

# Bwgc Colman Community School Newsletter

08 March 2016

**Is your child at school today?**  
**Everyday counts!**

## Date Claimers

<b>09—13 March</b>	World Science Festival - Brisbane
<b>11 March</b>	Mens' Group (School Visit)
<b>16 March 4.00pm</b>	Farm—Suburb Yarn
<b>17 March</b>	Cross Country
<b>24 March</b>	Last Day—Term One

## Oztag Trip

In Week 1 this term, 24 students from Bwgc Colman Community School travelled to the Sunshine Coast to compete in the Queensland Oztag Junior State Cup. The Palm Island Hunters were 2 of the 150+ teams that competed in the competition. Our students showed a great attitude that improved with every game. Although they did not win, they were commended for their great sportsmanship and effort.

Thanks to our sponsors Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Cathy Freeman Foundation, Palm Island Community Company, Klub Kuda, Sealink Ferries for their generous contributions.

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the year. Our plan is to have a Newsletter ready for the community at the end of every month. Copies will be posted on-line, with printed copies also available from various locations across the community. Your feedback would be appreciated on how we could improve this important document. I not only want the Newsletter to be meaningful, but I want it to be enjoyable to read.

This year, we have welcomed a number of new teachers to the school and I know many of you have already made them feel very welcome to the school community.

A belated welcome to Miss Rae (Prep); Mr John (P/1); Miss Carmel (P/1); Mr Stuart (Secondary) and Miss Bryoney (Support). Like other continuing staff members, I know all of our new teachers will make a positive contribution to the educational journeys of the students during their time with us.

This year, we will continue to focus on the following goals across the school. These include:

- **Attendance**
- **Reading**
- **Literacy and Numeracy**
- **Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)**
- **Secondary Pathways**

These goals are important, but ATTENDANCE is the most significant of all. We cannot teach your children unless they are here at school. We try to do everything in our power to get children to school and to engage them to participate in interesting and worthwhile classroom activities. None of this can happen, if children do not go to school. On the back page of this Newsletter is a chart outlining the impact of nonattendance. This directly affects student outcomes. Ultimate-

ly, it is the responsibility of families to get their children to school. If you are experiencing difficulty, please contact the school and we will be able to provide you with extra support.

## Suburb Yarns

Every Term, I would like to plan Suburb Yarns across the community. The purpose of these sessions is to connect and engage with families about their child's education and to listen to feedback from families about our priorities and what we could change, improve or introduce. These Suburb Yarns will not be formal meetings, but an opportunity to have a yarn and a sausage sizzle. Our first Suburb Yarn for the year will be held at the Netball Courts at the Farm. I look forward to seeing you there.



## Book Donation

Thank you to the Australian Crime Commission for their generous donation of books to our school. We all recognise the importance of reading and for children, this skill is the most important of all. Being unable to read will create problems for young people as they become adults and begin applying for jobs. Thank you again to ACC for this donation. As you can see, our students have already started reading these fantastic books.



Kind regards  
Ross McHutcheon  
Principal

## Pre-Prep News

The children have been looking at the colour **BLUE** in Pre-Prep. We asked children's families to come and join **them** for a special morning of art and crafts. We finished the morning with a **BLUE** themed morning tea consisting of **BLUE** cupcakes, jelly & pikelets. It was great to see so many parents coming in and participating in all activities.



## Library News

The library now has a book covering machine that covers the books in plastic giving them longer protection. Thanks to Mr Beven we now have a number of new books covered which can go onto the bookshelves for everyone to enjoy. Please visit the library and check out the new books. There are some great books including topics about wildlife, animals, stories and history. Cheers Miss Letitia.



## Prep/1A

Our class is reading the book *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean*. The children are having a great time making all of the sea animals featured in the book. So far we've made clams, crabs, fish, jellyfish and turtles. Soon we'll be making sharks. Come in and have a look at our wall, if you dare!

## Everyday Counts

All students should have an attendance rate of between 85 and 100% for each Semester. This list is designed to show how much school your child will miss by being late each day or absent for whole days during the year:

- Absent **30 minutes everyday** = 1/2 day per week = **2 weeks per year**
- Absent **1 day per fortnight** = 20 days per year = **4 weeks per year**
- Absent **1 day per week** = 40 days per year = **8 weeks per year**
- Absent **2 days per week** = 80 days per year = **16 weeks per year**

Low attendance rates can lead to poor numeracy and literacy skills as well as students experiencing greater difficulty gaining employment. Students with lower than 85% attendance may also not be able to participate in special school events such as school camps. Parents and family members are asked to work with the school to make attendance a priority.