From the Principal

As we enter Term 4 it’s important to note that we still have a quarter of the school year remaining. Every day counts so it’s vital that all students attend each day so they can maximize their learning and achieve their best.

Attendance is our number one priority here at Bwgcolman Community School and with that in mind, each family should have received a fridge magnet with Education: Everyone’s Responsibility written on it.

This is part of the Attendance Promotion Action Plan that was co-developed by a large group of people representing major stakeholders here on Palm. The idea is that we all have a part to play in ensuring our kids get to school.

Our attendance figures vary throughout the school with the primary students achieving a rate of 76.8% and the secondary students attending approximately 51.6% of the time.

Every student at our school has an attendance goal that they have agreed to with their teacher and all attendance is publicly tracked on our Cathy Freeman Foundation Starting Block charts.

During the course of the year more and more students are choosing to wear our school uniforms. This has been tremendous to see and late last term the Year 3 / 4 A class had a class party to celebrate the highest level of uniform wearing across the school.

We have three uniforms, a primary, a junior secondary and most recently a senior one. This is also goes with our newly acquired Two Way Strong BCS caps. All uniforms for currently enrolled students are for sale through the office.

A couple of staffing changes has seen Chris Wicks move Townsville for Term 4 with Dave O’Shea taking his role for the remainder of the year. With Gail White moving to Cairns and Virginia Chatterton on maternity leave we have two new teachers for the rest of the year, Mark Clancy and Jenni Townsend.

After first consulting with the council, and gaining agreement we will be having a fence put around the school at the end of the year. This fence is being constructed as a result of ongoing vandalism and break ins. The football oval will still be accessible for community members via the driveway near the bridge near St Michaels.

Have a great week

Jeff

CFF Mt Buller Horizon’s Tour by Jeremy Pullen

Back in September I was lucky enough to escort Talita Kennedy, Judy Watson, Brandon Castor and Elijah Miller to Mt Buller in Victoria. Along with 4 students from St Michael’s, we enjoyed a week of snowboarding with some lovely people from the Cathy Freeman Foundation and Cottage by the Sea.

The focus of the tour was to show the students some of the wonderful opportunities available in life and that with a little perseverance you can achieve anything.

One of the highlights of the tour was a goal setting session with Ramone Copper (an Olympic skier) and the afternoon snowboarding with him.

We would like to thank the Cathy Freeman Foundation and Cottage by the Sea for organising such a wonderful event.

Date Claimer:

- Pupil free day … 21 October
- Obe Geia Challenge … 8 November
- Pre-Prep Open Day … 12 November
- Year 12 Graduation … 15 November
- Year 6 Graduation … 26 November
- Year 10/11 Finish … 29 November
- Starting Block Awards … 4 December
- Concert Night …. 10 December
- School finishes … 12 December
Meet the Newbies

As we have heard from Jeff the school has had a few changes of personnel and a shuffling of positions this term. Towards the end of last term we also had Lynette Kim Sing join the team. Enough from me though ... let’s meet the new crew.

Lynette Kim Sing: This is my 29th year of teaching (commenced in 1985). I have taught in the QLD Outback in Mount Isa and Cloncurry, also spent 17 years teaching in Brisbane from 1991-2007.

Apart from teaching, my other great passion is coaching Rugby League, have coached League for the past 20 years. I achieved my NCAS Level 3 Rugby League coaching accreditation in 2003, making me a ‘High Performance Coach’ for the sport.

I attended the NRL Grand Final in Sydney, the curtain-raiser match was the U20s grand final, I felt so proud to watch Kierran Mossley (No. 9 for the Panthers) play in that final, as I used to be his teacher (HPE/Maths) and coach, when he was 15 years old in Cloncurry (2009).

I am enjoying my time on Palm Island (only arrived on 26th of August), so much, I’ve asked Mr. Jeff, if I can stay for longer, he’s made the arrangements, so I’m thrilled – I’ll be here in 2014!

Mark Clancy: Hello and thank you for the warm welcome. The help and offers of help have been greatly appreciated. I come to Palm Island from Hervey Bay where I have my family waiting for my safe return at the end of the term. I will be here only for the term and next year I start a new posting at Forest Lake SHS in Brisbane after 16 years at Hervey Bay SHS. I have had 2013 as a year off without pay but with Christmas looming and bills building up I went looking for a short term teaching contract. Bwgcolman Community School and Palm Island present to me an experience that I have missed out on so far in my career: working remote (somewhat) and working in an Indigenous community. I am currently doing University studies in Indigenous Education and having my first ever look at Palm Island is a fantastic opportunity. I hope we all have a very good term.

Jenni Townsend: Hi—my name is Ms Jenni and I am teaching in 1/2A for term four while Mrs Virginia is away. I am enjoying being in the Bwgcolman Community.

I was born in Melbourne, Victoria but moved to Townsville when I was five years old. My family is three sons, my mother, brother and his wife and children and grandchildren. For fun I like to paint, go to church, cook and read.

I have been teaching since 2011 when I graduated from JCU. The first school I taught at was Injinoo State School near Bamaga. I mostly do relief teaching in Townsville. I have a passion for reading and I try to use art for learning activities.

Year 7/8 Magnetic Island Camp by Jeremy Pullen

Last Term, the Year 7/8’s went for a four day camp to Magnetic Island. The children’s behavior was fantastic and they were excellent ambassadors for Palm Island.

We visited Maggie Island State School, where we played a combined game, swam in their pool and enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch with their Year 7’s. We then walked to Horseshoe Bay and the students showed their fitness by doing the walk in very hot conditions.

We went to the Koala Sanctuary where we held a crocodile, wombat, snake, and echidna. We learnt lots of interesting information about our native wildlife. We then went and tried our skills on the local golf course with mixed results.

The children helped to prepare meals, setup and clear up after each other. Our accommodation was great and the children learnt lots, had fun, and engaged in all the activities with smiles, laughter and enthusiasm.

Term 3 CFF Starting Block Award Winners by Dave O’Shea

On Wednesday 18th September, staff, parents and concerned community members assembled at the school’s Two-Way Strong area to celebrate the outstanding student achievements in the categories of Literacy, Behaviour and Attendance. A total of 150 awards were presented by Cathy Freeman and volunteers supporting the Cathy Freeman Foundation. Special mention goes to Miss Jess’ 3/4A as our first ever, whole class receiving an 90%+ attendance award for the term. Congratulations to all the winners and families for positively supporting your child’s education.

**Behaviour:** Eva Bramwell, Karmine Friday, Baimun Lind, Levi James, Wilgie Nugent, Lornetta West, Nancie Pryor, Tanya Thimble, Preston Robertson, Josiah James

**Literacy:** Xandra Sibley, Billo Wotton, Zanar’e Pearson, Cephas Creed – Haines, Latisha Kennedy, Ikanau Conway, Sarsha Wyles, Teii Haines, Alison Huddy, Hannah Gorringle, Mericka Friday, Heath Lacey, Renzi Watson, Christine Cannon

**Attendance:** Fortunately we had a heap of winners but too many to list here. Check them out on our Facebook page.

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School Shirts for Sale

- **Junior School** - $20
- **Junior Secondary** - $25
- **Senior School** - $30

Shirts will only be sold to currently enrolled students. Children should wear the correct shirt for their sector.
Pre-Prep Fathers’ Day Celebrations by Julie O’Shea

Last term Pre-Prep held a Father’s Day BBQ with a large number of dads, grandads and a few mums coming along for a fantastic family celebration. The highlight of the day was the tug of war duels which even had all the drivers of passing vehicles stopping and smiling as the children used all their strength to pull the rope out of their dad’s hands!

Obe Geia Challenge Training Squad by Lynette Kim Sing

The Obe Geia Challenge is being held on Friday, 8th of November, 2013. The following students, commenced training last Thursday, 10th of October, as part of a Training Squad to prepare to be selected into the Bwgcolman A-Team or Bwgcolman B-Team. Some of our students will also play in the St. Michael’s team.

9 Year Olds (have been invited to train with the squad): Craig Evers, Taj Butterworth, Towyn Creed-Haines [Born 2004]

10 Year Olds: Tareese Kidner, Stella Charles, Cary Pearson, Rolland Geesu, Brodie Kerr, Charessa Creed [Born 2003]


12 Year Olds: Hananias Murphy, Edward Robertson, Levi Bair, Trinity Fulford, Miriam Palmer, Kevin Inker-man [Born 2001]

The Training Session Time: 10:50am – 11:20am. Eating time (including going to the toilet): 11:20am - 11:30am. Training will be every day, giving the players, 13 remaining lunch -time training sessions. Some training sessions will be held at the farm, in the final 2 weeks leading up to the carnival (letters will be sent home to notify parents and guardians).

This year, each team must consist of 5 x 10 year olds, 5 x 11 year olds and 5 x 12 year olds. Our criteria for our students, is that each selected player must have an attendance record of 80% and higher, must make good choices inside and outside of the classroom. Some students are currently in the 70% - 80% range and are capable of getting 80%+ in the next 3 weeks.

All students listed are in the training squad, must attend every training session and the teams will be selected on Friday, 18th of October, 2013.

Assembly Area: In front of the boat shed (Marine Studies).

Training Location: On the oval.

The students understand their role as a representative player from our school (they must show commitment, dedication, discipline and always display positive encouragement to other team members).
Photos

Don’t forget to follow us on FaceBook.