

Bwgc Colman Community School Newsletter

From the Principal

What a tremendous start to the year we have had. The attendance levels are the highest we have had in the past four years. Our enrolment is also at very high levels with 376 students enrolled up from 318 at the same time last year. Our overall attendance rate in the primary school is currently 87% and in the secondary school is 76%.

Year 2 are leading the way with 92.3% attendance and Year 7 is in front in the secondary school with 81%

I would like to thank the whole community for putting in a mighty effort to have our students coming, in most cases, to school everyday. It is a result which the entire community should be proud of.

There are 94 students in the primary school whose individual attendance rate is above 95% which is an awesome effort. Our Year 11 and 12s are calculating their daily percentage rate of

attendance and it's great to see that those percentages are rising.

Last week we had a full school review which meant that we had people from outside of our region come and check the school's progress against the National School Improvement Tool. Whilst we are still waiting for the formal written report, the indications in the exit interview were that we are covering all the aspects of the 9 domains in the tool. The means we are on track to keep improving our standards and our outcomes which is great news for the school and for Palm Island.

We are now moving into a local review stage where we will be interviewing community members to get their perspectives on the future direction of the school so we can write the new Strategic Plan. This plan will guide the school over the period 2016-2019 so it's vital that we have community input.

Everyone is welcome to have their say and opportunities will be available in the next month so take the chance to engage in your school's direction. We advertise these on Facebook.

This year we are continuing to concentrate on reading comprehension as a whole school focus and we have changed some people's roles in the school to reflect this emphasis. We are also tracking every child's progress in reading so we can identify trends and place resources in areas where they can have the greatest positive impact.

If you would like to know more about your child's progress, make an appointment see your child's class teacher and they will be more than happy to show you your child's progress.

Have a great week -Jeff



Volume 3 : Issue 1

Date Claimer:

- Yarrabah Visit ... 20th March
- Cross Country ... 27th Mar
- Term 1 ends ... 2nd Apr
- Term 2 Begins ... 20th April
- Swimming Carnival ... 20th April
- Athletics ... 23/25th June
- Obe Geia Challenge ... 11th Sept

2015 School Leaders



7/8 A by Ms Lyndall



The Year 7/8A students have had an awesome start to the year! The year 7's in particular have handled the transition from Primary to Junior Secondary very well. They are already working to a high standard and setting a great example to the Junior School with their respon-

sible behaviour. So far this year we have been involved in Men's and Women's business and have been cooking up a storm with Miss Amy in Home Economics (we may have the next generation of Master Chefs!). I am looking forward to what term 2 brings with this great bunch of students.

Planet Rhythm by Siani Sansbury year 1



Last week we went to Planet Rhythm. John showed us lots of drums and we all got to play with the drums too. It was fun. We got to play with the shakers and bells. It was loud. We all got to belly dance out of the hall.



Junior Secondary Sports Club by Ms Amy

The Junior Secondary Sports Club is up and running again this year with Mr Chris and Mr Jonathon Cazalet taking over as the football coaches with help from Mr Cliff, and Miss Amy and Miss Chloe continuing to coach the Netball team. The first games for the year will be held on Friday the 20th of March with BCS hosting the Yarrabah teams here on Palm Island.

Bwgc Colman girls were undefeated in Netball last year and are

certainly looking to continue that this year and the new year 7 girls have stepped up to fill the vacancies left by players from last year going to boarding school and into Senior. The boy's team is looking good as well after a few high intensity training sessions, and it will be good to see what this young side can produce come game day.

It is important to remember that being a part of this team is a privilege and not a right and in order to earn your spot of the team you must attend

school 80% or more, attend 80% or more of the training sessions and have a clear behaviour record.

Term 2 will see Bwgc Colman teams travel to both Townsville and Yarrabah for matches so we hope to see more students attending school and training to earn a spot on these trips. The sports club would also like to thank the Cathy Freeman Foundation for their ongoing support and for helping to make these trips possible.

Meet the Newbies

Ms Jenny : G'day Palm Island — My name is Jen Worsley and I am a new teacher / administration person here at Bwgc Colman. My family and I really love it here and I want to say a giant thankyou to those people who have made us feel really welcome.

My previous school was Western Cape College in Weipa, which I loved, however we made the decision to move closer to our families and here we are - with no regrets! We are looking forward to staying on Palm for at least five years, with the possibility of more. I am a mature age teacher - 40 something years old - and I have primarily attended and worked in high percentage Indigenous schools. I am really excited about working with the dedicated Bwgc Colman teachers, staff, students and parents towards the best possible outcomes for our students. Go Bwgc Colman!

Mr Jonathon: Hi everyone, I am Jonathon Cazalet and I am 26 years old.

I graduated the University of the Sunshine Coast in 2014 with a double degree in Education and Sports Science and am now working in the Junior Secondary area teaching the 7/8B class. Some of my hobbies include playing sport, reading and traveling. I wish to eventually further my studies in the way of a Masters and PhD but as for now I am looking forward to

learning and growing side by side with Bwgc Colman Community School and the Palm Island community as a whole.

Ms Belinda: Hi Everyone. My name is Belinda Kemp and I having a blast teaching year 4/5. I moved to Palm Island at the start of the year with my fiancé Hunter, who is also studying to become a teacher. I was born in New South Wales at a place called Tumut before moving to Bathurst where I grew up. As an adult I have lived on the Gold Coast, Darwin and most recently Emerald in Central Queensland. I enjoy exploring the outdoors, watching movies and cooking. We would like to thank everyone who has welcomed us into the Palm Island community and we look forward to catching a big fish (any type) while we are here.

Mel Zanki: I come from the Sunshine Coast, which is where my mother, brother and sister still live. I love reading and taking my dog to the beach. I moved to Palm Island in May last year to complete my final uni placement at Bwgc Colman Community School in the Year 1/2 class. I am really glad to have been given the chance to have my own class at Bwgc Colman Community School this year, and am really enjoying working with the Year 2/3s.

Murray Griffin: Hi, my name is Murray 'Muz' Griffin and I am a 'newbie' to Bwgc Colman Community School. I

have taken over from Todd's role as Head of Secondary and my teaching areas are Mathematics, Science, I.T (computer programming), Man Arts, Astronomy and Aviation just to name a few. My family live in Ingham, Mother lives in Halifax and I hope to purchase a JetSki to head home via Forrest Beach or Lucinda when the weathers fine.

I have taught at Coomera Anglican College on the Gold Coast, Charleville State High School, Yowah State School, Ingham State High and now here! I enjoy all sports and follow the Cowboys and St.Kilda (AFL). My wife is a nurse in Ingham, our youngest daughter is in year 10 at Ingham State High School and our eldest daughter is studying at JCU.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming term.



Jenny, Mel, Jonathon, Murray & Belinda



Year 4/5 by Ms Belinda

Wow – where has the time gone – I can't believe term one has nearly finished. First of all I would like to thank everyone from year 4/5 for welcoming me to Palm Island. This term in English we have been studying The Paper Bag Princes and Advertising. We have worked really hard on improving our sight word knowledge and spelling and already, a number of students have shown improvement in these areas. After the holidays we will be commencing units in English, Maths and Art and we will work more on our History project which will focus on the people who have come to and made Palm Island their home.



Practice Reading Everywhere

Language is all around us. You don't have to be the world's best reader to help your child learn to read. Ideas for families

- ◆ Show kids how to use books. Hold the right way up. Gently turn pages.
- ◆ Make up your own stories, or have your child tell their own story using the pictures in the books.
- ◆ Point to the pictures in books and ask, "What's happening here?"
- ◆ Listen to kids when they tell you stories about the pictures in books.
- ◆ Give kids picture books to pretend read.
- ◆ Look at magazines and newspapers with kids. Talk about the pictures and the written information.
- ◆ Read posters around the community with kids.
- ◆ Look at food labels in the shop. The label tells us what is inside.
- ◆ Show kids the writing on the food packet. "The words tell us we need two cups of milk."
- ◆ Look at a map and show kids where they live and places they know.
- ◆ Show kids signs around the community. "The sign tells us the shop is open."



Year 2/3 by Ms Mel

We've had a busy start to the year in Year 2/3. In English, we enjoyed reading "Prince Cinders" and creating our own class version called "Bob the Tiger". Each student then created their own version for their oral presentations. We're a very creative class and love drawing and dancing, one of the highlights of the year so far has been the Planet Rhythm where we had the chance to play a range of different instruments.



Class	Teacher	Teacher Aide	Room	HOD	Line Manager
Primary Faculty					
Pre-Prep	Joe Istria Julie O'Shea	Jimika Richardson	O1	Jenny Worsley	David O'Shea
Prep	Veronica Coutts	Sharleena Minnicon	P2		
Yr P/1	Julie Ballangarry	Latoya Williams	P1		
Yr 1/2A	Jill Hughes	Maizie Nai	A1		
Yr 1/2B	Sarah Lowatta	Jerri Blackley	D2		
Yr 2/3	Melanie Zanke	Carina Bulsey	A2		
Yr 3/4	Donna Webb	Dyella Morgan	A3		
Yr 4/5	Belinda Kemp	Isiah Blackman	A4		
Yr 5/6B	Tammy Cassady	Janelle Creed	A5		
Yr 5/6A	Jessica Kleinschmidt	Lorraine Kennedy	D1		
Secondary Faculty					
Yr 7/8B	Jonathon Cazalet	Mickeal Sibley	X16	Murray Griffin	Jeff Jones
Yr 7/8A	Lyndal Thompson	Kathy Nallajar	X19		
Yr 9/10B	Amy Sachlikidis	Cliff Beetham	X12		
Yr 9/10A	Chloe McIntosh		X9		
Yr 11/12B	David Hughes	Harold Coutts	K1		
Yr 11/12A	Lynette Kim Sing	Michael Castors	N1		
Other Secondary Teaching Staff					
	Letitia Murgha				
	Chris Sachlikidis				
	Jenny Worsley				
	Murray Griffin				
	David O'Shea				
Specialist Staff					
HPE	Chris Sachlikidis	Manatu Nelliman	C1		David O'Shea
SWD	Emma Chandler Joelene O'Neill	Avril Liscombe	Lib		
Language Leader	Chris Evers				
STLaN	Sarah Lowatta				
Jnr Science	Jennifer Healey	Classroom I.E.A			

Year 3/4 by Ms Donna

2015 has set off like a rocket. Year 3/4 have already completed the first of their assessment tasks and are beginning their new units in Literacy and Maths. Our main focus has been on making each class member feel like they are part of an important team and encouraging great behaviour choices. The students have all set their term goals towards attendance, behaviour and reading with each very positive about what they expect from themselves. On Tuesday of week 6 we thoroughly enjoyed our exploration to Planet Rhythm and loved making noise without getting told to be silent. We all agree that the term is going very quickly and have accepted the longer day on Friday without too much negativity. Bring on the rest of the year .



HoD Secondary Desk by Mr Murray

We have now reached week 8 of the term and our Secondary School is moving forward very well with curriculum, attendance and behaviour. Our year 7 and 9 grades will be preparing for the coming NAPLAN assessments (May) which means we will present the students with an opportunity to sit a practice exam so they are aware of the conditions required to undertake the assessment.



Our senior Emergency Cadets are preparing for the Youth Games which are taking place this coming Saturday at the Aitkenvale PCYC. All attending cadets will be working with organisations such as the Australian Defence Force, Emergency organisations to assist in broadening their career aspects.

Our Year 11 and 12 students are in their final week of teaching as they will be undertaking their work placements (week 10) and the Certificate II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Primary Health Care (Week 9).

Primary Science with Ms Jen

In science this term students in Prep to Year 6 have been studying biology. We have been busy learning about plants and animals and investigating the habitats they live in. The junior primary school has been busy growing plants, incubating chickens, exploring Mangroves and learning about the needs of living things. The upper primary students have been investigating animal adaptations and conducting lots of experiments in relation to how plants and animals survive in their environments. It has been a fun and interesting term exploring our living world. Thanks to all the students for their efforts, keep up the great work.



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