Attendance

I wanted to share with you the wonderful improvement our school has seen this year with our attendance. We have 80% of our students attending over 90% and our overall school attendance rate is 93.2%.

Maintaining good attendance is important. It allows your child to participate fully in school and gain the maximum academic and social benefit that school offers. We have a great school and we love seeing your kids here every day enjoying themselves, learning and spending time with their friends.

Thank you for making sure that your children attending school is a priority for your family. I realise it is not always easy, but everyone is doing a fantastic job.

Semester 1 - 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>Proportion of Students at Attendance Category (%)</th>
<th>Attendance Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>85% &lt; 95%</td>
<td>85% &lt; 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>15.8</td>
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</table>

Semester 1 – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>Proportion of Students at Attendance Category (%)</th>
<th>Attendance Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>85% &lt; 95%</td>
<td>85% &lt; 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARD visit

Last week we received a visit from Garry Goltz, who is the Acting Assistant Regional Director for our school while Kay Kirkman is filling in as the Regional Director. Garry is the principal at Toolooa State High school in Gladstone.

During his visit Garry commend our school, noting that at Bauhinia State School we have strong practices evident, great classroom displays, student work visible within the room, happy engaged students and wonderful school tone.

It is great to receive such positive feedback from Garry, who has many years of experience as a school principal, and has worked in numerous schools across the region.
**Teacher Professional Development**

On Monday we had John Fry (Principal Education Advisor – Australian Curriculum) working with our staff and students in the junior school. John presented a session on the best teaching practice for Early Literacy development, as well as modelled lessons and worked on lesson and unit planning with Miss Taylor.

All staff through enjoyed his visit. It was a wonderful opportunity for rich learning and refining of the teaching that occurs in our school.

This professional development was planned as part of our work around writing, which is a priority area for in our 2016 Annual Improvement Plan.

**Speech pathologist**

During week 1 we had the speech pathologists, Brittany and Karen, at school working with a number of students. This term, our school is being serviced by the Rockhampton team. This change means all the schools in our Special Education Program cluster receive service from the same team.

**Absences – change in policy**

Recently the department has made a significant change to their absence policy. As a result our school has some proposed changes to our school absence policy which will be discussed at the P and C meeting next week. It is proposed that the school will make contact with parents on the same day if a student is away without an explanation. The department’s policy change has been initiated as a result of the report *When a child is missing: Remembering Tiahleigh – a report into Queensland’s children missing from out-of-home care*. Tiahleigh Palmer was student who went missing in October 2015 south of Brisbane, and was sadly found dead a few days later.

Below are the proposed changes to our policy to be discussed at the P and C meeting.

Parents are required to explain an absence by text to the school mobile 0477 364 605 by 11am if their child is absent from school. If a text is not received the school will send a generic text message asking for the absence to be explained.

In the past a letter upon your child’s return to school was sufficient. The proposed changes will mean a letter after the absence will not be sufficient.

If you are aware your child will be away on a particular day in the future a letter placed in the notes box will be sufficient. If it is an absence that occurs on the day e.g. illness, unavoidable absences, a text will be sufficient. It is proposed these changes will take effect from Monday 1st August 2016.

For more information please come to the P and C meeting to be part of the discussion.

**School Opinion Survey**

The annual *School Opinion Survey* is currently being conducted. Parents/Caregivers are strongly encouraged to take part in this year’s *School Opinion Survey* and share their opinions about what our school does well and how we can improve.

Access details for the *Parent/Caregiver Survey* were sent home last week—these are not linked to individuals, and you cannot be identified in the survey results that will be reported back to the school, or by the department. If you would like another access code please let us know.

Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at the school. The computer in the office is available between 8:30am – 4pm each school day. The survey is open now, and will remain open until 29th July 2016. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your opinion and I strongly encourage you to participate.

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**DATES FOR BE HERE PARTIES**

- **Monday 25th July**
  - Pizza making

- **Friday 5th August**
  - Pass the parcel

- **Friday 19th August**
  - Party games

- **Friday 2nd September**
  - Mini movie

- **Friday 16th September**
  - Disco and FREE DRESS!
It was great to see the students return from their holidays and express how they had enjoyed the break with their families.

Over the school holidays I attended a course of A2B which went for two days and was attended by other school chaplains from Rockhampton. It was about engaging children in school activities especially those who are less confident in participating with other students in the playground or classroom.

During the week of 18th July to 22nd July, 2016 I am in Brisbane doing my intensive week of study for Certificate IV in Youth Work for which benefits will flow to the school community having kept my qualifications in line with Education Queensland requirements.

I will be attending a Queensland State Chaplains Conference which is held down the Gold Coast from the 1st August to 4th August, 2016, where ideas and trends regarding working with youth are exchanged and professional lectures are presented.

I will be making up the days I have been absent during the course of this term and this will complete my time away for the year for educational requirements.

Have a great week and I hope you enjoyed the much needed rain.

Chappy Di

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I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. Over the holiday, I was in my garden emptying compost bins. While I was shifting compost, I found many Curl Grubs. I was very popular among birds who regularly visit my garden for drink when they saw wiggly Curl Grubs in the container.

Japanese Class
The eLearning students are continuing to work on their speech. It is nice to see that every student has been working very hard and earning participation points in class. Students will present their speech in August. After the speaking task, we are moving on to writing.

Should you have any enquiries about this term or/and your child’s progress please do not hesitate to contact me at kiwak1@eq.edu.au and 49993333 at Crescent Lagoon State School.

Yours in language,
Kanako Iwakura
eLearning Japanese Teacher

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SCHOOL MOBILE
0477 364 605

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Students of the Week
P12T Class - Chelsea
3-6R Class - Lexi

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Gotcha Awards
80 GOTCHAS!

★ BE RESPECTFUL ★ BE RESPONSIBLE
★ BE LEARNING ★ BE SAFE ★ BE HERE
Moura Playgroup Under 5's Day

Disney

Where Dreams Come True!

Tuesday 23rd August 9am - 12pm
Kianga Memorial Hall

$2 Entry includes: animal petting zoo and lots of children’s activities.
Raffles, special visits from Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance.

Everyone come dressed as your favourite character

Sausage sizzle, cakes and drinks available to purchase.

Visit our Facebook page for more info.
Tuesday 19th July 2016

**eKindy Hub update – Bauhinia State School**

Unfortunately securing funding from the council is taking longer than expected. Below is a timeline of events to keep you informed.

17th May: Kindy information session. Information handed to parents to decide if we would like to proceed

27th May: Contact made with the council – phone. Was asked to email.

1st June: Emailed the council

9th June: Phoned the council to follow up email. Was asked to email the CEO.

10th June: Emailed CEO

13th June: Received an automated reply asking me to allow 10 business days for a response

8th July: Phoned the council to follow up – left a message

13th July: Sent a follow up email to CEO

15th July: Phoned the council to follow up. Received the following information from Kelly Stephenson (Brad Duke’s Executive Assistant)

- Request for funding has been delegated to Brad Duke – General Manager Communities
- Brad Duke received the request for funding from CEO on 27th June
- Funding request needs to be passed by the Community Standing Committee – who meet next on 26th July
- If request for funding is approved, the request needs to be passed to the next council general meeting scheduled for 15th August
- We will be advised if our request for funding is approved after the general meeting on the 15th August. We can then advertise the position.

We are unable to advertise for a facilitator position until we secure funding. The department has strict guidelines on what we can and can’t spend money on, and unfortunately hiring an eKindy facilitator is not something we can fund.

As stated in an information document eKindy has provide for local councils, primary school principals are unable to be responsible for children who are not school age. This is why we are required to finding funding from an external source.

**Why does a school ask for financial support for eKindy?**

In some areas, all parents are unable to stay for the duration of the program at the school. This means that the school may wish to setup a ‘Stand-alone care’ service. For more information on this service follow this link: [http://data.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/pdfs/eca-act/stand-alone-care.pdf](http://data.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/pdfs/eca-act/stand-alone-care.pdf)

To do this, the school cannot be the funding source as a primary school principal cannot be responsible for children who are not school age and this is why they seek funding from outside sources, local councils being an option.

I am extremely disappointed at the time it is taking to get the hub up and running. I did contact eKindy and they are happy to provide a laptop for web sessions to be held at school. We have tested the wifi and the prep shed does get internet. eKindy also informed me that families can have the sound only on the web session and not the picture if they are concerned about the amount of data they will be using by having the picture.

Until we hear back from the council, I am very happy for eKindy to be run by the parents at school. You can do the web session together and stay for the day in the prep shed. If this is something that interests you, please come and see me and we can arrange a time and the resources you will need.

If you have any further questions please contact me.

Marie Robertson
Principal - Bauhinia State School
4996 4150
0477 364 605
mcutth8@eq.edu.au