Happy Holidays

This will be the last newsletter for the term, so have a great holiday everyone. I will be taking 2 weeks long service leave after the holidays (for my daughter's wedding overseas) and will return in either week 3 or 4 next term. While I am away Mr Rod Finney will be replacing me as Principal. He visited earlier this week and has met many of the children. He is very excited to be part of the school community while I am away, and I know that you will all support him in the same manner as you do me — and I do appreciate the parent community at Bucasia — you are awesome!

Have a wonderful holiday and I will see you all back here again, full of beans (students) and ready to learn.

Every Day Counts

Every Day Counts is a statewide initiative that aims to assist in improving student attendance at school. It is designed to change parent, community and student attitudes, and foster a shared commitment to improving school attendance.

Every Day Counts promotes four key messages:

- All children should be enrolled at school and attend on every school day.
- Schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance.
- Truancing can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices.
- Attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.

Research shows that higher rates of attendance at school are related to higher achievement. Please send your child every day they can be here, for the whole of the term — including all of next week.

..../2
Stop Drop & Go
Thank you to the parents who are working together to make the Stop, Drop & Go Zone as efficient as possible. Yesterday, the zone was empty by 3:10! There were still kids waiting for a little while longer – and that’s okay, the key thing was the children almost all left via the small gate and got into the cars at the end closest to the hall making for quicker and easier movement. I did have to keep checking that children were watching for their parent’s car – and I will continue to do so. If parents could have a little chat too, that would be wonderful.

Principal’s conference
The conference I attended recently was entitled ‘United in our pursuit of Excellence’. Queensland’s education system, curriculum, expert teachers and schools are improving student learning results faster than any other state in Australia. This is demonstrated by the improvement in NAPLAN scores in 2012. Overall in Queensland there has been a focus on teaching pedagogy, implementation of the Australian Curriculum and the teaching of literacy and numeracy. This is also certainly true of Bucasia State School, students’ learning results over the past 3 years have consistently climbed and as a school I am proud to be able to say that teachers in this school work hard with individual students so they can achieve to their potential.

The focus over the next year is in developing a pedagogical framework – this year we are already working hard on focusing on Explicit Instruction and essential learnings – reading, spelling, number study, mental maths.

The other major focus is on the development of a parent & community engagement framework. This is very important as research tells us that when parents and community are engaged in children’s learning, they do receive the maximum benefit they can from their time at school. Please watch this space for further information and again I invite parents and community members to communicate with me via email, face to face, phone, or using the suggestion box with ideas to improve our school.


Chicken Pox
There have been reported cases within the school so please be aware that it is contagious and your child may have been exposed. If your child does have chicken pox, please keep them home for the period recommended by your doctor.

Schoolwide Positive Behaviour
This week we are looking at Teamwork: Our school community is very proud of the way in which we all treat each other with respect and honour. I was thrilled a couple of weeks ago to interview a prospective parent with their children. When I began to explain our behaviour management strategies, the Mum said to me that she knew our children were wonderfully behaved because her child had been talking with an older child in the neighbourhood who informed her that there were no naughty children at Bucasia school. When the children are giving that sort of recommendation, there is nothing much I need to add! As part of the team, I can be nothing but proud! Another aspect of teamwork is inclusion. Teachers, including myself watch who the children play with, and who is not playing. This week in particular, we are focussing on including children who are not playing and making sure they are part of our team.

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:

Gentle
Gentle (gen-tee-al) adj. 1. Refined in manner; well-bred and polite. 2. Free from vulgarity or rudeness. 3. Elegantly stylish: gentle manners and appearance.

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/

Have a great week
Belinda Eckford / Principal

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep B</th>
<th>Samantha</th>
<th>For your continual focus, great participation and completion of tasks to a high standard. Well done!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Becker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep C</td>
<td>Kalista</td>
<td>- For being our awesome Alphabet Queen. You know all about consonants and vowels. - I am so proud of you. Your improvement in knowing your letters and sounds is amazing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Clarke</td>
<td>Cayleb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1/2S</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>For improved application during set tasks. Keep up the awesome effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 1S</td>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>For always having beautiful manners and being a perfect role model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Swettenhan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2L</td>
<td>Stacey</td>
<td>For always having beautiful bookwork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Lorenz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 2/3B</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>For being a maths wiz!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Benjamin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Mrs. Pellonen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 30</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>For his sensational sentences and amazing bookwork. Well done!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr O’Hara</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3S</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>For good behaviour and work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Swift</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 4M</td>
<td>Seth</td>
<td>For amazing attendance and always giving 100%. You Are Awesome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Morgan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4/5B</td>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>For great maths work and a huge effort in improving classroom behaviour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Brandon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5/6B</td>
<td>Ban</td>
<td>For being a fantastic friend to new students and students who needed your help. It is very much appreciated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Brooks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yr 5/6
Mr Stafford

Atalilah
Great involvement in classroom activities.

Music
Ms Elliott

Oliver 4m
Great improvement in recorder playing due to persistence and practice.

PE
Ms Lloyd

Kate
For your awesome participation in P.E. and improvement with movement skills.

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Sports News

Last Friday the seniors played soccer against Slade Point at Slade Point. The first senior team won 4-3, the Captains Choice for best player was Ashley Baylis. The juniors also played Slade Point. The first team lost 3-1. The Captains Choice for best player was Tom Cluiee. Written by Ollie Lunn.

Last Friday the seniors travelled and played soccer against Slade Point. We had a great game but the second senior team lost 1-0. The Captains Choice was Lukas Ripley. The junior boys also played against Slade Point. The second team lost 3-0 and the Captains Choice was Mika Jones. Written by Ben Cobb.

Last Friday Bucasia State School’s senior netball team travelled away to Slade Point to play their senior netball team. It was a tough match, for we were playing against grade 6’s and 7’s, but we all played wonderfully and with great sportsmanship. Unfortunately, we lost 6-41. Best and fairest chosen by Slade Point was Sophie Stratham. Well done Bucasia. Written by Kaitlyn, Lulu and Lavinia.

Last Friday Bucasia State School’s junior netball team played at Slade Point State School. Everyone played their very best and for some of us it was our first game ever. Unfortunately we lost 18 nil. Slade Point chose best and fairest at the end of the match. Our best and fairest was Casey Humphrey. Written by Casey Humphrey and Larrna Murphy.

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Student Council News

Last Friday we had Crazy Hair Day for the World’s Greatest Shave to support our IT man Dom. We raised $441.10 for this worthy cause. Thank you for your support. By Lauren Brooks.

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P & C NEWS

The P&C would like to thanks the Salvation Army (Northern Beaches) for kindly donating hangers to our Uniform Shop.

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Tuckshop News

The tuckshop will be open until, and including the last day of term, Thursday 28th March. The tuckshop will be closed Monday 15th April, stocktaking Tuesday 16th, and open as normal Wednesday 17th April. Both blue and green slushies are available.

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From the Office

Please pay any outstanding resource levy’s by the end of this term please. Unless you have made prior payment arrangements. Thank you.

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PARENT READING WORKSHOP

Mel Benjamin is holding a parent reading workshop next Monday 25th of March at 2:00pm in the Library. If you would like some tips on how you can help your child read then please come along.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LOST: 2 Maltese Terriers from Turnbuckle Street, Royal Sands. 1 is white and is named Scuffles, the other is white and black and is named Tiny. If anyone finds these dogs please call Lisa Smith on 0450985406. Thanks.

Mackay Gymnastics Inc.

School Holiday Fun Day
(for primary school aged boys & girls)
(Children aged 5-12 years)
Where: Swayne St, North Mackay
When: Wednesday 3rd April, 2012
& Wednesday 10th April, 2013
Time: 9.30 – 11 a.m.
Cost: $15

INSIDE, OUT
OF THE SUN
Come & have fun in the gym
Phone 49 531 425
Bookings
Essential
Limited numbers!
admin@mackaygymnastics.org

CHEAH TAE KWON DO CLASSES: Mondays and Wednesdays in the School Hall 6.30 – 7.30 pm.
Phone Ross - 0498066088