FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Why do teachers teach?

Earlier this year, I devoted some time to finding out why our teachers teach and what motivated them to come to school each day and do their best for our students. The responses I received were nothing short of inspiring. Below I have listed some of the responses to demonstrate that our staff are in the profession for a higher purpose than just a steady pay cheque and holidays.

Why our teachers teach:
- To inspire student beliefs through high expectations.
- To make a difference.
- To change people’s lives for the better.
- To help students choose the right path.
- To influence a society that they (and their students) can happily grow old in.
- To be responsible for ‘the spark’.
- To leave a legacy.

We are very fortunate at Berrinba East State School to have a staff that is committed to making a difference for an individual child, school, community and society.

Attendance

Last year we had almost 100 students that had an attendance rate of less than 85%. This meant that these students missed at least 30 days or 6 weeks of school. I have emphasised the direct link between attendance and academic success many times in this newsletter. However, after looking at the academic achievement of the students with less than 85% attendance from last year, I have been able to compile the following statistics.

Of the students at Berrinba East State School who had an attendance rate of 85% or lower:
- 53% of these students FAILED English.
- 60% of these students were BELOW the National Minimum Standard for NAPLAN Reading
- 60% of these students FAILED Mathematics
- 10% of these students received above a C for Mathematics.
- 0% of these students received above a C for English.

As you can see, being a student with an attendance rate of less than 85% attendance places you at a higher risk of failing to succeed academically which in turn limits opportunities later in life. Again, I would strongly encourage all families to ensure the regular attendance of their students.

P&C AGM

Our P&C AGM was held on Wednesday night and I would like to congratulate the following people on being elected officer bearers:
- President – VACANT
- Vice President – VACANT
- Treasurer – Malia Niau
- Secretary – Kirsty Butcher
- Assistant Secretary – Nikki Ford
- Fundraiser – Sarah Hyndman
- Uniform Shop Convenor – Carolyn Mott
- Student Banking – Kristi Baker (Coordinator), Debbie Colburn (Assistant)
- Book Club Co-coordinator – Malia Niau

As you can see, there are some crucial positions on the P&C executive that are currently vacant. If you would be interested in filling one of these positions, please feel free to come and see either Ms Marshall or myself at the office.

School Bell

I have been made aware there was a malfunction of our school bell early on Thursday morning that caused a disturbance for our local community. While this malfunction was completely out of our control, I would like to offer an apology to the households affected.

Highlights

- 6CF have started the year very well by having very high attendance (93.13%) and minimal Major Office Referrals to date. It is pleasing to see that these students are taking their role of leaders within our school very seriously.
- Prep SH have achieved an outstanding rate of attendance so far this year (96.37%). It is little wonder that we are already seeing academic success coming from this class.
Our previous Uniform Shop Convenor, Josie Beausart, was awarded Life Membership of the Berrinba East State School P&C on Wednesday night. Josie has continued to volunteer despite her children leaving the school.

I would like to thank our outgoing P&C President, Carolyn Mott and Treasurer, Sarah Hyndman for their work and support of our school. Carolyn and Sarah were very welcoming upon my arrival at Berrinba and have been an absolute pleasure to work with. While both these ladies will work with the P&C in some capacity, their contribution in these crucial roles will be missed.

Steve Kanowski
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

LIFE EDUCATION

March 8-16

Healthy Harold and an educator from Life Education will soon be delivering life lessons that empower children to make safer and healthier choices, now and in the future. In all the sessions they utilise video, songs, characters and role play to engage and excite children in all year levels.

To participate, a small fee of $5 per child is requested, covering participation in the lesson provided by Life Education and a work book for follow up lessons. Payment is due March 4.

Life Education is also offering a parent information session on Tuesday 8th March, 2:00pm. I encourage you all to participate in this session to learn more about the learning experiences provided by Life Education.

ATTENDANCE

As we reach the halfway point of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Approximately 3 days off so far in 2016, would equal an attendance rate of 88.6%. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year.

Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year. If you are experiencing difficulties that might be impacting on your child’s attendance please talk to your child’s teacher or drop in to the office to make an appointment with myself or any staff member you feel comfortable with.

More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html

Congratulations to Prep SH who received the Attendance Gnome on parade last week. Prep SH had an attendance rate of 96.38%. We are looking forward to seeing what our Attendance Gnome gets up to while he is visiting Prep SH.

The Top 5 Attendance classes in Week 4 were:

1. Prep SH 96.38%
2. 1MF 92.8%
3. 6CF 92.68%
4. 345KW 91.25%
5. 4MC 90.9%

With only one class meeting the BESS target in Week 4, I’m looking forward to seeing how many classes we can get in the Green Zone next week!

Kathryn Marshall
Deputy Principal
CURRICULUM CORNER

What are your reading goals??

Our students have been set reading growth point goals for the next 5 weeks. We are learning to articulate:

- Where they are?
- Where they need to be?
- How will they get there?

Teachers have engaged in professional learning teams to create SMART goals for their students in reading. These goals will guide explicit instruction and target strategies to support differentiated reading instruction during small group guided reading.

EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION: YOU DO

The purpose of independent practice is to provide students with additional repetitions of a lesson’s concepts and skills. This will support MASTERY of the new learning. During this time, teachers WALK AROUND – TALK AROUND to provide ACTIVE monitoring and TIMELY feedback.

You will notice in our classrooms anchor charts, daily timetables and classroom rules to support the engagement of our learners. Solid work routines and expectations are constantly emphasised and reinforced to provide the optimal learning environment for our students.

Lauren Highman & Terra-Lee Peters
Head of Curriculum Mathematics and English

STUDENT SERVICES TEAM NEWS

Belonging at school makes a difference

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Children who feel that they belong at school are happier; more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work. Research into children's mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teacher's helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older ‘buddies’ to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying. These are some of the ways

Parents that come to the activities will earn extra special Green Tokens for their children and receive an extra special gift.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Rule of the Week

The Rule of the Week for next week will be:

Be a Learner: Turning Negative Thoughts into Positives.

Keep up the good work and keep on collecting those Honey Pot tokens for the Honey Pot Shop and the Bee Hive. Have a great weekend and practice your rules of the week.

Glenn Dias
Behaviour Advisory Teacher
that children’s sense of belonging at school can be supported.

(This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au)

Last week’s Jukebox Friday at 8.00am certainly proved to be all of the above. It brought kids together, helped them to make new friends, share their love of music and have fun with significant adults in the school. The dancing, smiles, laughter and a child’s recount of “we had a party before school Ms Brown. It was great” says it all. Interestingly, the children went into the learning zone ready to learn. Make sure you grab a bite to eat from breakfast club then come along this week, Fridays at 8.00 am. You never know what Mr Mose, Mr Underwood and Mrs A have planned.

SOME SIMPLE THINGS YOU AS PARENTS/CARERS CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN FEEL THEY BELONG.

- **ATTENDANCE DOES MATTER** – Children form friendships through regular contact with their peers. If your child is not attending regularly, it is difficult for other children to develop a bond with them and feel a sense of security that they will become a reliable play mate. This increases the risk of conflict and feeling left out.

- **GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER** – Touch base with them. This connection shows your child/children that you consider their teacher a trustworthy adult and someone who will listen to them when they need help at school. It also allows you to share your valuable knowledge of your child’s needs and what you want for their education.

Let’s work together for the best possible education outcomes for Berrinba Kids.

*Mrs Gillian Brown*
Guidance Officer

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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<td>April 11th</td>
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**HOMEWORK HELP**

Did you know that Logan Central Library offers a free online tutoring service for students in grades 3 to 12? This service is available from 3.30pm - 4.30pm Monday to Thursday during the school term. The library is located at 26 Wilbur Street, Logan Central. Telephone 3412 4100 for more information. Students need to be library members.

**CHAPLAINCY NEWS**

Well we are all well and truly back in the swing of a new year of learning. We are missing our year 6’s from last year however we have a wonderful group of year 6’s this year. It was great to see our new student leaders at parade last week receiving their badges and we all look forward to seeing them in action around the school.

**BIBLE CLUB:**

This started last week with 110 students voluntarily attending in their lunchbreak to have some fun learning about the Bible and God. Permission notes will come home next week for you to return so your child can continue to attend. Please return them to the office, the class teacher or to me as soon as possible. Bible Club has been in our school for the last 23 years and continues to attract lots of children. They love to come and I love to see them.

I am looking forward to catching up with lots of you in the near future. If you are not sure what a Chaplain does in the school I will be putting some information in the coming newsletters. Please pop in to see me in my new room in E Block, next to the Guidance Officer, in the Well Being Hub.

*Wendy Hilton*
School Chaplain
LIFE EDUCATION

Life Education will be back in 2016. Each class will participate in a lesson, prepared and delivered by a staff member from Life Education and “Harold the Giraffe”. The lessons are designed to teach students concepts related to the Health Curriculum and to give them an opportunity to develop personal safety skills.

The cost is $5.00 for each student and payment is due to the office by Friday the 4th of March.

STUDENT ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

At Berrinba East State School we run an Attendance program called Student Online Booking System (SOBS). SOBS sends out a text message to a nominated parent notifying them of an unexplained absence for their child. This program is now up and running for 2016 and will commence on Monday 29th February.

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day organisation asks us to think about and finish this sentence. “Our diversity is our strength. Together we…”

WATCH THIS SPACE! Festivities are being finalised to celebrate Harmony Day on Thursday 24th March. It is a NOT TO BE MISSED school event filled with student performances.

CHICKEN AND SALAD ROLL/SANDWICH

Most children love chicken, so a chicken and salad roll is a great choice for their lunch. Lightly butter a fresh bread roll (preferably wholemeal) and put a layer of cooked, skinless chicken on the bottom.

Top with any of the following:

- Lettuce
- Grated Carrot
- Cucumber Slices
- Cheese
- Coleslaw
- Mashed Avocado
- Sultanas

If desired, finish off with a squirt of mayonnaise.

A great option for younger children is to make a sandwich instead of a roll, and using a large biscuit cutter, cut it into a shape (star, butterfly, etc…).

PAYMENT WINDOW

For next week only, the Payment Window will be open from Wednesday to Friday between 8am and 11:10am to process payments.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If it’s important to you, you will find a way. If it’s not, you’ll find an excuse.