

Bwgc Colman Community School Newsletter

From the Principal

What a great start to the year we have had in 2014. The attendance has been terrific and the number of students turning up every day and so many of them in uniform shows us and the whole community just how proud our kids are about coming to Bwgc Colman Community School.

The RSAS (Remote Schools Attendance Scheme) officer – the ones in the white shirts – are doing a fantastic job of catching up with children around the community who should be at school. It's been great that they have a mini bus and in the next couple of weeks the school will get one as well, which will aid the improved attendance rate even more.

This week we had federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Nigel Scullion visit the school and go into classrooms to see the effect of

the increased attendance. By coming every day students have the opportunity to improve their skills and to be a part of the huge variety of activities we have here.

Some of the fantastic things going on this term already include ;

- the formation of the student council– they have already attended a leadership camp, met with the council and met with John Hatha-way our local MP.
- Sports trip to Shalom-rugby league/netball.
- A junior touch football comp being organized.
- Special language lesson being conducted in all primary classes.
- 10 new teachers who bring a wealth of experience.
- Men's business trip to

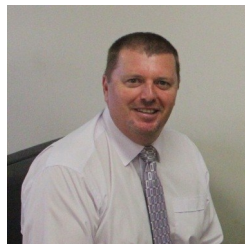
Possum Island

Once again this year our whole school focus is reading comprehension. The staff have been further developing their knowledge and understanding in this area to increase their capacity to teach and support the learning of students in their classes.

Each of our students have an attendance and literacy goal that they are working towards achieving. As the year progresses we will be looking to write individual learning plans for all of our students as we aim to raise the achievement standard for every child.

Have a great week

Jeff



Volume 2 : Issue 1

Date Claimer:

- Yarrabah Football trip ... 25 –28 March
- CFF Awards ... 2nd April
- Term ends ... 4 April
- Easter ... 20 April
- ANZAC Day ... 25 April
- NAPLAN ... 14-16 May

Student Council Leadership Camp by Darryn Jamieson



Eight students and two teachers boarded the million dollar Orpheus Research vessel on Thursday 20th February at 8.30am. This was the start of what turned out to be a trip full of fun, laughter and learning about leadership. All eight students made the most of

the challenging situations they experienced. Snorkelling amongst giant clams, engaging in trust activities, navigating their team mates through a sea of chairs to work on communication and displaying the resilience needed to complete a two hour bush trek. Well done

to the cane toad for a fantastic display of dance moves. On Friday students rolled their sleeves up and left the accommodation spotless. It was great to see the council start the year in such a positive way. Well done councillors. I think

Step Up get a fishing permit by Chris Evers

The Step Up Program is running again this year with a group of ten children from the Primary School. The program aims to help children who are regular non attenders get back into a routine of coming to school. The program has many projects that we do with the students and the most successful one is the fishing project.

Last year the program sold fish to people up in the mall as a way of getting the children to have real life experiences with budgeting and handling money. It was also great for their self esteem as future hunters. This was hugely successful with many people buying fish from the boys and praising

them up for their efforts.

The program hit a snag though when the stall was shut down because a permit had not been issued so that it could operate. Well that now has been rectified with the Step Up Program receiving a permit to once again operate the stall.

Boys who participate in the program also learn the value of respecting the Elders and Traditional Owners of Palm and as apart of this they donate fish to the Old People's Facility, HACC and also visit some of their Old People to drop fish to them.



The stall will operate again at the start of the mackerel season which should be around May/June this year.

Other projects that the boys will be involved with this year include Traditional Dance, Fire stick farming, marking and clearing some of the old pads around the island and also trying to work in with Men's Group where fathers, brothers and uncles can do some activities together.

School Leaders by Todd Chatterton

On our whole-school assembly on Monday, the 2014 Student Council leaders were presented with their badges. The eight councillors were elected by their fellow students to represent the school at major events and to provide students with a direct voice to the school administration team.

For their nomination to be accepted, students must have demonstrated that they have the capacity to be an excellent role-model for their peers.

Each fortnight the student councillors will run a Classroom Meeting to keep everyone informed of upcoming activities and key dates, as well as to gain feedback regarding positive ideas and school issues. They will also present their classmates with high school attendance graphs for each fortnight.

An important addition to this year's model is that each term, student councillors will be involved in 'Leadership Enhancement' workshops twice a term. These experiences have been designed to develop students' communication, confidence and organisational skills.

The first set of 'Leadership Enhancement' workshops will be held at an overnight camp at Orpheus Island Research Station on Thursday, 20th February. Students will engage in team-building and public speaking workshops as well as enjoying some snorkelling and bushwalking.

Congratulations to:

- Neil Baira, Keanu Lowatta-Creed, Kathleen Haines and Heath Lacey (Senior Leaders).
- Alma Solomon and Thomas Baira (Year 9/10 Leaders).
- Kevin Inkerman and Dianne Fulford (Year 7/8 Leaders).



Meet the Newbies

There are quite a few new faces on the teaching staff this year at Bwgcolman Community School and we welcome them into our school community. The Admin Team are currently interviewing for another teacher to join the high-school area and hopefully a candidate is selected soon to come join the team. While you may have seen some of the new faces getting around town we thought that it might be nice if you got to know them a little better. So ... enough from me. Let's meet the Newbie Crew:

Miss Amy: Hi, my name is Amy McGrath and I am teaching year 7-10 Science, 9/10 Home Economics and 11/12 Maths at Bwgcolman Community School in 2014. I am so excited to finally be here, and to have started teaching my new students who so far have been welcoming and getting stuck into their lessons. I grew up in both Sydney and Brisbane and have been a teacher for 7 years having taught in the Gulf, where I met my partner Chris, and most recently on the Sunshine Coast. Outside of teaching I am passionate about physical activity and especially love Oztag and tennis, and also love being outdoors snorkelling and hiking. I am looking forward to this year and meeting the families of all of the students so please don't be afraid to come up and say hello!

Mr Chris: My name is Chris Sachlikidis and I am the new HPE teacher for Bwgcolman CS. I am lucky enough to have classes with all of the primary school as well as 9/10 HPE. This is my first year teaching and I am very excited to be living and teaching on Palm Island, already I have been welcomed by so many friendly and helpful people. I was born and bred in Kuranda so I am loving being back in NQ after several years with my partner Amy living

in Normanton and the Sunshine Coast. I have worked in Sport and Recreation for the last 7 years with a major focus on developing Oztag in the Brisbane Region. I love fishing and in particular spearfishing and am looking forward to all that Palm has to offer and getting to know the students, families and community of the island.

Miss Emma: Hi, I'm Emma and I'm the new Special Education Program teacher at Bwgcolman. I am originally from a small town outside Dublin in Ireland but I moved to England when I was 10 years old. I've only been in Australia since August 2013, coming to Queensland via Melbourne in Victoria. I wanted to come to a place that was small, where I could be a part of a community and learn as well as teach. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to make that happen here on Palm and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone as the days go by. In my spare time I enjoy hiking and photography and am hoping to learn to fish in the not to distant future.

Dave (Mr H) & Miss Jill: We have spent the last 20 years working as teachers. Jill specialises in teaching the early years and David has focussed on secondary education and specialises in marine studies. We have recently moved from Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast where we have our family home. We have a 19 year old daughter, Jessie, who is currently studying at a University in California. She is a talented artist and designer. Our 18 year old son, Zak, has no interest in study but loves the sea. He ate a lot of wongai fruit when he lived in the Torres Strait for two years (Kubin and Thursday Island) and it has brought him back to the Straits where he is working as a crayfish diver. He loves his job. We also have a red and white border collie puppy, Finn, who loves swimming and playing with the kids on the jetty. Now that our children are both independent we decided we would like to return to the Tropics and work on Palm Island. We love the sea, diving and being out

in our boat. The taste of fresh trout and crayfish tail is about as good as life gets. To live on an island in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef is a true privilege. A big thank you to all the people who have made us feel welcome in your community and we look forward to getting to know you better.

Chloe McIntosh: Hi! My name is Chloe McIntosh, I am moving to Palm Island from Brisbane where I have been working and studying. I love the outdoors, and I am looking forward to exploring the area and snorkelling. I am can't wait to become part of the Palm Island community and get to know everyone.

Miss Julie: Hi my name is Julie Ballangarry and I am the prep-1 A teacher here at Bwgcolman Community School. I have just moved to Palm Island from Cairns where I completed my Teaching Degree. During my degree I did 2 of my teaching placements at Yarrabah State School working with year 6 and a year 1/2 which I absolutely loved (and even meet some family). Previous to this I lived in Brisbane where I was born and raised, although my father's people come from Northern NSW around the Nambucca Valley area – We are Gumbangurri people. So I am a very proud Koori. I love teaching your children here on Palm and am excited to see there little faces every day when I come to school. I look forward to getting to know all of you much better as the year progresses

Miss Donna: Hi my name is Donna Webb. I have four wonderful children; two boys and two girls (all grown up and at least half of them have left home). I come from the town that saved Queensland, Gympie. I love reading, baking, talking, reading and learning new things. See you round.

We hope that these new teachers at our school not only teach your children but also take the opportunity to learn from them and the community.

Who's who at the zoo ...

Year Level/Key Area	Teacher	IEA/CEC
Pre-Prep	Julie O'Shea Joe Istria	Dyella Gibson
P-1A	Julie Ballangarry	Latoya Williams
P-1B	Sarah Lowatta	Maizie Nai
1-2	Jill Hughes	Jimika Richardson
3-4A	Donna Webb	Carina Bulsey
3-4B	Veronica Coutts	Leah Miller
5-6A	Tamara Cassady	Beryl Murgha
5-6B	Karen Heales	Lorraine Kennedy
Step Up	Joe Istria Chris Evers	
Special Education	Emma Chandler Joelene O'Neill	Andrew Sharpe
Health and PE	Chris Sachlikidis	
Languages	Chris Evers	
7-8A	Rosie Tennent	
7-8B	Jeremy Pullen	
9-10A	Chloe McIntosh	Gail Larry
9-10B	Darren Jamieson	
11-12	Lynette Kim Sing Amy McGrath David Hughes Letitia Murgha	Wayne Prior
HOD Secondary Department	Todd Chatterton	Iaga Viri
HOD Teaching and Learning	Jess Kleinschmidt (0.5) Letitia Murgha (0.5)	Deanne Sibley Arthur Dalton
Business Service Manager and Office Staff	Stacey Friday	Allissa Pearson Grace Kabay
Library/Resource Coordinator	Marina Coutts	
Groundsmen	Len Sibley Ben Kennedy	
Cleaning Staff	Samuella Castors Chyanne Thimble Tracey Twaddle Kristen Harvey	Maizie Nai Latoya Williams Pia Castors Tiara Friday
Deputy Principal	David O'Shea	
Principal	Jeffrey Jones	

facebook

Don't forget to follow us on facebook