Banana State School Newsletter
Term 3 2016 Week 5

Principal's News

Welcome
Miss Shannan Rye has commenced teaching in our school this week. Miss Rye has a contract with us for 2016. Please make her feel welcome. We also welcome Tyreek Winika to Yr 2 – we hope that Tyreek enjoys his stay.

Internet Upgrades
You will see some earthworks happening in our grounds this week. This is to prepare for the upgrade which should result in the internet speed at our school being a lot faster.

News from Chappy Selma
Sonshine Club on this Friday.

Yr 6 Transition to Junior Secondary
The first Information Evening will be held for all students and parents this Thursday evening at Moura SHS.

NAPLAN 2016
NAPLAN results were released to students and parents last week, confirming that Banana State School has continued to achieve some of its best results since testing began. Congratulations to all students!

Highlights of Banana State School’s NAPLAN results include:
• ranking above the Australian and Queensland mean in every strand of NAPLAN in Yrs 3&5.
• achieving our goal of increasing the number of students in the Upper 2 Bands in Yr 3 - 100% in Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy in Yr 5 – 80% in Reading and Grammar & Punctuation.

There are a wide range of views about the role and purpose of national assessment, but without doubt it provides educational leaders, and society more broadly, with an idea of what effect our efforts are having on each student's performance in skills necessary for everyday life: reading, writing, spelling and numeracy.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Time flies when you’re reading a great book! We’re now over halfway through the reading period for the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Our school community is proud to be one of the more than 800 schools that have registered.

Protect yourself from infection
Infectious diseases can spread easily in our school if controls are not in place. It is everyone’s responsibility to take care of their own health and to ensure that the health of others is not jeopardised by what we do, or don’t do.

Some steps you can take involve keeping your child at home if she/he is unwell, and encouraging good hygiene practices such as covering your mouth when coughing and regular hand washing after coughing and sneezing.

Police Legacy Child Handbooks
Handbooks are being sent home with Year 6 students today. These handbook is a valuable tool for discussing safety topics and important issues facing children and young adolescents.

2016 Rio Olympic Games
The Olympic Games are here! We have a few special learning experiences in this fortnight based on the Rio 2016 Games for our students. Our classes will engage with learning activities that align to the Australian Curriculum: Geography, Mathematics, Digital Technologies and will also assist teachers to embed the ICT capability.

Elaine Pelling
P - 3 News

Fruit Break
In an effort to introduce some Early Years routines and pedagogy back into the classroom, we have commenced implementing a Fruit Break in P - 2. This means that we work from 9.00 – 10.00 and then have a Fruit Break, with the fruit provided by the school.
Each morning, one teacher aide prepares the bowls of fruit before school.
After the Fruit Break, we continue with our English and Literacy learning.
Unfortunately, the Prep students won’t have Fruit Break on Monday or Friday because of Distance Education – you can’t have everything!
The Fruit Break happens in the classroom – we will not be going outside or to bags.
All students wash their hands afterwards, using the sink in the classroom, or medicated wipes.

Library Borrowing
This week, after Chappy Time, the P – 3 students will have a Library Borrowing Time.
Every child in P – 3 has a Borrowing Card and a Library Bag.
These books will constitute the Home Readers for the coming week for P - 3.
This means that on Fridays, the routine will become - homework is returned in folders and Library Books are returned in Library Bags for all P – 3 students.

Rio 2016 Olympics
This week, we have been learning about the Olympics and in P – 2, we’ve made some beautiful Olympic Rings for our classroom.
We have also been writing about the Olympics.
In P – 2, we’ve actually completed a writing task in class which is exactly the same as the homework task.
The students are excited about the Olympics and so they should be, they are wonderful young Australians who should grow up having an awareness of how things work in the world.
If you’re unsure about what to do with the writing for homework in P - 2, pop into the classroom and take a look at your child’s writing which is on display.
In Yr 3, we’ve been writing and doing some internet research – Mrs Pelling gave us a Gold Medal for our work, which was sent home yesterday.

Handwriting
In P – 2, we have been practising to improve our writing of lower case letters and writing between the lines. Everyone has made some improvements.
Letter formation is very important and some of our students have some bad habits which we need to rectify immediately before they become entrenched in their writing.
We expect to be able to read every student’s writing and identify the letters used in words.

Writing
We have certainly informed our school community very clearly of our school priorities in 2016.
These priorities apply to all year levels, hence writing is a very important part of our curriculum in P - 3.
This means that all students are expected to be writing every day. The Preps are expected to write words, the Yr 1s are expected to write sentences and the Yr 2s are expected to write in compound sentences.
In Yr 3, students are expected to write paragraphs using topic sentences.
All students need to develop the confidence to write down their ideas, using their imagination, without having to constantly ask how to spell particular words.
Please encourage your child to write as a part of their everyday life.

A note from our new teacher ….
Hi everyone, my name is Shannan Rye. I am the new teacher at Banana State School. This is my second year teaching and I am very excited to become part of this school community. I have a background in Exercise and Sport Sciences and I enjoy all things outdoors. In my spare time, you will often find me out wandering around with my camera in hand trying to capture some images of the fantastic landscape this country has to offer.
I am a firm but fair teacher and have very high expectations of my students. I have a no nonsense attitude to learning and believe that the Early Years are the time to enrich and enable each student to become the best learner that he/she can be. I look forward to working with all of your children. Please feel free, if you see me walking around the school, to come and introduce yourself.

Elaine Pelling and Shannan Rye

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

NAPLAN
As announced during Parade on Friday, Year 3 and 5 students did extremely well with their results. A special congratulations go to Paige and Matthew who both got a result that was above Band 8. Paige for Reading and Matthew for Grammar and Punctuation. This means that the result is well above the expected level of achievement for Year 5 students. Thank you to those parents who have acknowledged and thanked the staff for all of the hard work that goes into preparing students for NAPLAN.

Athletics
Congratulations to Alice Stevens and Matthew Donohoe who competed in The Capricornia Trials in athletics at Rockhampton last week. Both students did well.

Spelling
Congratulations to the following students for getting 100% accuracy in Spelling for Week Four: Narmi Lowther, Dale Lewis, Heath Bayles, Clayton Lang and Dwayne Ruth.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
We still have a few weeks to go before the Premier’s Reading Challenge finishes. Congratulations to Jahmaul Lowther, Paige Hobson and Callum Ranford who have already completed the challenge.

Thank you
We would like to thank Blondie for always putting our classroom back together at the end of a hectic day of learning. Thank you to the P & C for spoiling students last week with an impromptu lunchtime treat.

Lost Property
There have been a number of incidents in and out of the classroom lately in regards to unnamed property. Some students have the same type of pencils/pens etc. My stand on this is that if the items have no names on them then I am unprepared to accuse a student of stealing someone else’s things and it is up to the students to come to a compromise. All students have been told to label their items. Permanent markers are available for their use if you don’t have one at home, but I will not be doing this for them. This may sound harsh, but it is my job to teach students how to solve these sorts of problems; not do it for them.

Book work
Students are being reminded daily of the general expectations for the presentation of their book work. Unfortunately some student’s work is not up to standard and I am continuously reminding them of our classroom rules for book work. Student’s homework is also required to be neatly presented. Below is a list of our general expectations. I would appreciate it if you could check your child’s homework and see that it meets the following (if applicable):

- work book is to be kept neat and tidy
- all pages should have a margin (ruled using a ruler)
- all work must include a date in the margin
- title of work being covered is included / underlined
- errors are to be corrected in an appropriate manner – use of an eraser (for pencil) or one neat line through the mistake with the correction written above the mistake.
- self-editing to be clear and appropriate
- all handouts to be glued in neatly
- pages to be used consecutively and completely, unless specified by the teacher (there should be no empty spaces or pages)

The Last Word
*Let go of the old ways of thinking. JOYFULLY embrace the new. Good things flow easily.*  
(anonymous)

Mrs Kay Butler

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P&C and Community News
Our next P&C Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 30th commencing at 6pm.

We extend a special welcome to our new teacher Miss Shannan Rye. We look forward to meeting you and hope that you enjoy your time at Banana State School.

I would like to thank Ali Struber for organising the Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser. If you still have chocolate money at home can you please return to All by Friday.

I would like to thank all the families that either baked or helped at Cooper Downs Clearance Sale and the Agriculture Information day at the Civic Centre. A thank you must also go to Julie Milne for helping us on sports day and Cooper Downs. We also thank Kerri-Anne and Allan Hayes for donating items to the Tuckshop and shovels to the School. You all are truly appreciated.

Any fundraising the P&C does, goes into purchasing educational resources to assist our teachers to give our students the best learning opportunities.

Sorry, I haven't got the Lasagne drive forms out yet but I will send them home soon.

Don't forget the second Friday of the month is P&C Pub Raffle night. If you are able to help sell tickets just see Karen 0429476446 or Leanne. All money from the raffles go towards the children's excursions. The P&C were happy to be able to assist in funding the excursions at the end of Term 2. Our students in P-3 had a wonderful experience at Cooberrie Park while our Yr 4-6 students were treated to a movie and lunch in Rockhampton as part of the rewards program.

DollarMite Banking is held every Friday, please see Alli for further details.

Mrs Leanne Stevens
P&C Secretary

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