Principal’s News
Welcome back! It’s Term 3 which means that we’ve got 20 weeks of school left in the 2016 school year to make positive, lasting differences in the lives of Banana State School students.

End of Year Awards
A date for your diary – end of year awards will be presented on the last day of school December 9th.

Staffing
For the past month, I have been working with Education Queensland to find a new teacher for our school.
This is proving to be quite difficult and currently, we have a vacancy.
This means that I am planning and preparing for P – 3 students and Yr 5 – 6 students, as well as being your Principal.
I am not taking any calls before school, if you wish to talk to a staff member before school – please see Mrs Butler. If you wish to see me, please make an appointment after school.
Mrs Keller is working in our school to assist in our classrooms.
Charmaine Hamilton is in America for the first two weeks of school and we are very fortunate to have Cathy Phipps working in our office at the moment.

Tuckshop
Both Julie Milne and Anita Lowther have expressed an interest in being the Tuckshop Convenor.
We will need to have a meeting with all interested parents to make some decisions about whether we have enough workers to fill a Tuckshop Roster.
I will need to chair this meeting because ultimately, the tuckshop is convened by a P & C under the Principal’s direction.
I will not be able to organise a meeting until our staffing situation is finalised.
Unfortunately, my working hours are not from 9.00 – 3.00 and I am currently unavailable to convene meetings before or after school due to my increased commitments in planning, preparing and assessing student work.

School Opinion Survey
The annual School Opinion Survey will be conducted 11 to 29 July 2016. All families, school staff and a random sample of students will be invited to participate. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve.
Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey will be sent home with today’s newsletter.
Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at the school, and school computers will be available before and after school.

Japanese
All Yr 5 & 6 students will be commencing Japanese lessons with their teacher, Debbie Weatherley (Weatherley Sensei). Debbie is based at Eimeo Road State School, near Mackay and her classes will be delivered online.
Japanese lessons will be held on Fridays, from 11:30am – 12:30pm.

Dawson Valley Athletics
The Dawson Valley Primary School Track and Field Carnival Information Package will be sent home with the newsletter today for all students who were eligible to be nominated for events.
The carnival will be held next Wednesday July 20th at Moura State School.
Parents will need to provide transport for their child.
I will be unable to attend this year due to school commitments. Mrs Bauer will be attending the carnival on behalf of our school.

Thanks
1. Thanks to all parents and P&C members who provided such delicious food for us at the Athletics Carnival.
2. Thank you to all parents who assisted in setting and packing up for the Athletics Carnival. The marquees are too difficult for our staff to put in place without parent support – so we are very appreciative of your help.
3. Thank you to the Bauer and Hayes families for restoring the Long Jump pit prior to the Athletics Carnival.
4. Thanks to the Barry family for organising the repairs to our tennis court nets.
5. Thanks to Mrs Hobson for all of the great work that she does in helping us with our library.
6. Thanks to Linda Schmidt for donating some books to our school.

Elaine Pelling

Explicit Focus Areas for 2016:
Writing, Attendance
More students in the Upper 2 Bands
P - 3 News

Homework
Every student in P – 3 received this week’s homework on Monday.

Please ensure that it is returned on Friday – including the beautiful new books which were included in some children’s homework.

P - 2
In English, the P-2 students are reading ‘Stellaluna’ a book about a baby bat. They are working in a booklet which has differentiated activities for each year level. The Yr 1s have found it challenging to write questions for the characters. The Yr 2s have done wonderful work writing compound sentences.

In History, the P-2 students have started talking about their personal history and this week they have each made a Family Tree which we will display in the classroom.

Yr 1
I have some serious concerns about Yr 1 students as outlined below, I will be working on these issues while I have responsibility for the class and I will be raising these issues with the new teacher:

• A majority of Yr 1 students do not take care of their own equipment or the school equipment – rubbers are too easily snapped in half. If students continue to waste school resources, then I will have no choice but to ask for replacements. After raising this issue with students and through the newsletter, if I continue to see school resources destroyed, then I will contact parents personally.

• Yr 1 work is too untidy and often involves scribble and malformed letters of the alphabet – this is unacceptable. Please note, that my expectation for neatness and writing is directly aligned to what is required of Yr 1 students in the Australian Curriculum.

• I have noticed that a number of Yr 1 students refuse to work – so, they will need to get busy as learners. I will be using a number of strategies to make my expectations clear, such as starting class early so that the work that has to be done is done.

I hope that by the time that I write the next newsletter, I will be able to discuss the improvements which I have seen demonstrated by all Yr 1 students.

Yr 2
The Yr 2 girls have been working hard this week on measurement; choosing and using appropriate standard units to estimate and measure, using rulers, scales, thermometers and measuring vessels.

Yr 3
The raw score data for NAPLAN 2016 has been released to schools. Parents will receive their reports later when the data is more refined and Band Levels have been finalised.

At this stage, I can see that our Yr 3 students have done well in Numeracy, Reading, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and we have met our targets in Writing.

We have been using Studyladder in class in Maths and this program does allow students to learn at their own pace.

Your child has been given a username and password which can be used to access Studyladder both at home and at school.

It is not compulsory for your child to use Studyladder at home, however regular access will help them reinforce what they have been taught in school. It will also help to build their confidence through practice.

Your child will NOT be able to chat with anyone using Studyladder. However, we still encourage you to supervise your child at all times when using the internet.

Simply go to www.studyladder.com.au and login using your child’s school username and password. The free version allows students to access tasks set by their teacher (it is optional for parents to upgrade if they wish to give their child unlimited home access).

As a parent you can join Studyladder for free if you wish to monitor your child’s progress.

General Points
Please keep an eye on what your child brings to school – we do not need jewellery brought to school.

Your child should be dressed appropriately for school – footwear needs to be practical and appropriate. Students should wear sneakers to school rather than boots.

All students need to wear a hat at school – it is a part of our school uniform. Please purchase one for your child if they do not have one.

Elaine Pelling

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

Welcome Back

It has been great hearing all about what everyone did over the holidays and to see the students keen and eager to begin a new term. Term Two was a long one for them. Students put a tremendous effort into their learning as well as their own personal growth by learning how to get along with others through tolerance and inclusion. They have been reminded that this is a new term so everyone starts over with a clean slate and it is up to them to make the right decisions about their behaviour. It doesn’t matter how old we get, sometimes we all need to be reminded of this.

Interviews

As you all know, we do not have a third teacher at this stage. For this reason mornings are an extremely hectic time getting prepared for the day’s teaching. I appreciate that parents wish to catch up with me and I encourage this, however if an important issue arises that you wish to have a lengthy discussion about can you please let me know in the morning and I will make time after school to talk to you or you can phone the office and request an interview. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

History

This term in History Year 3 students will once again join the Year 4 students on Thursday afternoons to explore change and development. The key inquiry questions guiding this unit are:

For Year 3:
* Who lived here first and how do we know?
* How has our community changed?
* What features have been lost and what features have been retained?

For Year 4:
* What was life like for Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
* What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, and early traders, explorers and settlers?

Year 5 and 6 students will be studying key events in Australia’s history after the 1800’s, the reasons why people migrated to Australia in the colonial period and the impact it had on the country. How interesting that two hundred years later and we’re still hearing the same thing. Makes you wonder how far we have really come as a nation doesn’t it. **If you have any memorabilia about the early days of Banana we would love to see it and maybe use it in a classroom display for this term if you are willing to lend it to us.**

Civics and Citizenship

This term Year 3 students will again join the Year 4 students on a Wednesday afternoon to learn all about local government and the services it provides to their community. They examine how rules and laws affect them and the importance of laws in society. They also explore cultural diversity, and how belonging to different groups can shape personal identity. Through the study of civics and citizenship, students develop skills of inquiry, values and dispositions that enable them to be active and informed citizens.

Science

Year 3 and 4 students will work with Mrs Pelling in Science during Term 3 while Year 5 and 6 will work with me. Year 5 will be learning to describe the key features of planets in our solar system. They will discuss how people have contributed science knowledge to space exploration. They will explore the place of Earth in the solar system and then use this knowledge to look for patterns and relationships between components of this system. They will examine how scientific understandings of space have changed over time due to developments in technology. Year Six students will explore how sudden geological and extreme weather events can affect Earth’s surface. They will consider the effects of earthquakes and tropical cyclones on the Earth’s surface and how communities are affected by these events. Have Cyclone Marcia paying a visit to our region last year they now have some firsthand knowledge of the devastation that a cyclone can cause.

The Last Word

“When we walk to the edge of all the light we have and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for us to stand on or we will be taught to fly.” ~ Patrick Overton
Welcome back to Term 3. I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and ready to get down and learn new and fabulous knowledge.

We have 2 Functions:

1. Cooper Downs Clearance Sale Saturday 30/7/2016.


Coming up and a note is sent out about them if you could please fill them in and get them back as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated.

Also the P&C Chocolate drive will commence early next week. All Families wishing to participate in the drive please call Alli 0418180577 or Leanne 0427009641 to organise pick up.

There will be forms later on in the term for the Lasanga Drive.

We have raffles the second Friday of each month. If you could sell tickets or just come along to support our raffles would be great.

Just remember all the money P&C raises go back to support all our children in one way or another.

Don’t forget every Friday is Dollar Mite Banking see Alli or Leanne

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>15 July</td>
<td>Nominate your father by visiting qldfatheroftheyear.org.au before July 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th July</td>
<td>Dawson Valley Primary School Sports Day At Moura State School</td>
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<td>29th July</td>
<td>Last chance to complete the online School Opinion Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>P&amp;C Catering Clearance Sale - Cooper Downs See Leanne if you can assist</td>
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<td>Every Friday</td>
<td>Dollarmite Banking</td>
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<td>2nd August</td>
<td>Morning Tea &amp; Sausage Sizzle Catering at Civic Centre Biloela See Leanne if you can assist</td>
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