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**August/Sept 2016**

**Principal's Lines**

How many Queensland children can say that they spent their lunchtime playing soccer with the Minister for Innovation and Science? Well our children can and they did! Leeanne Enoch was as impressive on the field as she was in the classroom telling students how important it is to come to school every day.

Leanne is one of many visitors we have had at school so far this term. In Week 2 it was wonderful to have the school community come together to celebrate NAIDOC Day. Highlights of the day were the magnificent damper cooked by Lily Yougie and Doreen Ball, Dreamtime stories told by Mario Williams and of course, a grand finale of the fantastic dancing performed by the students.

Last week School Improvement Reviewers Ian and Judy, spent two days talking to staff, students, parents and community members about the teaching and learning at Bloomfield River. Their summary highlighted the commitment that staff have to students' learning outcomes and just what a great school we have. From their feedback, we will form our next four year Strategic Plan.

Although our visitors contribute much, in the end it's all about the students who come to school every day to improve their learning. In this newsletter, you'll read about all the great things that are happening in our school because every day in every classroom every child is learning.

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**Our School Pledge**

I will be safe, respectful and strong. I will be the best learner I can be.
News From Prep and Year 1
Hi There Parents, Carers and Families,
Welcome back to Term 3. Wow can you believe we are already at this point of the year already? All the students in Prep and Year One are progressing well with their learning, this would not be possible without the efforts of you- their parents and carers, so thank you! This term is extremely busy and exciting! In English this term we are learning all about rhyme. To help us along the way we are exploring the wonderful world of Dr Seuss and the children’s author Julia Donaldson. In Mathematics students are tackling the tricky teen numbers, 2D and 3D shapes, measurement, location and we will be commencing telling time to the hour, and some simple addition and subtraction soon. Students have demonstrated a willingness and eagerness to learn these new skills and concepts and are enjoying the lessons.

During our afternoon sessions on Monday and Wednesday we are exploring countries around the world. We have already travelled to Brazil and carnival masks, and during Week 4 we travelled to Mexico-Mexican Hat Dance and learnt to count to 10 in Spanish! We will be spending our time in the library with students classroom library along with fiction and non-fiction for the classroom book baskets.

Just a reminder to please be mindful of student lunch boxes and what food is being provided. It is important that students are receiving a balanced, nutritious meal that will help them concentrate and essentially learn much better. Drinks and snacks with large amounts of sugar (Nutella, Popper Juices, Muffins, and Cakes) can impact student’s behaviour and their concentration which means they may not be working to the best of their ability. If you are providing your child with a treat, please try to keep this to a minimum. Importantly students should not be consuming any caffeine or sports drinks while at school. If students do arrive with these, they will be removed and given back to them at the end of the day. Finally it is important that each child has their own bag as students to receive homework. Furthermore all students’ belongings should be labelled with their name including their lunch boxes and bags.

I look forward to the rest of the term and continuing the great work in the classroom.

Miss Tammy
Big Kids Class News

I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to all the students and families for a fantastic beginning to Term 3. Attendance has been amazing, homework has been superb and on top of all this, the student’s behaviour these last few weeks has been outstanding. This has meant that we have ploughed through a lot of serious learning and students are putting in a huge amounts of effort into their work. I can see all the students taking a step forward with their learning each and every day. Well done! And a big thank you to everyone who was able to come to our NAIDOC Day here at the school.

This term we have some of our old favourite clubs up and running again, have been enjoying experiences with Ms the opportunity to our gardens and with a serving of chicken salad wraps. students and something they will cherish. Along with the Garden Club we have also students have been split into juniors and peers. These have mainly involved soccer so far, as we will be having our soccer carnival in Laura towards the end of the term. Three lunches a week we have also been having Music Club, where students are practising their guitar abilities as well as their singing abilities. Although these are still in early stages, students are already showing great progress towards being little guitar players. If any of the children have showed interest in learning guitar, tell them to come along to music club.

Chappy has been back again this term working through some activities around the five keys to success that were covered on our school camp: resilience, organisation, getting along, confidence and persistence. A few weeks ago we did an activity called the ‘Electric Fence’ where students were to climb over a rope slung between two trees whilst they were attached by their arms to the rest of the class.

The content we are learning about in each various subject area includes:

- English – Writing recounts, and writing and analysing poetry.
- maths – Concepts of number including multiplication, fractions, decimals and number patterns.
- Science – Exploring our Solar System and understanding all the different things that make up our Solar System.
- Geography – The Olympics and different continents and countries across the world.

If any parents or family members wish to talk with me please don’t hesitate to contact me or come and see me at the school. 

James Baker

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**Around the classes with Miss Vicki**

**Prep/1 and 1/2/3**

In science we are learning about “What things are made of”. We walked around the school looking at things that are natural and human made. We have enjoyed class and school NAIDOC lessons over the past few weeks. Students drew maps of their own songlines(walks) around the school. Lessons included dreamtime stories, art, craft, music and dance learning about the lifestyle of their elders.

Prep/i students Christine, Peter and Jeniqua are becoming more independent with the use of their hearing aides. They chose the pictures to add to their bands to decorate the device. 

**3/4/5/6**

In English during Spelling Mastery groups students are becoming more confident with the use of the many spelling rules and applying this to their reading and writing.

Reading buddies with the Prep/i class continues to be a favourite of students and teachers.

Thanks for your support Miss Vicki
The Families as First Teachers program began at Kuranda District State School in 2005. The program aims to connect families with the school and build adult understandings about child development and learning. FaFT is a key “Closing the Gap” strategy for improving literacy, numeracy, language and parental engagement in early years education programs. - Rosetta Brim, Djabugay elder & FaFT foundation team member.

Children begin learning as soon as they are born. They learn through touching, tasting, spelling, hearing and making sounds. Their first years of life, and the learning experiences they have, impact on their success at school.

Miss Vanessa and I travelled to Cairns last term for a 3 day conference with the FaFT group.

FaFT in on Wednesdays at Playgroup. Come on down & check out some of the great educational activities we have on offer.

Miss Kerry
Week 4

Again it is already nearly half way through Term 3 and I am happy to say that students are continuing to work hard on improving their learning and are still trying hard to meet the targets expected of them.

If at any time you would like to discuss your child’s progress please contact me. Please remember that in order for your child to have the best chance of achieving successful outcomes they must attend school every day. Unfortunately if your child does not have constant attendance, this will be reflected in their overall achievement.

What are we learning about this term?

In English we are continuing with our writing program. I am very excited to inform you that we have had several comments by various adults on how well we form our letters and write our words. We are continuing to learn about grammar, comprehension, spelling rules, sight words, and working on our reading. We will explore recount writing, poetry and instructions, where we will be making an instruction manual on how to be a pirate.

In Mathematics we are continuing to learn new concepts and revise them daily. Some of our new concepts include fractions, multiplication, division, mapping, graphs, time, symmetrical shapes and exploring features of money.

With the Olympic Games now underway the students are engaging in a variety of creative experiences around history, geography, English, HPE, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capabilities, visual arts, dance and design and technology. Some of these experiences include learning about BK (Bouncing Kangaroo) the Australian Olympic Team Mascot, listening to Australian and Brazilian music and discussing why people dance and use dance as a form of expression. Students will also create a piece of artwork for the Australian Olympic Team in Rio.

Our Geography unit this term is all about exploring features of places. In this unit students will investigate what places are like? What are the different features of places? How can we care for places? How can spaces within a place be rearranged to suit different purposes? And what is a place?

Please sit with your child and encourage them to complete their homework each night and return it completed on TUESDAY MORNINGS.

Reminder – Wednesdays are still Show and Tell. Show and tell continues to help your child gain confidence in speaking to a group.

We love seeing families in our classroom so if you do have some spare time why not come and say Hi and join our lessons. You are always welcome.

Miss Melissa
Term 3 has been very busy for our Gardening Club.
We have fertilised all of our gardens, and wrapped two of our gardens with netting.

Last week we made our first salad from foods gathered from our garden:
Paw paw, lettuce, tomato, capsicum, chives, marigold flowers, ibeka, sweet leaf and coriander.

Each classroom and staff have their own compost collection tubs and posters that explain what foods go into our compost tubs.

Every Wednesday we sort out all of the tubs, some food scraps go to our worms, and the rest to the compost bin.

The junior students have been excited to join us each Wednesday, helping with our garden duties.

Xhevy, Chanthlie, Kia & Kacio.

The PB Shop

In Term 3 the Positive Behaviour Shop opened. Students now have the chance to collect Positive Behaviour tokens, collect them in their little token books and exchange them for rewards on Fridays. The PB Shop opens every Friday at second lunch and offers a wide range of rewards in all shapes and sizes. Some can be exchanged for one or two pages of tokens or if the students wish they can save token pages for a rather large reward.

PB SHOP
OPENING HOURS
Fri 1:00 to 1.25