NEWSLETTER NO. 19—15th July 2015

From the Acting Principal & Deputy Principal

Welcome Back
I trust that you spent sometime over the past 2 week holiday break enjoying your time with family and friends. Welcome to the new families and we hope you are settling in at your new school. Term 3 sees many COU (Central Queensland University) students at schools across the state. We have been extremely fortunate to have 3 students in their final year at our school over the past semester and continue this term with a 4 week block and then a 6 week internship. It is always exciting to have fresh ideas and enthusiasm the students bring. Welcome back Kirsty Wales (5O), Melissa Patton (Prep B) and Sarah Low (Prep M). Also welcome to the first and second years who will start their visits to class this term. Welcome Kristie Cordingley (1W), Chelsea Manning (12S), Larissa Kiwa (2BG) & Kim Smyth (4A).

School Opinion Survey 2015
The annual School Opinion Survey will be conducted between 29 June and 31 July 2015. All families, school staff and a random sample of students will be invited to participate. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve. Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey will be sent home with students this week. Parent/caregivers are able to access this survey via computer, tablet, idevice or any other smart device. Survey queries or requests for translations can be directed to Rebekkah Pollard on telephone 49697 888 or email rpcll19@eq.edu.au.
**Curriculum Focus**

This is a new section that will be added to the weekly newsletters. The purpose is to inform parents and allow you to have some information to generate conversations with your children about what they are doing at school. This term we will be focusing on our improvement area of writing. Each of our classrooms will be focusing on one strategy for improving writing each week (spelling, vocabulary, sentence structure, etc). Students will spend time each week focusing on this strategy to improve their writing.

Students across the year levels from Prep to Year 6 will also be undertaking some demand writing tasks which allow them to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills. Our focus will be on persuasive writing. Demand tasks are where students are provided with stimulus material, they need to write about the topic provided within a set timeframe. EG: Animals shouldn’t be kept in cages or homework should be cancelled. Children across the year levels have various knowledge and skills that will be marked according to a standard criteria. This provides opportunities for students to aspire to the next level by providing clear evidence based criteria for them to follow.

Each term an additional demand writing task will be undertaken and student improvement monitored. This allows teachers to look at individual, whole class and whole school strengths and weaknesses to further plan for teaching and learning. Students require daily practice of writing to build confidence and capability.

Some great ideas for getting your children writing at home.

- Shopping list
- Diary entries
- Notes onto the calendar
- Letters and emails to grandparents
- Text messages
- Write down the lyrics of their favourite song
- Write notes of things to do or remember
- Create own stories to share as a family

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**School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)**

**Rule of the Week**: Attitude - being back to school - have a good attitude.

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**NADOC Week**

NADOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920’s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NADOC Week is held in the first full week of July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society. Many families participated in the celebrations around Mackay last week. This is always a great opportunity for all Australian’s to participate in the celebrations and activities that take place across the nation during NADOC Week. If you missed the events, keep an eye out for them in 2016. Further details are available: [http://www.naidoc.org.au/](http://www.naidoc.org.au/)

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**2014 School Annual Report**

2014 School Annual Report has now been published and is available on our school website. Please take the time to share some of our achievements from 2014. The following tables shows the mean/average scale score from NAPLAN as well as the % of students in the U2B (Upper 2 Bands - working beyond expectation). More details available: [https://bucasia.qld.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Annual%20reports/2014%20Bucasia%20State%20School%20SAR.pdf](https://bucasia.qld.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Annual%20reports/2014%20Bucasia%20State%20School%20SAR.pdf)

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As you can see, this is why writing and numeracy are one of our explicit improvement areas for 2015.

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**Cumberland Sports – Monday 20th July 2015**

A number of students have been selected to represent our school at the Cumberland District Sports Trials on Monday 20th July. Students have received notes explaining events they are in and further details of the day. Transport to and from the event is to be provided by families. If you are only bringing your student for their event and leaving early, please see myself (Rebekkah Pollard) to have them signed in and out. I will be the team
manager and positioned under the Bucasia tent. Julie Ferguson and Jim Hamilton-Smith will be assisting on the day with events.

Have a great week,
Rebekkah Pollard

Office News

Centrepay
Did you know you can now sign up for Centrepay. If you are interested please call at the office for more information.

BPoint
The school now has the facility 'BPoint'. BPoint allows you to pay school invoices by Credit card or Debit card. Payments by BPoint can also be made over the phone through the office or via the QParents app.

Deadly Australians
The Deadly Australians show is coming back to Bucasia State School on the 4th August. The cost is $5.50 per child or $11 per family. Australia is home to the world's most venomous creatures. These may be found in a variety of habitats ranging from inner-city (Sydney Funnel Web), central Australia (Small-scaled snake) to pristine northern beaches (Box jellyfish). Australia has some 400 venomous creatures of which 60 are capable of causing death. All Australians should have knowledge of our venomous wildlife and an understanding of correct first-aid procedures.

Scentsy Circles – Year 6 Fundraiser
Thanks to everyone who bought Scentsy circles from our Scentsy drive. They were distributed to the classes in Week 9 last term. If you have not received yours yet, please see the person you ordered it off. Thanks again for supporting our Year 6 fundraiser and a big thanks to Lauren Scott who generously donated 100% of her profits to us. Greatly appreciated! If you need any more Scentsy products or would like to know more, please call Lauren on 0447677900.
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