NEWSLETTER NO.4 – 26th February 2014

From the Principal

John Fleming Visit
John Fleming is visiting our school today. Bucasia State School is one of the 10 selected schools to work with him and has been supported by Education Queensland to do so. Schools had to nominate to be a part of this program and it was highly sought after. We were selected as our school has made significant gains in literacy and numeracy and it was felt that we were well positioned to take advantage of the expertise John offers. Please come along to the library at 3.15 today to learn more of how learning is undertaken in this school.

John Fleming’s Explicit Instruction Model advocates a dramatic shift in the way primary school children are taught, and educators across Australia are listening because his results are so impressive. In his model, teachers closely direct student learning. It differs from the dominant inquiry model, where teachers guide students and encourage them to discover answers for themselves. As head of the Haileybury College Berwick campus, John has a track record that suggests explicit teaching works. Last year, his Yr 3 students recorded results well above the state average in literacy and numeracy – 2 years ahead of their peers in reading and 3 years ahead in maths. Before John Fleming arrived at the school, the Yr 3's were only just ahead of state benchmarks.

When he was principal of Bellfield Primary, one of Victoria’s most disadvantaged schools, students were drawn largely from single-parent families and homes where English was not first language. More than 80% of parents did not work and many were illiterate. In 1996, 80% of Bellfield students were performing well below the state average in literacy and numeracy. By 2005, John Fleming’s school was one of the best performing in Victoria. ACER’s research director, Professor Steve Dinham suggests “The evidence is overwhelming. Direct instruction and explicit teaching is two to three times more effective than inquiry-based or problem based learning”.

Resource Fees
Students should have presented parents or guardians with the 2014 Student Resource Scheme document. Resource Fees are now due. If you are unable to meet the payment deadline or wish to enter into a payment plan, please contact our Accounts staff who will be very happy to assist you. Our office staff will happily accept cash or cheque, but unfortunately cannot process credit card or eftpos payments. Direct deposits can also be made quoting your student’s name and “Res Fees”. If you experience any difficulties, please make contact with us and we will attempt to work with you to come to a suitable arrangement.

.../2
SIMPLE STRATEGIES FOR CREATING STRONG READERS

Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on children's literacy and learning.

- Invite a child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
- Read a child's favourite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Children who can't read well, can't learn. Help make a difference for a child.

P & C AGM

Thank you to our new office bearers (more details to follow further into the newsletter). I personally appreciate the role that you have undertaken and I am sure the whole school community does so too – our P & C does make a very positive difference in the school.

Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support

This week’s rule is focused on RESPECT: Listen to teacher instructions and follow them immediately.

As I walk around the classrooms, I am continually impressed by both teachers and students who know their role in this school so very well. It is the teacher’s job to teach and it is the student’s job to learn. A part of being focused and respectful in the classroom context is to follow teacher directions as they are given for a very clear reason – to instruct and therefore teach. Following the instructions carefully results in learning – just what children are at school for. It is very simple and it works and I am proud to say that I see and hear this happening.

Receiving the Newsletter via email

If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly newsletter via email, please let the office staff know your email address and you will be added to the mailing list.

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/ which focuses on words that can be used every day. My word of the week this week is:

**Glower**

Glower v. Have an angry or sullen look on one's face; scowl. "The teacher glowered at her for talking too loud."

Another dictionary that I often use is the cobuild dictionary because it is very up to date with current idiom or words that become 'the flavor of the month'. See below for the address:

**Cobuild Dictionary website:**
http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild/

**LIFE EDUCATION 17th -20th March**

Life Education is coming to our school. Life Education motivates and empowers young people to make smart life choices for a healthy future. The educations sessions are split into a number of modules that will cover a number of issues at an age appropriate level, for example:-

- The benefits of physical activity
- How to spot safe and unsafe behaviours and environments
- Choosing healthy food options

The older grades will also cover issues such as:-

- Internet etiquette and Cybersafety
- Drugs

There is also a free Life Education Parents Information Session to be held on Tuesday 18th March. If you would like to attend and/or you child will participate in the Life Education Program please complete the enclosed payment/attendance slips and return with payment to the offices as soon as possible.

**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**

AGM and general meeting

To all who came to our meeting and AGM last Wednesday 19th February, we would like to say thank you. It was a successful meeting with a fantastic number of new members signing up to our committee, and a number of returning members. It was great to hear some great new ideas for us to consider.

Our new executive committee for this year is as follows: President – Sarah-Jane Thompson, Vice-President – Stacie Forbes, Secretary – Kylie West, Treasurer – Stacey Read. We also have lots of parents who have taken on other non-executive roles within the P & C and we would like to thank them for putting up their hand. If you have any concerns or enquiries, please feel free to approach any of us and we will try our best to assist.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 12th March at 6.30pm in the school library. All welcome.

**Barbeques**

Masters Barbeque was held last Saturday 22nd February. We would like to thank the following parents and faculty staff for their assistance – Paula and Peter Fry, Rosario and Gina Pipperone, Gena Proposch, Sally McGlashan, Cori Thackray, Kerry Happgood-Strickland, Bob and Megan Mills, Greg and Dan Cuniffle, Rebecca Gilpin, Stacie Forbes, Bettina Schmidt, Rayelene Baggow, Stacy Brand, Glenda Ware, Mr and Mrs Drew and Mrs Eckford. We would also like to thank the students who accompanied their parents on the day, I heard we were all great helpers – in school uniform and all.

To all who came along and purchased a sausage or drink – thank you for your support. This barbeque was not as successful as we had anticipated, however we still managed to raise $370 for Whitunday Voices and some funds for fridge repairs too. We still have a large number of sausages and bread left over, so do not be surprised if we have another sausage sizzle in the near future.

**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. 2013 P&C President Sarah-Jane Thompson 0429613249.
## 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.

### Remember when you believed in anything and everything?
Researchers from the University of Western Australia are investigating children’s ability to detect and avoid potentially harmful social interactions, such as being easily fooled or tricked into doing something. We are looking to see how this develops in children, and when children outgrow this vulnerability.

We are looking for parents of Kindergarten – Year 6 children across Australia to complete an online survey (15 – 20 minutes). Participants will go into a draw to win one of 10 $50 gift certificates to Coles/Myers.

To participate go:
http://tinyurl.com/childsvq

Or for more information please contact Rebecca Seward at (08) 6488 4652

---

### School Uniforms at Lowes
Bucasia State School Uniforms are now available online at [www.lowes.com.au](http://www.lowes.com.au). Free shipping on orders over $100. Register online and receive a discount on your first order.

---

### Mackay Junior Touch
Mackay Junior Touch are running a Junior Touch Competition on Friday afternoons, for Boys and Girls in U6 through to U16. For more information go to [www.mackaytouch.com.au](http://www.mackaytouch.com.au) under Junior tab.

---

### Dolphins Soccer Club Sign On
Sunday, 23rd February 10 – 2pm at Northern Beaches Bowls Club. All ages U6 to seniors welcome
Contact Melissa 0424331437