Once again this Semester, Power Cards will be presented to families who have worked hard at getting their children to school every day. Since Monday 18 April, students will need to be at school for 90% of the time in order for their family to receive a $20.00 Power Card. The school will be purchasing these cards for you and they will be handed out to families during a special assembly at the end of this Term. Ask your child to check on their attendance rates. (Student attendance charts are in all classrooms.)

Reading, and a love for reading, begins at home...

Last Thursday afternoon, parents participated in an information session which explained practical activities they can do with their children to make home reading a fun learning time. Parents participated in Sight Word games and learnt about reading strategies that will help children reach their reading goals. This session was led by Veronica Coutts (Year 4,5,6 Teacher) and facilitated by Jo Tanzer (Master Teacher - Communities).

Congratulations to many of our students and families for working so hard with the school to ensure their children are at school every day. Over recent weeks, we have seen many classes with improved attendance since the start of the Term. Last week, 2/3A were the first class to be awarded our new Attendance Trophy for their overall attendance for the month of May. 2/3A were treated to a delicious cake on Friday last week.

Book Fair

Over the previous few weeks, we have been conducting a Book Fair in the school’s Library. I’m proud to report that this event was a huge success. Books to the value of $2002 were purchased by families, students and staff. As a result of this successful activity, our Library will also receive $600.60 worth of books as a result of the school’s commission for hosting the Book Fair. Thank you to everyone for your support. Any activity that encourages reading is always so worthwhile and beneficial to all students. Thanks especially to Mr Beven for organising and co-ordinating this activity.

Kind regards
Ross McHutcheon
Principal

Parent Information Session

You are invited to hear about Reading at Bwgcolman and experience simple and practical reading activities you can do with your child at home.

Where: Veronica Coutt’s Classroom
When: Wednesday 08 June
Time: 2:45pm-3:15pm
Everyone Welcome!
Diversifying Senior Pathways

As we begin Term 2, Bwgcolman Community School is pleased to update the community on our progress and innovations in preparing our eldest students for their life after formal schooling. Students in Year 11 and 12 have completed their compulsory schooling and have a myriad of options available to them as they move into a phase of ‘earning or learning’. We offer one these options, which has a sharp focus on students exiting senior (4 equivalent semesters of completed post-compulsory study) with a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Nine Year 12 students continue their journey towards attaining their QCE in 2016. After the first term of rigorous academic study the students are discovering that it is ‘game on’ and that it will require significant effort, commitment and resilience to achieve this qualification. Bwgcolman Community School’s continual improvement in the number and percentage of completing seniors with a QCE qualification has consistently improved over the past five years. This year we are aiming to increase from a solid 72% in 2015 to 100% this year. To achieve this, each student has been assigned a case manager for the remaining 3 terms, who will act as their personal mentor and coach to ensure they ‘stay the course’ and walk out of the school in November with their nationally recognised qualification. Parents you will be kept well informed of your child’s progress.

School-based apprenticeships and certificate training via classroom and online learning are other initiatives we have introduced this year for the first time to improve our ability to offer meaningful and individualised learning pathways for our post-compulsory students. In partnership with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Bwgcolman Community School has secured our first school-based apprenticeships with Josiah James (carpentry) and Genai Youngblutt (diesel fitting) beginning their blended and modified learning program. This will see them complete their QCE studies and a quarter of their chosen apprenticeship over the next 2 years. The boys have begun well and are enjoying the balance of a working life and educational outcomes of school. We are also extremely proud of Mislam Sam, who begins his online training through Oten TAFE (Western Sydney) to complete his Certificate II in Electrotechnology to pursue a career as an electrician.

We understand that the next 7 months are going to be full of hard work, dedication and persistence. We also look forward to the smiles, pride and tears that will come in late November when we get to recognise this effort as we farewell another outstanding cohort of seniors. Until then, it is ‘heads down; as we cooperatively march towards QCE success.

1/2A News

Students from 1/2A have been very busy in class this term with lots of different learning activities and achievements. First and foremost was the pride they felt after learning they had won an award from the Cowboys for their high attendance. This was followed with great anticipation and excitement when Mr Ross came to visit with a box full of some great prizes to give each child. In our class learning we have been exploring warm and cool colours for Visual Arts. Our activity was integrated with concepts from our Maths unit which encompassed investigating 2D shapes and tessellation. The children now understand and can appreciate how colours can affect our feelings and thoughts on a particular painting. Please feel free to come and check out our amazing pictures. Students also enjoyed learning about 2D shapes and using their bodies to create the different types. See if you can recognise any of our students and the shapes they created in the pictures.

7-10 Men’s Business

As a part of the Friday afternoon Men’s Business classes, students in years 7-10 have been taking part in a number of different fishing techniques used in local waters. The past two weeks have seen the boys using the drag nets and cast nets to catch bait fish, which they have then taken down to the jetty to catch some quality fish. Next term we plan to make our own fishing lures to take out on the boat, and try our luck on the local reefs.

Ivy and Levi having a go at rating educational games.