We recently received our school’s NAPLAN results and overall we were well pleased with the outcome. NAPLAN is a national test of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and the tests focus on Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

In the twenty domains that we were tested in, our school improved in fourteen of them. This is an outstanding effort given that the NAPLAN test is nationally applied and our students are demonstrating improved results. We still have a long way to go to ensure that the majority of our students are achieving at national minimum standards but the signs, especially in the lower school, are looking good for this to occur over the next few years.

Our concentration on literacy in Pre-Prep and the first few years of schooling is now paying dividends with more students moving through the reading levels that we assess them with.

Attendance continues to be the most important aspect of improving our students results. I can not stress enough that our data shows that the students who do attend on a regular fulltime basis are the students who score the highest achievement marks in reading and numeracy.

One More Day is the message the staff are giving the students at the moment. By coming one more day each week, individual students attendance increases by 20%. That’s 20% more learning that they receive by coming an extra day a week!

Last week we had a discipline audit where our practices were examined by an experienced secondary principal from Brisbane. I would like to thank the community members who were interviewed by the auditor and who were very honest in their feedback. Across the five areas of the audit the school scored in the outstanding, high and medium ranges. In a month’s time we will receive an executive summary of findings and this will be placed on our website for everyone to read.

There were several recommendations and our team will take all of these on board in order to provide the best possible service in this area that we can.

It’s been a busy term and with camps, AFL, rugby league, trips to town, the Canberra Horizon tour and so many interesting days at school that I can tell the students are ready for a holiday.

We wish all our students and their families a safe Spring break and look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 7 October.

Have a great week
Jeff
Horizon Sydney Trip  by Todd Chatterton

During week one of this term, 15 secondary students from Bwgcolman Community School attended the Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) Sydney Horizons Tour. The aim of the trip is to support students to complete their Senior Phase education and to help to develop future pathways.

The group left Palm Island by charter flights on Sunday 13th and arrived in Sydney that evening at around 7pm. Students were clearly excited about the opportunity to travel away from home and to experience 'big city' life for a week. We stayed at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), which is located at Redfern and were accompanied by CFF staff members (Nazareth Younghlutt and Lachlan Preston) for the duration of the trip.

On Monday morning after an optional 6am gym session, students participated in a walking tour of “The Block”, which has been a major site for Indigenous housing and activity for many years. We were fortunate enough to meet some elders who have established a “Tent Embassy” in the middle of Redfern. The elders explained to students why they were protesting and what the site meant for local people of the area.

Following this, students joined in a role model session with 4 Indigenous staff members from the NCIE who explained how they were able to overcome the challenges in their lives to become the successful people that they are today.

After lunch students travelled by train to Penrith Stadium, where we were given a guided tour of the facilities by ex-NRL star Glen Liddiard. Following this, students really enjoyed the chance to play Aqua Golf. Once we’d hit a couple of buckets of balls each, we finished our Reflection Journals before up-and-coming Penrith star Kieran Mosely gave us an inspirational talk. To our surprise we found out that Kieran is actually one of Miss Lynette’s ex-students from Cloncurry. It was obvious to all of us that Miss Lynette had been a big factor in Kieran’s success throughout high school and beyond. At 7pm after dinner, we found our grandstand seats to watch a fantastic, high-scoring game between Penrith and the Broncos. Much to Miss Lynette’s, Koipe’s, Kenny’s and Cassian’s delight, the Panthers won the game in the last minute of play by one point.

On Tuesday morning, students actively engaged in a Yoga Session for one hour. While there were a few giggles at the start, all students participated and concentrated really well. Following this, we were back on the train again and heading for the Credit Suisse offices, which are located on the 44th – 46th floor of a very impressive building. From there we had an amazing view of Sydney Harbour. At Credit Suisse we were treated to a gourmet lunch while listening to George from HR and 3 Indigenous university students who are involved in the ‘Career Trackers’ program. Each of the role-models outlined their backgrounds and personal challenges before explaining how they made the life-changing move to Sydney and to university.

Credit Suisse staff that regularly volunteer their time for the Cathy Freeman Foundation accompanied our group down to the Sydney Opera House. Here we had a guided, behind-the-scenes tour of the theatres and facilities and were then treated to a private musical performance by members of the Sydney Youth Orchestra. After a massive photo-shoot and interview sessions with reporters from ‘The Australian’ newspaper we
headed over to Seek Learning and Employment offices. After being given a brief overview of how the Seek web-site works, students broke into small groups to further discuss each of their higher education or employment options.

Once we had completed our Reflection Journals and had dinner back at the NCIE, we went rock-climbing at the Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym. Students were blown away by the size of the facility but certainly demonstrated great confidence to scale the 20m walls.

Following another optional gym session and breakfast, students visited the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) offices. At the end of the session students were given a hugely motivational talk by the young presenters. After this, their task was to write a ‘thank-you’ letter to the special people who continue to make a positive difference in their lives.

Before we knew it we were off again – this time to Bondi Beach. While there we visited the Life Guard tower and chatted to “H-Man” and the crew from ‘Bondi Rescue’. They shared heaps of hilarious stories before we set off on a walk to reach the top of the southern point along with some more Credit Suisse volunteers. We then were joined by Jamie Howden (acting CEO for CFF) for surfing lessons. The majority of students that braved the cold water were rewarded with heaps of good rides and plenty of wipe-outs. Once we got back to the NCIE, students were involved in a ‘Presentation Skills’ Workshop. After listening to some tips from a couple of Credit Suisse volunteers, each student was required to prepare and deliver a speech in front of the rest of the group. While some found this to be highly challenging, all students got up and had a great go. A special mention must go to Alvina, Neil, Janesha and Shirley for their great efforts.

On Thursday we visited ‘Booktopia’ which is an online book store and another long-time, major sponsor of the Cathy Freeman Foundation. The owner Tony, a self-made millionaire, shared with us his Top 10 golden nuggets of doing business before taking us on a tour of the company’s operations. After lunch, Bwgcolman students were then responsible for helping to run the after-school activities session back at the NCIE. Our students, as expected, did a wonderful job engaging with young, local Redfern kids. We once again moved up to the Conference Room for another ‘Career Trackers’ session which focused on inspirational talks and a great team-building activity.

Once our Reflection Journals were completed for the day, we headed out for some well-deserved free time at Westfield shopping centre. At 9pm we headed back for our last night at the amazing NCIE. After an early start and a long day of travel the last students arrived back on Palm at 5pm on Friday. The CFF Sydney Horizon Tour is an awesome experience for students and one that genuinely helps them to clarify their future goals and pathways, while broadening their awareness of Australian culture and society. A massive thank-you is extended to the Cathy Freeman Foundation and their sponsors for making the 2014 Horizon Tour possible. It truly is a life shaping opportunity.

Inter-school swimming carnival

Friday 10th Oct
8:30am - 12:30pm
Come down and support the teams
Junior Secondary Sports Club by Jeremy Pullan

Recently, BJSSC hosted a group of students from Yarrabah High School to compete for the Cathy Freeman Foundation Challenge Shield in Rugby League and Netball. The Yarrabah squad arrived on a Thursday afternoon and were soon enjoying some of Palm Island’s great weather with a game of football on the beach and some kayaking. Friday morning was when the real action got underway. The day started with the netball game at the PCYC. Bwgcolman were current holders of the shield and were looking to defend their title. The game was played in great spirit, with both sides representing their communities with pride and sportsmanship. Stand-out performers from the game were Diane Fulford, Moira Murray and Tanja Thimble. A special thank-you goes to Lance Castors and Lily Lampton for refereeing the game which Bwgcolman won 33 – 28. Next on the agenda was the Rugby League match at the Farm. Yarrabah were the holders of the shield and Bwgcolman were keen to change that and defend their home soil. The game was a see-sawing affair which Bwgcolman ended up winning 34 – 28. The stand-out performers were Ricky Johnson, Luke James, Darryl Richardson, Josiah James, Nicarlin Baira, Arona Miller and Levi Baira. Thank-you to Clinton Pearson for refereeing the match. The event was a great success and wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the PCYC, the Palm Island Shire Council, and the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

Grade 1 visit the beach by Riana Mabo-Mairu

On Friday our class went to the beach because we come to school every day. Before we went we all got a drink then we walked out of the school grounds and we all walked to Freedom Park. First we made sandcastles and sand turtles. Guy won the competition. Next some of us went for a paddle and caught some fish and crabs. Then Fredrick made a Reef HQ to put all the prawns and yabbies and fish in. Later Mr Chris came to the beach and played cricket with all of us. After that we had some icy poles. Finally we walked back to school and had a sausage sizzle. It was a very fun day!
The Cathy Freeman Horizon’s trips are provided to exceptional students. Four of our best were selected to attend the very first Canberra camp, a packed week filled with opportunities, fun and learning. Throughout the week students were challenged to think laterally, take on their fears, and learn through doing and most of all to have confidence. This challenge was met head on, and all staff involved during the week are extremely proud of the efforts of the young stars. Everyone delivered speeches to the Minister for Indigenous affairs, and continued to practice their public speaking during the week. Stella took on her fear of heights in the 6m free fall slide at Questacon, Allison showed great lateral thinking to get her team across an obstacle course safely, Vasenai displayed exceptional leadership skills throughout the week, and Martha was unstoppable when it came to public speaking. We have shared below an excerpt from the girls’ speeches below. Congratulations on your outstanding work ladies!

Stella Charles
Do you know what Canberra means? It means a meeting place. We went to the flip out and we jumped in the cubes and it was fun. I couldn’t get out, it was like I was stuck! AIS was deadly because I beat Lachie, Vasenai, Miss Rosie and Madeline. I beat them in Soccer. We went to the University of Canberra and we met the Raiders and Brumbies. We played football and it was fun. We beat the Raiders and Brumbies and they gave us prizes. Then I met Emily and Kathleen it was so fun. The exciting thing was the plane landing. I grabbed Allison’s hand and said, “Please, hope I don’t die!” Then we got off the plane and jumped on another one.

Allison Huddy
Hi, my name is Allison and I am going to tell you what we did all week. The first thing we did was playing rugby with the Raiders at UC. My favourite thing at UC was meeting the Raiders, and my new friends named Jack, Emily, Rodney, Jamima and Kaitlyn. Canberra is a lovely place to visit. Hope you visit again and again.

Vasenai Dabea
Hi, my name is Vasenai and I am here to talk to you about meeting the Under 20 Raiders and Brumbies players. We did some drills like play a game like stuck in the mud. There was one that we had to find a partner and make two lines. The lines were named Brumbies and Blues. If they say Brumbies you have to run right and if they say Blues you have to run left, past the marker. Then we had a game of touch. The teams were everyone vs the Raiders and Brumbies but we beat them because they were going easy on us. Now I will talk about Canberra. It is very cold, it’s also a city where there are lots of lights. When we went to Flip Out, it looked like the sun was going to come up.

Martha Marks
Hi, my name is Martha. I want to talk about how hard it is to get out of the foam pits in Canberra at Flip Out. I was lucky to be picked for this trip for coming to school every day. It was fun to hang out with friends and get to know each other. One night we went to the Flip Out and it was freezing! There were lots of trampolines and one big box filled with foam. It was hard because you can get stuck and you have to get the foam out of your face. I nearly broke my neck! After that we played dodgeball. I would go to Flip Out again because it’s fun to jump in the foam pit.
Red Track 2014 by Chris Sachlikidis

There was so much excitement in the build up to this years’ Red Track Athletics Carnival held at the Townsville Sports Reserve. Students from both Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael’s School put in an amazing effort, showing their dedication by turning up to trainings each Monday and Thursday afternoon during Term 3. A total of 53 students aged between 7-13 years were selected from the squad to compete. After much wheeling and dealing, Miss Rosie had managed to secure 7 planes that would take us on our journey. Thanks to Westing Aviation for supplying the school with discounted rates.

An early start on the Tuesday morning meant student needed to be organised and ready at school by 7am, and once again the team showed their commitment and responsibility by achieving this. So after an early start, students were ready for a big day at Red Track.

With events including 60m, 80m, 100m, 200m, 800m, long jump, high jump, shot put and relays, the students were in for a very busy day. Every single person from the Red Track team put in a brilliant effort in their events and again demonstrated responsibility by ensuring they were at their event. Well done to the entire team for competing in all of their events even though it was hot and students were exhausted. There were many 1st, 2nd, and 3rd’s won by our students and overall Palm Island placed 4th. With a small team taken away it was a very good effort from the students and they did Palm Island proud, not only by showing their athleticism on the track but by displaying respectful and responsible behaviour for the entire trip. Well done!

Below is the overall results:

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A special mention goes to Levi, Mericka and Chylesiah who were invited back to compete in the North Queensland Trials. Good luck!

Thanks to all of the staff and parents that made the day possible, Miss Rosie, Miss Lyndal, Miss Emma, Miss Corina, Josie, Mr Gary, Mr John, Michelle, Grace and the School Admin Team.
## Attendance

### Pre-Prep 1
- Selena Archibald
- Paula Baira
- Tahlia Bulsey
- Peter Cannon
- Ashanti-Rae Castors
- Viviahn Creed-Haines
- Milleah Fulford
- Kayla Parker
- Joel Pearson-Walsh
- George Sibley

### Pre-Prep 2
- Tahlia Burns
- Lex Geia
- Ebony James
- Lashae Kidner
  **Year P/1A**
  - Karmine Friday
  - Kira O’Shea
  - Muriel Oui
  - Zanniquah Poynter
  - Jayden Geia
  - Shakarleah Hunter
  - Cadel Parker-Tanner
  - Preston Yasserie
  **Year P/1B**
  - Keziah Baira
  - Zaquan Bulsey
  - Shayden Ketchup
  - Coralie McLean
  **Year 1/2**
  - Shaquana Castors
  - Phyllis Clarke
  - Sheona Robertson
  - Fredrick Robertson
  - Guy Baira
  - Jakita James
  - Riana Mabo-Mairu
  - Kymani Nallajar
  - Coben Parker
  - Loretta Sines
  - Paige Tanner-Hill
  - Elizabeth Yasserie

### Year 3/4A
- Kynan Bulsey
- Vinnevea Bulsey
- Gabriel Cannon
- Craig Evers
- Adam Friday
- Shona Friday
- Bailey Geesu
- Tooya Gorringle
- Linfed Haines
- Whitney Haines

### Year 3/4B
- Levi James
- Joanne Kidner
- Merlin Massey
- Josiah Murphy
- Garcia Nallajar
- Donella Oui
- Milda-Laural Oui
- Natalia Palmer
- Rayzarin Pearson
- Zahleezah Poynter
- Ashrani Sibley
- Shakoshur Walsh

### Year 5/6B
- Wasam Baira
- Craig Desatge
- Pita Rabuka
- Raymond Palmer
- Gary Pearson
- Ikarlum Nardoo

### Step-Up
- Kevin Kidner
- Zec Roma
- Brodie Kerr
- Daniel Nomoa
- Harlan Clay
- Desmond Cannon
- Connor Haines

### Year 7/8A
- Brandyn Castors
- Vasenai Dabea
- Chris Evers
- Tkai Haines
- Allison Huddy
- Rakeem Lind
- Elijah Cannon
- Zanthia Coutts-Landers
- Dianne Fulford
- Lila Gabori
- Patria Gabori
- Malcolm Kidner
- Tristan Robertson

### Year 7/8B
- Ashton Kerr
- Jada Kerr
- Tuqiri Prior-Ross
- Levi Baira
- Zareese Baira

### Year 9/10A
- Moira Murray
- Jeriah Coutts
- Josiah James
- Ricky Johnson
- Joseph Murgha

### Year 9/10B
- Thomas Baira
- Savane Castors
  **Year 11/12**
- Koipe Castors
- Heath Lacey
- Kathleen Haines
- Kenny Baira
- Neil Baira
- Cassian Tanner
- Alvina Walton

## Behaviour
- Ta’hani Chou-Lai
- Arremi Pearson
- Mavis Baira
- Pedro Desatge
- Paige Tanner-Hill
- Whitney Haines
- Hope Nallajar
- Waisie Miller
- Craig Desatge
- Zec Roma
- Lila Gabori
- Jada Kerr
- Penny Roberts-Lenoy
- Savane Castors
- Tarika Cummins

## Literacy
- Tahlia Bulsey
- Scott Maloney
- Zanniquah Poynter
- Pollyanna Namoa
- Kymani Nallajar
- Kynan Balsey
- Achilles Murray
- Etosha Pearson
- Wasam Baira
- Kevin Kidner
- Brandyn Castors
- Liara Murgha
- Ernestine Lacey
- Thomas Baira
- Kathleen Haines