NEWSLETTER NO.18 - 17th July 2013

School Photos
These were not printed with the front cover I approved and so the AdvancedLife are reprinting the school photos for us to accurately reflect the school as it is now. They have asked that as many of the school photos as possible are returned. If you are able to do this, please, return them to the school office and they will be sent back and reissued in the proper format. Many thanks for this.

School Uniform
At the P & C meeting, sunsafe hats with the school logo were approved. They are available at the uniform shops listed in the parent handbook and will also be available from Lowes as soon as they have been manufactured.
Please ensure students have a navy jumper/jacket to wear to school. The school uniform policy states this and it is strongly encouraged. The reason we do not have a set jacket because it wouldn’t be worn a lot, however, a navy jumper/jacket makes for some type of uniformity. Hoodies are not encouraged at this school.
Girls skirts and shorts are required to be mid-thigh. There are some girls who are wearing quite short skirts. This is an issue as children at school need the opportunity to be children and not be worried about how they are sitting and walking etc. It is best to have multi-use clothing where the girls in particular can play happily without worrying whether their undies are showing!

From the school library:
Our Bucasia State School Library catalogue is now available 24 hours a day through the following link: http://bucasiass.cnneweb.libcode.com.au/index.php?mode=normal##_0. This link also provides access to a range of online resources including ebooks, book trailers and fun videos in the ‘Library News’ section. Currently, students are encouraged to read the CBCA shortlisted titles for 2013 and try the shortlisted book activities as we count down to Bookweek in week 7 of this term.

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Stolen ipads and phones
Unfortunately we have had some considered and deliberate theft occurring within the school. A teacher has lost an iphone (and to use her words, "it has my whole life on it") and the school has lost an iPad mini. Could I encourage parents to talk with their children regarding any information they may have regarding these items? It is very disturbing that these expensive items can be stolen and the thefts appear to be increasing. So please, ask your child if they know anything and if anything that you haven’t purchased does turn up, can it be returned?

Student Absences
Some parents have expressed concern that their explanations regarding their child’s absence has not been recorded faithfully. There are many areas where this could break down and to reduce the likelihood of this occurring, we are sending home small notes that you could use so there is a written record of why your child was absent. (If you would like any more copies of this note please see office staff). If this could be returned (or simply a handwritten note), with the child when they return to school, this would be wonderful and would reduce the amount of mixed messages.

An Information Session with Brad Huddleston – Dark Side of Technology – 30th July.
This is a very important issue that is getting more and more salient as technology advances. Put succinctly, every time your child logs onto the internet s/he is inviting people into your home – do you know who they are?
Parents are invited to attend. Afternoon tea supplied by school. This has been organised in conjunction with Nigel Dalton. Please come along and also invite a friend to attend for their child’s safety. Nigel has suggested that the parents who attended on the last day that he talked about this topic, personally invite 3 - 4 other parents. Please let the office know if you are attending for catering purposes please.
Brad will talk with year 5 & 6 students at 1:35 in the library on that same day on that same topic.

New QSchool app
You can now download the QSchool’s 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.
Please read the directions below so you are able to receive the school newsletter, alerts (when we have set them up) and check out our website. It would be best to download the app when you are connected to wireless.

New Staff
There has been some changes with teacher aides and ancillary staff at the school so you may see some unfamiliar faces. Our new staff include:
Mel Holdsworth, Teacher Aide
May Santos, Cleaner
Flo Ebert, Cleaner

Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support
Our STAR rule for this week is in regard to: Attitude – be persistent, don’t give up in the classroom when something’s too hard. It is very easy to give up and much harder to struggle through and learn – however, it is within the struggle that most learning occurs! Keep trying, it is important no matter where and what you are in life.
The road to success is lined with many tempting parking spaces. – Unknown

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:
Episodic
“He has Episodic migraines.”

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/

Belinda Eckford
Principal

Funding Meeting
There will be a fundraising meeting held next Thursday, 25th July, to discuss fundraising events for this term. All are welcome. Please meet in the undercover area.
Thank you, Sarah-Jane Thompson, P&C President, 0429613249

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

| Prep B Mrs Becker | Jade Hapgood-Strickland | Great participation in warm ups and unit morning session. Well done! |
| Prep C Mrs Clarke | Aaliyah Grice | For a positive start to the new term. |
| Yr 1/2S Ms Smith | Nathaniel Quakawoot | For an awesome start to the term. Keep it up! |
| Yr 1S Ms Swettenham | Emily Upton | For starting to use adjectives when writing sentences. Well done. |
Yr 2/L Miss Lorenz
Riley Morgan
Johan Coetzee
For awesome effort in Reading this week!

Yr 2/3B Miss Benjamin & Mrs. Petturr
Clay Merriman
For being a whiz at subtraction.

Yr 3 Mr O'Hara
Samatha Proopsch
For her determination to complete tasks in class.

Yr 3S Ms Swift
Madeline Hayes
For being an amazing, organised student. You are a STAR!

Yr 4M Mrs Morgan
Taylor Jayne Thompson
A fantastic start to term 3. Way to go!

Yr 4/5B Mr Brandon
Paige Battley
For making a good start to the term.

Yr 5/6B Miss Brooks
Ariehn Woodward-George
For doing a great job in her number facts test this week.

Yr 5/6 Mr Stafford
Andrew McGlashan
For doing a great job in his number facts test this week.

Music Ms Elliott
Callum Brown
For being a STAR student in music lessons.

PE Ms Lloyd
Seth Tetley
For outstanding ball skills in touch football.

Library Notice

Bookclub brochures for Issue 5 have been distributed. Any orders and money need to be back at school by Friday 26th July.

Bike Ed

The rescheduled Bike Ed is on this week, on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th July, for those students from Mrs Morgan’s class who have paid.

Deadly Australians – 30th July 2013

Learn the secrets of the Deadly Australians that inhabit our forests and seas, and understand the contributions they make to our ecosystem. The ‘Deadly Australians’ is a public awareness programme, educating Australian children about the dangers of the venomous wildlife that inhabit our suburban backyards, bush, beaches and sea. The programme uses both live and preserved exhibits. Some of the animals displayed are jellyfish, spiders and snakes, with pythons, lizards and freshwater turtles displayed with a ‘hands on’ session. The cost is $5.50 per child and $11.00 per family, and children with special needs free. Parents are welcome to attend free of charge. There will be 2 sessions held in the hall, with Prep to Year 2’s at 8.50am-9.50am, and the Year 3’s to 6’s at 9.50am-10.50am.

Great Teachers = Great Results

Great teachers = Great results is the Queensland Government’s five-year, $537 million action plan to make our state’s education system even better. It will:

• support teachers with mentoring, training and resources
• reward outstanding teachers with career opportunities and scholarships
• strengthen state school discipline
• allow schools to have more say in how they are run because each school community knows what’s best for Queensland kids.

The plan will lift standards of teaching and give schools more flexibility to get on with the job with a range of research-based initiatives to help your child get a great education, no matter where you live. There will be new ways of measuring and rewarding high performances among our teachers, as well as strengthened discipline and streamlined processes for suspensions and exclusions.

Find out more about the plan: www.qld.gov.au/greatteachers

Community Notices

MACKAY HURRICANES / MACKAY CRICKET T20 BLAST
SIGN ON: FRIDAY 19TH JULY, 4:00PM-5:30PM
HARRUP PARK COUNTRY CLUB
COST: $25 = 6 WEEK PROGRAM PLUS A HEAT SHIRT AND CAP
GAMES WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY 26TH JULY AT 5:30PM
FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP TODAY GO TO T20BLAST.COM.AU

Stay Safe at Cane Train Crossings!!
The sugar mills are crushing, so please be prepared for cane train activity. Mackay Sugar urges all motorists and residents to be alert when approaching cane train crossings. Children – don’t play near railway lines or crossings, it’s not safe! Motorists – look out for cane trains; don’t try to race the cane train across the crossing, it’s not worth the risk! For all community enquiries, contact the Mackay Sugar Communications department on 4953 8393.