Principal's News
An original contribution from one of our school leaders …
We’ve got to go there
We’ve got to see
We have a big destiny ahead of us
A path of strong will and eternity
We are going to follow it
Until the day is done.

And at the end of the day
We’ll celebrate friendship with certainty
It is always a great week back at school
We give it our best to achieve
The hardest rules and tests
But the teachers love us
And that is the best!

Cross Country
In our Cross Country tomorrow, the 10 and under students will run 2 km and all other students will run 3km. This will mean that any students continuing on to the next Cross Country in Bauhinia in Term 2 will have run the correct distance. Only students in Yrs 4-6 will be competing in the Cross Country.

We will commence at 8.00 am in the morning, once the bus from Moura has arrived. We are having our Cross Country at this time for 2 reasons:
1. It is too hot for our students to be running long distances later in the day
2. We have so much assessment to complete tomorrow, that we cannot afford to waste any class time.

Our course:
1. All students start on the oval.
2. Students then run inside the school fence, down Herbert Street.
3. They will exit the school grounds at the gate near the bike rack.
4. Students will then run to the crossing at the Dawson Highway.
5. After crossing the road, students will run up the cement path into Opportunity Park and across North Street.
6. They will then run up and down Bramston Street and back through the park before crossing the highway at the crossing again.
7. Students will then run up to the school fence and continue to run alongside the fence towards the double gates at the main entry to the school.
8. Students will run into the school grounds and head through the MPC towards the oval.
9. At this point, the students 10 years and under will run once around the oval to complete the course.
10. Students over 10 will run the same course a second time to finish.

Mrs Bauer will start the event. We will start the event with a gap of 5 minutes between the Yr 4s and then Yrs 5 & 6 together, to avoid congestion.

Mrs Pelling and Mrs Butler will be either side of the highway. Miss Coombes will be at the North Street crossing. I have a parent volunteer for the end of Bramston Street.

All parents are welcome to attend and assist if they wish to.

At the end of the event, we will present awards for Age Champions.

Parent Interviews
We are looking forward to meeting with those parents who have arranged a Face-to-Face Interview tomorrow.

Easter
I wish each one of you a safe and blessed Easter.

Gifts are not necessary but for those of you who have been so kind, we are very touched by your thoughtfulness.

Thanks and Reflection
Many thanks to all parents who have made a contribution to our school in Term 1 – it has been a busy and productive term.

Congratulations to all students who achieved their Term 1 Goals – we are very proud of your progress!

I have really enjoyed getting to know our new students and their families – I sincerely hope that every family has enjoyed their time spent in our school this term.

Term 2
School resumes on Monday, April 11th. We will be eagerly awaiting our students’ return and we have already prepared many of our classroom activities for an exciting term.

2016 Special Events:
10 -12 May NAPLAN 2016

Mrs Elaine Pelling
Miss Coombes News

All assessment for the term will be finished off and completed this week. This includes every subject area we have been doing this term: English, Maths, Science, History and PE.

Next term students will be doing English, Maths, Art, Geography, Health and PE.

Home Readers:
Every student in Prep, Yr 1 and Yr 2 should have a Home Reader Log in their Homework Folder, for parents to sign after the Home Readers have been read. Please ensure these do get completed, so I can then keep track of the books I’m sending home to your child. I have noticed quite a few students no longer have the Home Reader Logs in their Homework Folders; therefore I have now included one. Please write down the books your child has read for the week, and keep this as up to date as possible so that I don’t send home books that have already been read.

Spelling:
This week is the last week of spelling for the term. Many students have progressed wonderfully with spelling this term. The improvements can be seen by students on their Spelling Word Wall.

Week 8: Congratulations to Jemma, Kevin, Charlie and Sherri for getting all of your spelling words correct this week. It’s been a fantastic effort.

Well done to Matilda Cutting and Kevin Cox for reaching a whole new spelling unit this term. This has been achieved through a huge amount of practise and effort. Well done.

Students of the week:
Our students of the week for Week 8 included:
Prep: Charlie U.
Grade 1: Sherri
Grade 2: Matilda
Grade 3: Lucy
Well done to these students.

Our students of the week for Week 9, included:
Prep: Jackson and Charlie
Grade 1: McKennon
Grade 2: Matilda and Sophie
Grade 3: Carissa
Well done to these students. They have really put in the extra effort to do the right thing in the classroom, and are pushing to improve their learning.

Goal Awards:
Goal Awards were handed out last week to the students who reached their writing goal for the term. The goals were set at the beginning of the year, and were taken from the expectations of the Australian Curriculum.

All students have had their goals hanging up in the classroom all term, and these goals have been spoken about throughout the whole term. The goals included:
Prep: Being able to form letters and hold a pencil correctly.
Grade 1: Composing sentences that make sense to me and to others.
Grade 2: Composing compound sentences that make sense and justify my own ideas/opinions.

Some of these goals were quite challenging for students, and they can continue to keep working towards these in the coming terms. Very big congratulations to students who did reach their goal for Term One.

Student Council News:
We hope that everyone enjoyed the school disco last week. Thank you to everyone who came along. Thank you to the Student Council helpers, Matthew and Gordon, who worked on the night, by collecting entry money.

Next term the Student Council will be holding a Mothers’ Day Stall to raise money for the school. The Student Council members have already decided on items which will be sold on the day, and these items have already been ordered and delivered to the school. The Student Council have picked some lovely Mothers’ Day presents to sell on the day. More information about this day will be provided as the date comes closer. There will be another Student Council meeting to discuss this event next term.

Holidays:
Well done to all students on a fantastic Term One. I have seen some huge improvements when looking at student academic performance in the classroom since the beginning of the term. I would like to wish all students, parents and families a fantastic and a safe Easter. Enjoy the holidays after a huge Term One.

Miss Bethaney Coombes
**Mrs Butler’s News**

**End of Term 1**
Well it certainly has been a busy start to the year and it’s hard to believe that we are at the end of Term 1. If you have helped out in the classroom this term, the students and I would like to thank you very much. The Year Four students have certainly adjusted to school life in the upper grade. They have made a valiant effort to engage with learning and stay focussed for longer periods of time as well as the high expectations in classroom behaviour. Already I can see their confidence growing as the term has unfolded. I have been extremely proud of the majority of student’s effort with homework. Unfortunately there are still some children who do not enjoy reading and their lack of practice at home really shows up in the classroom setting. The same can be said for spelling. Friday’s spelling test soon highlights who has bothered to learn their spelling words and who has not. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter. May the Easter Bunny find you wherever you are (although I really do think he has Banana State School locked into his satnav as he never seems to miss the place).

**Attendance**
I would like to congratulate the following students who have attended school every day so far this term: Matthew Hayes, Gordon Moore, Ayden Cross, Matthew Donohoe, Zaine Maslen, Emma Hayes, and Dale Lewis. This is an amazing effort considering the amount of illness that has been around in the past couple of weeks.

**National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.**
The sixth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence was held on Friday, 18 March 2016. This annual day is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools, and encourages all students to ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond. This year more than 2060 schools, with more than 930,000 students across Australia participated. It was interesting to find out from the students their definition of bullying. Our Year Four students did not have a clear understanding of what bullying was, with many of them thinking it was when someone punched, kicked, said mean things etc to another person. What they didn’t know was that it is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. If you have any concerns about your child or just want more information regarding this topic there is plenty of information on the official website.

**School resumes**
The first day back for students is Monday the 11th of April. Please come to school prepared for learning. Once again it will be another busy term with three public holidays thrown into the mix. Thank goodness it is an eleven week term so as to counteract the effect this has on our learning.

**Interviews**
Tomorrow we will be conducting interviews for those parents who have requested one. The object of these interviews is to discuss your child’s progress in Literacy in comparison to the Australian Curriculum continuum for Years Four, Five and Six. If you would like to discuss other aspects of your child’s schooling, please make an appointment for the beginning of next term.

**The Arts**
Year 5/6 students have finished their clay sculpture and these will be sent to Rockhampton over the school holidays to be fired. Once this is done, they will be ready for painting. These sculptures will form part of our school display for the Biloela Show.

**The Last Word**

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Banana State School is built, the Gangulu people.*
P& C and Community News
What a busy term we have had. I would like to thank all the parents and friends who have helped out at any of the events the P&C have been involved in over the last few weeks. We've had Working Bees for the Ball and the school, the Cricket Gala canteen and our Annual Cent Sale. We should all be proud of what we have achieved. We have had no Tuckshop for half of the term now and we are still looking for someone to become the Tuckshop Convenor. The Tuckshop will remain closed until we find someone to take on the position. Thank you to Leanne Stevens for your dedication as Temporary Convenor, Leanne cannot continue in the role and it is time for someone else to take over.

Everything is starting to come together for our Having a Ball in the Buffel on 16th April, if you would like tickets you must book them by 1st April, please email thebuffelball@gmail.com.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – Tuesday, April 12
School photos are almost upon us again! The school has engaged MSP Photography to create your school photographic records for this year and you are invited to purchase prints of your child/children. Photo day for 2016 will be Tuesday, April 12 and will commence at approx. 10:30am.
On the photo day, every student will be photographed regardless of whether you are purchasing or not. Your child will bring home a personalised order envelope from the photographers today. Please take the time to read and follow all the instructions carefully. This will ensure your order is processed smoothly and efficiently and will help you to avoid any late fees.
For those of you ordering online, you will notice a new, improved version this year. Please take care to follow the instructions carefully and ensure you log onto www.msp.com.au to enter your child’s shootkey.

Additional order envelopes are available from the school office for separated parents, blended families and grandparents. You will need to collect these on or before photo day and give it to the photographer on photo day. Be sure to write ‘Mum’s order’ or Dad’s order” on the top of the envelope.

To order a sibling photo, please collect a Sibling Order Envelope from the school office on or before photo day, or order online at least 24 hours in advance. Please note: Sibling photos are only for siblings within the school.

If you child has been photographed in a special group (ie sports team or leadership team), order envelopes will be available in the weeks following the photo day. Please watch this newsletter for information when they will be available.

As school staff are unable to help with photography enquiries or payments, please direct your questions and comments directly to MPS Photography by phoning 49213 355.

Thank you for your co-operation and we look forward to a great photo day.

Mrs Karen Donohoe – P&C President

DATE CLAIMERS

24 March   Cross Country Yrs 4 – 6 @ 8am
11 April  First day of Term 1
12 April  School Photo Day from approx. 10:30am
16 April  P&C Ball
          Having a Ball in the Buffel
10 – 12 May   NAPLAN 2016
Every Friday   Dollarmite Banking
6 May       Pillowcase Project
            Prep-Yrs 6 11:30 -12:30
10 – 12 May   NAPLAN 2016

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