From the Principal

Dear parents, friends and students,

We are well over the halfway mark of the year and it's a good time to reflect on where we are at and where we are heading. Our major emphasis has been on improving attendance and improving literacy, in particular reading comprehension. Our school reading program is heavily focused on reading for meaning and we are seeing great results in the early years where we are putting the largest amount of support.

Children soak up knowledge from the moment they are born. They are naturally inquisitive and time invested in teaching and learning at home, and in the early years of formal education help set children on the path to success. Education starts at home, and parents and families are their children's first teachers. The playgroup at the CFC is a tremendous way to help your young ones on their path to literacy.

Reading stories is the best way to develop your child’s oral language in preparation for literacy and Numeracy skills no matter what year level they are in.

As the year progresses, we are narrowing and sharpening our focus on the needs of individual students by analysing their performance on the tests that we do. If you send your kids every day, then you will see the difference it makes to their results.

Safety of our environment is always important to us at the school. It should also be important to all community members. We recently had a student injure themself after climbing on some equipment that had been tampered with the day before. It has become evident that some students were aware of the vandalism but had not reported it at the time. We have spoken to the students to ensure that they are aware of their responsibility to report safety concerns to the staff when they become aware of a problem. As a community we also need to be proactive about reporting things that are unsafe to the appropriate authorities so that action can be taken to fix the issue before someone gets seriously injured.

Have a great week Jeff

Sydney Horizons Trip by Chris wicks

Early this term, 15 of our hard-working and dedicated students were given the chance to step outside the community to see how big the world really is and experience some of the amazing opportunities that are available to them. They were selected to take part in the Cathy Freeman Foundation Horizon Tour to Sydney. The Sydney tour is all about personal development, future pathways and career aspirations. The students were asked to start making plans and decisions for their future.

The students started the week by looking at the skills and attributes that make people successful. We were lucky enough to hear from many Indigenous role models that shared their stories and some of the challenges that stood in the way of successful. It was clear that their stories had very similar themes. They were typically from small areas or remote communities, they had lots of bad influences to contend with, they had family members that were in jail or trouble with the law and they had plenty of people that doubted them along the way. Even with all these roadblocks in the way, these proud, young Indigenous people chased their dreams, stuck to their plan, aimed big, set goals and worked hard to get where they are. Their stories were truly inspiring and proved to the Bwgcolman kids how important it is to have passion, commitment and personal drive.

It wasn’t all work and no play. We were also lucky enough to join the 83 000 people at ANZ Stadium to watch the Queenslanders secure their 8th State of Origin series win. We hung out with the lifesavers from Bondi Rescue and had a swim at the iconic beach. We chilled out with Rhys Wesser at South Sydney Rabbitohs training and we worked out in the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence gym every morning.

Please congratulate the following students on their efforts and representation of Palm Island when you see them around the community: Peter Reid, Sharmika Curley, John Geia, Jona Dabea, Kenny Baira, Neil Baira, Kathleen Haines, Nagarie Pearson, Health Lacey, Dehannah Morgan, Shiri Barry-Curley, Raymond Ketchup, Thomas Baira, Breanna Cannon & Alvina Walton

Date Claimer:

- School camps … 12—23 August
- 7's football … 25 August
- Red Track … 27 August
This year it was a younger group of Bwgcolman students that attended the successful FOGS Careers Expo in Townsville on 24 July. The trip involved a ferry into Townsville on Monday, a very competitive game of laser tag that evening and a sleep over at Ryan College before the real fun on Tuesday. The students took part in the day’s activities, including finding possible career options, visiting stalls at the Expo and listening to some great inspirational speakers. Students were chosen because of their attendance and dedication to their learning in class and should now be focussed on their goals and looking forward to their future.

A small but very talented group of Bwgcolman students travelled to Shalom College on Friday 2 August to compete for a place at the District Championships. The team returned with plenty of ribbons and two of our students have cemented a spot in the team. Koipe Castors (16 boys) will be competing in the 100m, 200m and High Jump; and Kathleen Haines (15 Girls) in the 100m, 200m, 400m, Javelin and Discus.

Over the last couple of weeks the Step-Up program has been learning about caring for country with a focus on learning about the responsibilities that they have looking after people and places. In particular the boys have looked at their obligations to the community, sustainable fishing and hunting practices and respecting their elders and the traditional owners of Palm Island. This has involved travelling around the Island to visit and maintain different sites on the Island as well as catching fish and sharing them out. The group has donated fish to the old people’s home as well as Traditional Owner Alan Palm Island.

Through this the group has develop a greater sense of respect and obligation towards the community, an understanding of their own history and especially rewarding to see the pride they have in helping others.

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Train on squad for Red Track Athletics in Townsville

Red track is on again this year over in Townsville and we will be sending away a combined Bwgcolman—St Michael’s team to compete against various Townsville schools. Over the years our team has done the island proud and we know this tradition will continue. The following names are the children who are in the train on squad. From this squad a team will be chosen based on attendance, behaviour and how well they have trained. The train on squad is as follows:

Josiah Murphy, Lotisha Kennedy, Ingai Geia, Neriah Chatterton, Shona Friday, Whitney Haines, Rayzarlin Pearson, Levi James, Lendell Sibley, Lekisha Brown, Ikanu Conway, Craig Evers, Norman Bounghi Prior, Vinnevia Bulsey, Etosha Pearson, Waisie Miller, Rolland Geesu, Cheylesiah James, Jean Sibley, Hope Nallajar, Gary Pearson, Germaine Bulsey, Brandyn Castors, Elijah Miller, Jackson Williamsz, Shantae Ryan, Tkai Haines, Pamela Aplin, Sarita Geia, Tareese Kidner, Lottie Daphney, Maurice Bourne, Levi Bair, Hananias Murphy, Davena Miller, Judy Watson, Ruby Williamsz, Dianne Fulford, Jalun Lowatta Creed

Centacare Parenting Workshops

Centacare are running Parent workshops, Parenting Teens on the Island, on the following dates:

- 26th August
- 2nd September
- 9th September
- 16th of September

They are hoping to get a group of 10 families together to look at topics such as Changes in the Teenage Child, Risky Behaviours, Conflict Resolution Strategies and Harm Minimisation Strategies.

Deanne will be attending the program to support parents and represent the school. Chris Wicks will be running a few sessions on strategies to get kids to school and sharing some of our Classroom Profiling information. It is hoped that this will start to build a common language between home and school around issues of attendance and behaviour.

Centacare have asked for our help in identifying families that will benefit from involvement in the program. If you know of any parents that have been asking for help or struggling with their teenage children could you please share this information with them or send their names through so we can invite them to attend the program? Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations Miss Jen and Jason Healey on the birth of your son Andrew Veali Healey
Photos