLETTER NO.15 – 27th May 2015

From the Acting Principal

Admin Changes
As you are aware, I have taken on the Acting Principal role while Belinda is on Long Service Leave until the beginning of Term 4. I would like to welcome Kristine Fettell who will be taking on the Acting Deputy role during this time. Kristine comes from Northview State School and has worked at Bucasia in the past as a Learning Support Teacher and will be a familiar face to many. Please make Kristine welcome at our school!

Highly Skilled Professionals
At Bucasia School for the past 2 years, we have engaged John Fleming and his team from Haileybury in providing us with support and guidance around improving student learning and teacher quality. Part of this process is the work around the 6 Givens. Next Monday (1st June), John will be back at Bucasia working with teachers, parents and children. On Monday afternoon he will be running a parent information session from 3:15 – 3:45pm in the school library. Please come and join us!
On the 27th and 28th July, Hayley Wilson (1W), Hayley McLean (3AM), Cat Armstrong (4A), Lisa Wayman (Master Teacher) and myself will be travelling to Melbourne to visit the Haileybury schools as part of their master classes. This will provide invaluable insight into the curriculum programs, teacher quality and school wide expectations as we all continue our journey to become highly skilled professionals delivering quality teaching and learning to all children in our classes/school.

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CURRICULUM FOCUS
Over the past term, we have been focusing on writing as our explicit improvement priority. Teachers from Prep to Year 6 have been working on developing their knowledge and understanding of the NAPLAN marking guidelines for writing and are in the process of marking writing according to the criteria. This process adds value to the curriculum by providing opportunities for students to use a student-friendly criteria sheets to edit and reflect on their writing. During Term 3, students will begin to be taught how to use the criteria sheet to better improve their writing. This also provides a framework for teachers to structure feedback to students on how to improve in writing.

This week’s focus – vocabulary
Encourage your children to use big words. Point out some higher level vocabulary when you are reading, driving in the car or even watching TV with your children. Stop and discuss the word. What does that word mean? How or when would you use that word? How can you make it more meaningful and help them remember it? Children received more marks for using a high level of vocabulary. These words don’t need to be spelt correctly, phonetic spelling (the way it sounds) is fine. Remember this is looking at vocabulary to enhance writing and not spelling. By concentrating too much on accuracy of spelling when writing, we stunt children’s imaginations and ability to take risks. Allow kids the opportunities to ‘have-a-go’ and then go back and check spelling when editing. However, there are no excuses for misspelled common words! For example: and, then, why, who, that, what.

Some interesting words that children can learn and add to their writing include:
Technical language associated with a field such as dinosaurs, football, ballet, craft, etc.
Descriptive language - The primary purpose of descriptive writing is to describe a person, place or thing in such a way that a picture is formed in the reader’s mind. Capturing an event through descriptive writing involves paying close attention to the details by using all of your five senses. Teaching students to write more descriptively will improve their writing by making it more interesting and engaging to read.

GENERAL MESSAGES
Influenza (flu) season

Our school is helping to prevent the flu from spreading by:
- encouraging children, staff and visitors to cover their mouths and noses when they sneeze or cough
- making tissues readily available and ensuring used tissues are disposed of immediately
- ensuring children and staff wash their hands regularly
- cleaning our facilities and resources regularly
- encouraging staff and children with flu-like symptoms to stay at home
- strongly urging staff and children who arrive with flu-like symptoms to instead stay at home and encouraging them to seek early medical advice.

If your child catches the flu, please seek medical advice and keep them home until they are feeling well again.

Have a great week,
Rebekkah Pollard

ICAS TESTING DATES
For families who have previously requested testing and paid the levy. Please note that these tests will be carried out on the Wednesday or Thursday depending on staff supervision.
Science - Wednesday 3rd June 2015
Writing and Spelling - Wednesday 17th June 2015
English - Wednesday 29th July 2015
Maths - Wednesday 12th August 2015

Form the Office
Thankyou to the P & C for their generous donation of backpacks for 1st Aide.

Q Parents
Thankyou to all the parents who have begun using Q Parents. The office has already received Absence notifications through this App. It is a very easy way for parents to notify the school of any absences. It is also a great way to view your child’s records. If you haven’t registered for Q Parents yet, please do so as soon as possible, or if you need any help registering please contact the office.

Tuckshop News
The Tuckshop is asking for a couple of volunteers to help out as Marika, our Tuckshop Convenor will also be absent from 1/5/2015 until 14/6/2015. We are seeking volunteers to assist during this period to keep the tuckshop running. If you are able to assist from 8:30 am until around 11am on any of the above dates please see Marika at the tuckshop or call Stacie (P & C president) on 0408181221. Your help is greatly appreciated.

P&C Notices
We are now over half way through the .5c challenge, you have all done a fantastic job in collecting 5c pieces! You have raised an amazing $445.15 which is 8,903 5c pieces! Can your class WIN the PIZZA party?

1st: PC - $68.55
2nd: 4A - $61.40
3rd: 1B - $50.50
4th: 4B - $40.60
5th: 2BG - $35.30

For your chance to win a class PIZZA party please keep collecting your 5c pieces.

Angela Tindall
Co-ordinator

Students of the Week for 20th May 2015

<p>| Prep B Mrs Becker | Ella | For the outstanding writing you do and the neatness of your illustrating. You are a Star. |
| Prep C Mrs Clarke | Onikah | For working well and following instructions in ELF groups. |
| Prep M Mrs McAuley | Gracie | For trying hard with reading. |
| 1B MissBorn | Slater | For wonderful writing in our Daily Writing lessons. |
| 1W MrsWilson | Felix | For consistently doing his best, especially in Daily Writing! |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/2S Miss Swettenham</td>
<td>Tammi</td>
<td>For using the “Friendship” bench and treating others kindly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2BG Mrs Berts &amp; Ms Goodes</td>
<td>Cassie</td>
<td>For fabulous creative writing.</td>
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<td>2K Ms Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>For trying your best during reading and writing lessons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3AM Mrs Aldridge &amp; Ms McLean</td>
<td>Sarri</td>
<td>For always trying her best and for being a kind, well-mannered student.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3P Mrs Peltonen</td>
<td>Hallie</td>
<td>For being helpful and considerate towards others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4A Miss Armstrong</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>For a fantastic traditional story. Super effort!</td>
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<tr>
<td>4B Mr Brandon</td>
<td>Jenap</td>
<td>For excellent behaviour and always following teacher instructions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5S Mrs Stonys</td>
<td>Malakai</td>
<td>For always being a fantastic class member.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5O Mr O’Hara</td>
<td>Charli</td>
<td>For being a positive role model for other students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6M Mrs Miller</td>
<td>Tiffany</td>
<td>For following the school’s STAR rules! Well done!</td>
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<tr>
<td>6S Mr Stafford</td>
<td>Jaben</td>
<td>For working well on classroom activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE Mr Hamilton-Smith</td>
<td>2BG</td>
<td>For good work in Long Jump.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Ms Elliott</td>
<td>4B</td>
<td>For awesome teamwork in percussion groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music Mrs New</td>
<td>Sebastian</td>
<td>For excellent sight reading of new music.</td>
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Back Row (L-R): Mackenna, Blayd, Andrew, Sarri, Hallie, Ruby, Jenap, Blake, Sebastian
Middle Row (L-R): Cassie, Slater, Elia, Onikah, Gracie, Felix, Tammi, Astrid
Front Row (L-R): Tiffany, Malakai, Charli, Jaben

5.30pm in the MNBSHS Lecture Theatre. After the presentation, you will be able to go on a tour of the school. Please register your interest in attending this evening by phoning 4842 1333 or emailing enrolments@macknorthbeachesshs.eq.edu.au. The MNBSHS FaceBook page provides up-to-date information of what is occurring at the school, including links to our website and enrolment information. The first round of enrolment forms are due by the end of this term.

**Helping Hands Bucasia Outside School Hours Care**
- Sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Cooking
- Homework
- Exploratory Learning
- Life skills development
- Learning

**Providing a Quality Care environment for your children during**
- Before & After School Care
- Vacation Care
- Pupil Free Days

**Located on School Site - Convenient & Safe!**
- Breakfast & afternoon tea included. Morning tea also provided during VC
- Fun, hands-on activities to enhance your child’s fine & gross motor development in a Social Environment
- Fully supervised by Qualified Educators
- Prep & Year 1 delivered to and picked up from their classrooms
- Flexible booking system catering for your needs.

**FREE enrolment**
- Enrol your children today!
  - Phone: 0427 007 113

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### Community Notices

**Elmeo Surf Life Saving Club**
On the 18th October 2015 Elmeo Surf Life Saving Club intends to break the current world record of the Largest Game of Beach Flags at Elmeo Beach. This will involve 500 participants and we need you and your school to take part; you can join individually or as a group or as a family. It's open to 5 year olds to 69 year olds. More details to follow. For more details please phone : 4869 6580, or email eimealsclub@bigpond.com

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**National Day of Thanksgiving Community Festival** will be held on Saturday 30th May at Jubilee Park (cnr Wellington & Alfred sts Mackay) from 10am -36pm. Everything is free. For details contact M. Mahler 0410 251 566 or www.mackay.thanksgiving.org.au

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### Chappy News
I’d like to thank the Bucasia School community for having me as your school Chaplain. It is a pleasure working with the admin and teaching staff at this great School. Every year across Queensland over 600 school Chaplains celebrate Chappy week in the 3rd week of May. (Look out for Chappy Day next term.) Last month Scripture Union in conjunction with McCrindle research produced a “School Chaplaincy Snapshot” article. This article informs us about who School Chaplains are? What they do and why a school community should have a School Chaplain. This article can be viewed online at www.sugld.org.au/snapshot

Thank you

**Nick Ayre**
School Chaplain

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### Mackay Northern Beaches State High School News
Mackay Northern Beaches State High school is looking forward to welcoming their fourth cohort of Year 7 students into the school in 2016. If you would like to know more information about the school and the excellent facilities and programs on offer, please attend the Enrolment Information Evening tonight at 5.30pm in the MNBSHS Lecture Theatre.