



Banana State School Newsletter

*Explicit Focus Area for 2017:
Teachers' Pedagogy*

Term 1 2017 Week 1

Principal's News

Welcome back to 2017

Welcome back to a new year at Banana State School and at this time of the year, we reset our focus and implement our new policies and procedures.

This year, we have a few new policies in place for students, staff and parents.

Communication is a very important issue in our school and I would like to introduce you to some new approaches which will be in place in our school in 2017.

The first of these applies to all members of our school community.

Before you speak ... **THINK**

T – is it true?

H – is it helpful?

I – is it inspiring?

N – is it necessary?

K – is it kind?

I would really encourage you to reflect on these questions – if you are answering 'No' to these questions, then perhaps it's best to leave what you were going to say unsaid. There is a time to speak and a time to be quiet.

The second policy that I want to introduce you to regards accountability. As a staff, we have discussed this in our Student Free Days last week. This year all staff members have to be aware of the accountability which they have for their role in the workplace.

This means, that if you have a question or concern regarding your child's classwork, then you have to discuss these issues with the classroom teacher first. If you raise these issues with me before seeing the classroom teacher, my first response will be to direct you back to the teacher who is working with your child.

This same procedure will apply to the playground. At present, we have 2 teacher aides working in our school, Mrs Bauer and Miss Judy. If you have a concern relating to your child in the playground, then before contacting me, you need to discuss this with the teacher aide who was on duty.

I have discussed this procedure with the aides and they realise that they have to be accountable for their actions with student supervision.

However, I must point out that all of these discussions need to take place at school and no staff member is ever expected or required to

discuss school business with parents outside of the workplace.

These policies are now in place in our school, so please do not be offended if I ask you if you have spoken to another staff member first when you come to me with complaints.

Staffing

We welcome Miss Rynne to our staff and we hope that she learns a lot in her time here at our school.

Feedback

For your child to grow, he/she needs to receive feedback from the classroom teacher.

We will be giving feedback about your child's learning to him/her on a daily basis. It is very important that your child listens to this feedback and responds to it.

All feedback is given in a positive manner and take care that you do not misconstrue what the teacher is saying. This can be very dangerous and result in your child not benefiting from the encouragement and direction which the classroom teacher is giving.

What inspires you?

At Banana State School, we teach our children to be inspired by the successes of others.

So, I congratulate our P&C for their nomination in tomorrow's Australia Day awards.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tomorrow's ceremony as I will have to work at school tomorrow to cope with the tasks required of me at this stage of the year and I have to put our students first.

However, I am inspired by the hard work that so many parents did to make the Buffel Ball such a huge success in 2016.

It was truly a great event and I believe that everyone who made a contribution to this wonderful evening deserves to receive recognition for their organisation and commitment. I wish our P&C all the best and I hope to hear great news in the next few days!

Challenges

There is no doubt that the first week of a school year presents some challenges for students, staff and parents – but I would encourage you to embrace the challenges that this year brings and work towards making 2017 a great year of learning at Banana State School.

Mrs Elaine Pelling

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Banana State School is built, the Gangulu people.

Miss Rynne's News

I would firstly love to say a big thankyou to students, parents and staff for welcoming me into your lovely school. I have had a great start to the week/my career and look forward to getting to know you all throughout the term!

I am a graduate teacher from the University of the Sunshine Coast. However, I grew up on a property outside Murgon and attended a small country school with my three sisters. I am an advocate for small schools and truly believe small schools provide a personal touch that allows for a great learning environment and experience for all students.

We have had a great week so far in Prep-3. The first day we even had all smiles and no tears! Students have shown enthusiasm towards learning in a variety of subjects over the past two days and I am looking forward to working with them and assisting them to reach their goals.

English

This term in English we will be exploring emotion in picture books. This week we read the book "My Cat Maisie" and identified different emotions present throughout the book. Preps have been working on sharing feelings about characters and discussing their likes and dislikes of characters. While Years 1 and 2 explore words and illustrations within the book that represent emotion. We are working towards creating a spoken presentation about character emotions.

Maths

We all seem to be very engaged and excited about maths, which is great to see! Preps this week have been focusing on sorting, describing and naming familiar two-dimensional shapes. Year 1 have learnt to recognise and describe one-half as one of two equal parts of a whole. Whilst Year 2

have been comparing and ordering objects based on their capacity.

Routine and Structure

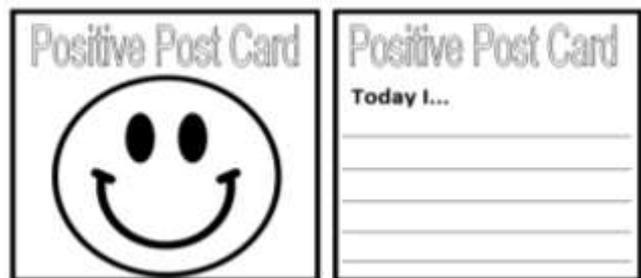
Over the next couple of weeks there will be a strong focus on establishing daily and weekly routines for students. A big part of this includes homework. I will be in charge of Prep to Year 2 homework, with Mrs Pelling taking on Year 3. Homework and library books will be sent out on Monday afternoon and are both to be brought back on Friday.

Classroom Equipment

Thank you to all for bringing in the required classroom equipment. Mrs Pelling and I have sorted through it all (big job!). However, there are a few students without pencil cases. It would be great if all students could have a pencil case as it makes things a lot easier for the student.

Positive Post Card

Throughout the year I will be ensuring to send home positive post cards (pictured below). These will be sent home on occasions when a student demonstrates exceptional behaviour or work. They are sent home so that you can celebrate in their success too.



I look forward to working in partnership with you all. I am sure we will have a great term!

Miss Jessica Rynne

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Mrs Butler's News

Welcome back

"Dear students, the summer has ended.
The school year at last has begun.
But this year is totally different.
I promise we'll only have fun.
"We won't study any mathematics,
and recess will last all day long.
Instead of the National Anthem,
we'll belt out a rock-and-roll song.
"We'll only play games in the classroom.
You're welcome to bring in your toys.
It's okay to run in the hallways.
It's great if you make lots of noise.
"For homework, you'll play your Nintendo.
You'll have to watch lots of T.V.
For field trips we'll go to the movies
and get lots of lollies for free.
"The tuckshop will only serve chocolate
and triple fudge sundaes supreme."
Yes, that's what I heard from my teacher
before I woke up from my dream.
Written by Kenn Nesbitt this poem is a light
hearted look at how students might wish school
was, but although we try to have lots of fun and
laughs we also take our teaching and learning
very seriously. This year is no different to any
other year. It will be jam packed. Firstly our
mornings are filled with Literacy. Our units for
English are based on short stories for Years 5/6
and the Year 4 students are reading "The
Twits" They will be looking at pronoun
reference and text connectives, how quotation
marks are used in texts to signal dialogue, titles
and quoted (direct) speech, noun
groups/phrases, verb groups/phrases and
prepositional phrases, as well as adverb
groups/phrases. Their assessment will involve
writing a new chapter for the book. Our
literacy lessons will also involve: practising our
handwriting, reading, and writing both
persuasive and narrative stories. I would also
like to welcome two new students into my
classroom, Janique and Quinton Dales and their
family. I hope your time with us is a positive
and rewarding experience.

Numeracy

This week in Maths the Year 4 students are
looking at four digit numbers up to 10 000
while Year 5 students are looking at factors and
multiples and Year 6 students are working on
prime and composite numbers, prime factors
and the addition of numbers up to 1 000 000.

Science

During this term students in Year 4 will learn
about endangered animals and the reasons why
they become either endangered or extinct and
what can be done to save these animals. They
will choose an endangered Queensland animal
to research and make a poster to display their
information. Students in Year 5 will be
learning about the behavioural and structural
adaptations of animals. They will then create
their own creature, explaining why they have
chosen particular features for the creature based
on the habitat in which they live. Year 6
students are conducting an investigation into
the growth of mould.

Digital Technology

I will be teaching the Year 3 and 4 students
about a range of digital systems including a
range of peripheral devices and how to create a
digital solution (an interactive guessing game)
using a visual programming language. Sounds
daunting doesn't it! I can almost guarantee that
we will have heaps of fun learning how to do
this.

History

Year 5 students will identify the cause and
effect of changes and continuities in a colony
and develop a description of the experiences of
a free settler while Year 6 will identify the
change and continuities before and after
Federation, describe the causes and effects of
these changes on Australian society, and
develop a description comparing experiences of
different groups in Australia during the
twentieth century.

Homework

Each child has a homework scrapbook supplied
by the school. The expectation for homework
is glued onto the front page for students in Year
4 and 5. Year 6 students are expected to know
how to present their work and the consequences
that occur when homework is not handed in.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank
you for entrusting your child's education to us.
We take pride in the fact that we treat all
children equally and fairly. Their welfare and
education is of the utmost importance to us and
we take this part of our job very seriously. I
would like to thank those parents who took the
time to personally thank me for teaching their
child last year. It's the little acts and words of
kindness that keep teachers returning to school
each year. Have a great Australia Day Holiday.

Mrs Kay Butler

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Medications

It is important that medicines be prescribed for administration during school hours only when absolutely necessary. **Medication will only be administered when:**

*Written parent consent is given authorising the school to give prescription medicine, **AND** the medication has the chemist instructions with child's name and prescribing doctor's name on the container as well as the date of issue, time for and amount of dosage.*

Under no circumstances are school staff permitted to administer any medication that does not meet the required authorisation.

A medical register is kept at the school that follows departmental policy. Crown Law Office advice indicates that staff not accept verbal instruction from parents. Non-prescribed medicines will not be administered.

Students are not to bring medication for self-administration unless prior arrangements have been made with staff. ie asthma inhalers.

The school is to be notified in writing of any allergies your student may have, including food and insect bite allergies. Should medication for allergies be required the above conditions apply.

One of the forms is required to be signed by the authorising practitioner so we have included a copy in the permission forms package that is being sent home today for parents to have on hand to take to the Dr or Pharmacy when requiring medicine.

Permission Forms

All families will be receiving the new and updated permission forms today. It is vital that all the information fields are fully filled out to ensure we have the information required to keep your child/children safe. We do realise that the information is the same on a few of the forms but please understand the forms are for different reasons and used in various parts of the school. If in doubt please fill it out – it is better to have too much information rather than us having to resend the form home to be completed. To assist us with processes at school it is asked that all forms be completed

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and returned to the school office by Monday, January 30th.

Infoways

By law, the school is now required to send messages to parents on the day the child is absent from school. We have joined with Infoways which is a system that allows the school to send messages during the day after the role has been marked. If you can contact the school in the morning that your child will be absent we can avoid a text message being sent – however, this is still a learning curve for the staff and we are working through how to use the system correctly so occasionally you may receive a text message by mistake. On receiving the message you are able to reply by text with a reason and this is then entered into OneSchool. Please work with us on this new system as we learn how it operates. The system has been put into place by Education Queensland to ensure the safety of the students.

P&C and Community News

Welcome back to all our new and old families ready for a new school year. It is great to see Mrs Pelling, Mrs Butler, Miss Charmaine, Mrs Bauer, Miss Judy and Blondie. We would like to welcome Miss Jessica Rynne to our wonderful teaching staff.

I hope everyone had a really good break and is ready to learn some new and exciting things. Tuckshop will start up on Thursday 9th February. The menus and roster will be distributed next week, if anyone would like to help out please ring or message Leanne on 0427009641.

If anyone interested in taking on Tuckshop Coordinator please leave your name at the office. Tuckshop will run on Thursdays till the end of term.

We will hold a meet and greet at 5:30pm on Monday 13th February there will be a sausage sizzle and nibblies. It would be lovely if all families could come along.

The date for the P&C AGM will be advised.

Our Annual Cent Sale is on the Sunday 19th March, it would be greatly appreciated if families could donate items or baking please.

Dollarmites banking will recommence later in the term. Notification of the starting date will be advertised in the newsletter.

Leanne Stevens -Secretary