Principal’s News
Welcome to all parents and students to Banana State School for 2016.
A special welcome is extended to Mackenzie Turner (Year 3), Charlie McCamley (Year 1), Jackson Barry (Prep) and Charlie Urquhart (Prep). We hope that these students and their families soon feel a part of our school community and during the settling-in period, please feel free to ask questions if you need help.
I’d also like to welcome Miss Coombes to our school and I look forward to working with her in the P-3 classroom.

Parent/Teacher Evening
All parents and carers are invited to attend an information evening next Monday at 7.00pm in the library.
At this meeting, all teachers will talk about their classroom routines and their focus areas for student learning.
This is an opportunity for all parents to learn more about our school, our staff and our expectations. It also gives all parents a chance to ask questions and pass on any important information that we need to know about your children.

P&C
All parents are invited to join our P&C in 2016. The AGM will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd.
Many thanks to the 2015 Committee for all of their hard work –
President: Karen Donohoe
Vice President: Kellie Cutting
Treasurer: Amanda Blinco
Vice Treasurer: Margaret Moore
Secretary: Leanne Stevens
Vice Secretary: Vicki Bradshaw
Tuckshop Convenor: Debbie Moon
Maintenance Officer: Alan Hayes
Auditor: DAMS
We will be having an election of new office bearers at the AGM – if you are interested in taking on a position, please see Karen Donohoe.
We will definitely need a new Tuckshop Convenor – Leanne Stevens will look after the tuckshop until the AGM, however, if nobody else is willing to take on the position in 2016, then our tuckshop will have to close.

Explicit Focus Areas for 2016:
Writing, Attendance
More students in the Upper 2 Bands

Dollarmites will continue in 2016, which is a great school banking activity organised by our P&C. If you are interested in joining in, please see Alli Struber.
The P&C have 2 date claimers for 2016, the Cent Sale will be held on the 20th of March. If any parents could assist with donating cakes and slices on Sunday morning, this will be greatly appreciated.
The second date claimer is the P&C Ball to be held on April 16th. Please see Kellie Cutting for more information.

Lunch Breaks
All parents are asked to ensure that their children are bringing a healthy lunch to school. Fruit should be provided in every child’s lunchbox.
Our first break is from 11 until 11.30. This is when students should be eating their Morning Tea. Students should be eating for 15 minutes and playing for 15 minutes during this break.
Our second break is from 1 until 1.45. This is when our students eat their lunch for 15 minutes and then have 30 minutes to play.

Grounds
Many thanks to the Hayes family, Leanne Stevens and John Bauer for looking after our grounds over the holidays and tidying up for the return to school.

Timetables
Please find a timetable attached for your child. This will tell both you and your child HOW LONG and WHEN they are going to have to do an activity for each day of the school week.

Study Ladder
All students in our school will have a username and password for Study Ladder attached to their newsletter today. We will be using this website in many of our classes and our students have tasks set for them. Your child can access the tasks set for them at home.

Parade
Our first parade for 2016 will be held on Friday, February 5th at 2.30pm. All parents are invited to attend our parades.

2016 Special Events:
11th March Cricket Gala Day at Banana SS

Mrs Elaine Pelling
Miss Coombe’s News
Welcome to Week One 2016! I am Miss Coombe, the new Prep - 3 teacher.

I am extremely excited to be working at Banana State School with your children alongside the wonderful staff here. I am looking forward to meeting the students in my class, as well as the rest of the school community.

As a teacher, I believe students learn best when they find the learning engaging. I will put in my best effort to create a classroom that engages each and every student and their variety of needs, interests and academic levels. I will work with your child to scaffold and strive for the best learning outcome possible. My main focus will be on each student’s individual improvement. My overall goal is to make learning engaging and fun for the students.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you. There will be a parent/teacher meeting on the first of February, Monday night Week 2. I look forward to seeing you all there. At the parent/teacher night I will introduce myself, get to know you, discuss any learning needs or health problems your child may have. Knowing the students will allow me to plan lessons, which suit each child and their learning styles best. At the meeting, I will also discuss the learning focuses for the term, within each of the subject areas. This would be a great time to hear anything you would like to share with me about your child.

If there are any issues at any time during the year, please do not hesitate to come and see me. I am happy to listen to any issues you may have and work with you to come up with a solution to any problems.

Ensure your child is ready for the new school year by making sure they have all of their school supplies.

Homework allows students to practice the skills and concepts they have learnt at school. It is a school requirement that every student in the school will receive homework and complete their homework each week, starting from Week One. Homework will be handed out each Monday and will be due back at school every Friday. In Prep - 3, homework will include reading every night, English and literacy activities, as well as Mathematics homework. This week homework will be handed out on the first day of school (Wednesday) and be due back on Friday. Please ensure your child completes their homework for the week. Mrs Pelling does set some of the homework for Yr 3 students and parents will be able to identify the work that she has given.

For Prep and some Yr 1 students, it would be a good idea to send a spare, clean set of pants and underwear to school with your child just in case of an accident, which could happen at any time. This spare set of clothes can be stored in our classroom.

It is a school expectation that students go to the toilet during their lunchtimes and before school, so they are not missing out on learning time. This will be explained to children at school and they will be reminded to go to the toilet before school and on their breaks.

I will be sending a communication book home in homework folders. This book will go home each afternoon with any information about what’s happening at school, and any information about your child’s learning and behaviour at school. I will write in this book every now and then to let you know the things that are going on with your child in the classroom. This will also provide you with a chance to write anything I might need to know about your child. This book will allow me to keep in contact with parents that are busy and may not get a chance to speak with me face-to-face.

Welcome to Week One, I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Miss Bethenay Coombes

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Banana State School is built, the Gangulu people.
Mrs Butler’s News

Welcome
Welcome back everyone. I look forward to hearing all about the exciting things that everyone has done on the holidays. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Coombes who will be teaching the lower grades. The students and I look forward to getting to know you and working with you in our school.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my excitement about working with your child this year. I love teaching because I care deeply about the education that each of my students will experience. Over the course of this year, we will cover all of the KLA’s. More information will be available at our Parent/Teacher Evening commencing at 7pm on Monday 1st February.

Also note that if you ever have any comments, questions or concerns, I am available for phone calls and meetings (by appointment please) most days before and after school. To schedule a meeting you may contact me via the office or my email kbutl61@eq.edu.au. I can’t wait to begin our exciting year together, full of learning, fun and adventures!

Absenteeism
Absenteeism is one of our Explicit Focus Areas for 2016. If you were a frequent reader of my class news last year then you will be aware of my commitment to improving our attendance record. Students really do need to be at school every day during the term. Many of our subjects such as Science, The Arts, History and HPE are only held once a week in the afternoon sessions. Thinking that it is OK to pick your child up early from school for whatever reason is not encouraged as it really puts undue stress on your child when it comes to assessment.

Homework
Your child has bought homework home today. It is due back on Friday. Students in Year 4, (except for two), have spelling words carried over from last year. It is my expectation that by Friday they will have learnt them. We will also be working on these words during class time. On the inside of the homework book is a note about how the book needs to be set out. Please take the time to read it so that you may remind your child to refer back to it until they are familiar with the layout. Year 5 students will receive homework from both Mrs Pelling and myself. Mrs Pelling’s work will have a focus on NAPLAN while the homework I set will include spelling, reading, work that is related to their learning as well as some NAPLAN practice. Mrs Pelling and I will both contribute to the Year 6 homework.

Classroom Helpers
Helpers are most welcome in the upper classrooms. Spelling is heard on Friday and as each child has an individual spelling list, this is the day that I would appreciate any support.

The Arts
This term students in Years 5 and 6 will create a sculptural artwork using clay as the medium. They will need to bring an old shirt that can be left at school to be worn over their school uniform to protect it from getting dirty.

Homework Club
Chappy Selma will be available for help with homework on Friday mornings before school. This is your last chance to get help before homework is due in. Please remember to see your teacher before Friday with any problems that you may be experiencing with your work.

Sonshine Club
Chappy Selma has advised us that Sonshine Club will commence on Friday afternoon after sports.

The Last Word
These are the things I want my students to remember throughout the year.

1. I believe in you
2. I trust in you.
3. You are listened to.
4. You are cared for.
5. You are important.
6. You will succeed.

Mrs Kay Butler

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Banana State School is built, the Gangulu people.
P&C and Community News
Welcome back to a new year of school. We hope you all had a wonderful and restful break, ready for another year of learning.

Tuckshop will begin on Wednesday, February 3rd and will run one day a week until the AGM. The P&C are looking for someone to be our Tuckshop Convenor. This position is a volunteer basis. It involves ordering the uniforms, the food, pricing, creating menus, creating term rosters. If we are unable to fill the position of Tuckshop Convenor at the AGM the Tuckshop will cease operation until the position is filled. Anyone wanting to give a hand for the first few weeks of Tuckshop, is asked to give Leanne a call or catch her at school.

The AGM will be held WEDNESDAY NIGHT 2nd MARCH commencing at 6pm. Please come along to see how our P&C works - don't feel that you have to take a position.

Upcoming P&C events:
On the 11th March we will be catering for the Cricket Gala Day.

We also will be holding our annual Cent Sale on Sunday 20th March. We are asking parents if they would like to donate prizes or cooking for it to be a great success. On the 16th April we are going to put on a ball.

Dollarmite banking will take place each Friday. Students who wish to participate are asked to bring along their banking to the tuckshop on a Friday morning.

Our last day of 2015 was very enjoyable, all the children should be very proud of their achievements. Everyone who attended the pool activities enjoyed themselves.

Our major Christmas Raffle was drawn at the awards ceremony and the winners were:
1st prize: Nardine Kurtz.
2nd prize: Hayes Family
3rd prize: Meagan Moore.

Thanks to everyone who supported the P&C during 2015. Looking forward to sharing a great year with students, staff and parents.

Mrs Leanne Stevens – P&C Secretary

Date Claimers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Evening 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Feb</td>
<td>Parade 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Cricket Gala Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Cent Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 April</td>
<td>P&amp;C Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday</td>
<td>Dollarmite Banking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UPDATE STUDENT FORMS
Students will have paperwork to be filled out and returned to the school office by Wednesday, February 3rd. It is important that these forms are returned by the due date as it keeps our records up-to-date and is critical for the safety of your child/children. Your prompt return would be greatly appreciated.

NEWSLETTER – Email
If you are not receiving your newsletter by email and would prefer this option, please contact the school office with email details.