Dear families and friends,

Our corn crop is building momentum over the past week as the young stalks start to strengthen and create the vibrant sea of green, that is full of promise and hope for the developing and growing harvest! From little things, big things grow...

Being part of a rural community and a small school is a special thing. Whilst many of us turn from the bright lights to the shimmer of the constellations above, we also live close and work even closer, in partnership, to turn the twinkle in the eye of the young learner, into the bright star of the future.

Whilst they will weather many storms and face many hardships, all children need the tough days to appreciate the good ones, it provides necessary perspective. Resilience, as a word, has many interpretations, but I have always simply thought, ‘the ability to bounce back’, resonated with me best.

To learn to bounce back, you first have to fall, bend, sway, hold tight yet strong, then straighten, dust it all off and reach...
tall again. Resilience is something that is somewhat built into those who work the land, in and around this vast country. A literally dry, sense of humour that enables perspective, respect and connection with the forces of nature, that shape this land.

We were reminded this week of how little we actually control, and the cycles of time, that we operate in. As the ground shook and confirmed that the children ‘would probably sleep through an earthquake’, we are reminded of perspective and although a somewhat surreal experience, I felt it to be a humbling moment for reflection on the bigger picture.

Parenting Ideas Schools articles

The school has invested in a new resource in the form of a subscription to the Parenting Ideas Schools website and service, provided by renowned Michael Grose. We receive teacher resources and also parent resources to engage with and distribute to our families. We have a little value add, as they provide secondary articles too, and we happily distribute these alongside the primary age targeted articles to all families.

We distribute these now weekly to all families as part of the electronic community flyer and notices email push to families from the Admin Office. This is one aspect of the increasingly streamlined parent and community engagement strategies, soon to evolve further with the QParents portal.

Last year teachers and students experimented with the ClassDojo website and mobile apps. We have increased the use of the service this year and are not only utilising it for visual attendance tracking for students, but for a new and contemporary way of engaging with behaviour management to complement our positive behaviour support and disciplinary policies and processes. This information is used heavily on the positive side and to increase ICT integration and engagement for students with visual student information.

If a student receives a negative behaviour entry recorded, it has been after normal verbal prompts, redirections and necessary warnings. Homework, nightly reading and weekend reading are also now integrated and if missed, will record as a negative task entry. Sometimes this information can be interpreted as a judgement on families. Please interpret this information with the perspective it requires for your family.
work and life routine, that it deserves. I re-emphasis that the use of ClassDojo, is heavily on the positive side of our responsible behaviour management plan practices.

Regular OneSchool positive and negative behaviour reporting naturally continues, in addition to class student data cards, work passports, the validation process and student weekly reports. ClassDojo is an interactive app that enables visual representation of class and student information and needs to be interpreted as part of the holistically supportive behaviour management plan and process.

Reports will only be available online through parent signup to the service and it is purely voluntary and complementary to the student weekly report. The students will have a scrapbook with every weekly report for reviewing their data visually, in addition to their use of the iPad mobile app.

Project Club Tuck Shop Day

Project Club week 5 tuck shop, will be held next Thursday and they must have been biting, because we are having fish and chips for lunch. Please send order and cash in school payment envelopes which have been distributed to all families for use throughout the year.

Adopt-a-cop

Thank you to Biggenden Police OIC Sgt Bradley, for the commencement of our new relationship commonly known in schools as adopt-a-cop. Students always have lots of questions about the law and society as they grow and it is great to have a consistent police officer within the school community.

Bus Pt78 Conveyancing AGM and General Meeting Updates

Thank you to Mrs Gibbs, President and Mrs Medew, Secretary, for their continued leadership of the local Pt78 Route Bus Conveyancing Committee. A valuable local contextual interface, for the continued success and sustainability of the local bus routes to ensure your children, our students, are timely, safe and sound on every trip, with our trusted local operators and drivers.

We must all remain current with the Code of Conduct from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, whether children are daily bus passengers, or just along for the ride when the school utilises transport and bus operators for camps, excursions, sports and community based activities. Links have been placed on our social media channels and platforms and paper copies distributed to all families.

Computer and ICT access at school

Throughout last year the IT department was inundated for the game, designed to make blocks out of us all, Minecraft. The technology staff, got the educational version working crudely a few times, to evaluate the program. Being an educational server version, we can now run scenarios and worlds with an educational advantage, whilst fulfilling the students desire to design cubic worlds and undertake assignments of a blocky nature. Minecraft Edu, laptops and iPads will be available for students at lunch on Thursdays, as part of a single weekly lunchtime computer club style access time.

ICT is heavily integrated with purpose, in most class programs for teachers and students. With that level of connectivity and access comes a necessary equilibrium and balance, that often requires evaluation and fine-tuning. No laptops or iPads will be allowed in the mornings prior to commencement of class, unless for specific setup of online iConnect or eLearn virtual classrooms, eLOTE, special projects or direct teacher instruction. After morning homework routines, students
can play outside until class, use the lego and games, catch-up on work where necessary, or choose to continue with school work. This simple rule allows for unity and understanding and removes temptation for our learners early in the morning, when focus is required, prior to class literacy blocks.

**Biggenden District, North Burnett Zone, Wide Bay Region and State Representational Sport**

With recent Biggenden District and the new North Burnett Zone meetings being held, it is timely for me to provide an update on the most important changes for this year. Biggenden District is comprised of our school, Biggenden and Dallarnil State Schools. North Burnett Zone is now comprised of 5 districts - Biggenden, Gayndah, Monto, Mundubbera and Childers. Wide Bay, as a region, encompasses a significantly larger geographical area and State Championships, speak for themselves. The representative sport season is upon us and the calendar is filling quickly. We hold specific Project Consent on file for all representative sports for all children, thank you.

Swimming Carnivals are now just paper nominations based on club official times as this is what is required beyond district and zone levels, combined with increasing prohibitive costs including staffing a zone swimming carnival where ultimately, those swimmers and families of those swimmers who pursue these levels of swimming are involved in swimming clubs. Our school provides school swimming term 1 and 4 with Mrs Holmes, a specialist HPE teacher.

Cross Country is now a trial for age 10 and up, however it is not voluntary, but rather a school event for all students in that age range. All students from Prep - 6 engage in Cross Country training at school with the whole school, with distances naturally relative to each child’s individual age and ability level. This change I feel is welcome by the three district schools and hopefully most parents, as the day became very long, staffing and event setup time, costs and resources were not sustainable.

The flow on effect of this change to Cross Country is that there will be no canteen operating at the trial. It is Coalstoun Lakes' year to undertake the canteen at Cross Country and Athletics, now that will just be at the Athletics, later in the year. Our youngest students will continue with regular classes at school, which we all feel is more valuable than a small race in the morning and then young students being at the event all day. Many students and families from all three schools, also took students home and this I feel, signalled that the day needed alteration. Students aged 10 and up will be transported in staff or private cars and then return to school for the second half of the day and continue with school and normal home transport. This has been on the cards for years but has been ratified this year, after evaluation and feedback from the district cross country carnival last year. The North Burnett Zone Cross Country Trial in Term 2 will be at Biggenden this year, so students will run the same track, which is of benefit to those who progress to zone level representation.

I will would also like to acknowledge and offer my appreciation to Mrs Rackemann and Mrs Holmes who are also the North Burnett Zone President and Secretary, therefore our District is represented strongly and advocated for, at the zone level. Mrs Kelly and Miss Brook are part of our District committee alongside myself and naturally Mrs Holmes and Mrs Rackemann. Cross Country training for all students has now commenced three mornings per week as part of Smart Moves physical activity.

‘Integrity and Industry’
Benjamin Reed
Principal - breed15@eq.edu.au
Explicit Improvement Agenda

Literacy and Numeracy Aims - All students to be above the National Average in NAPLAN and improving at a rate greater than the nation. Increase percentage of students achieving in the Upper 2 Bands to greater than 50%.

Australian Curriculum Aims - All students achieving C+ or better in English, Mathematics and Science and making Adequate Yearly Progress or Value Adding in achievement.

Current Permission Information

Term 1 2015
- Term 1 Swimming Program - complete
- Year 5/6 Project Impact online permissions - complete
- North Burnett Zone Sport Trials permissions - complete
- Biggenden District Cross Country Trials - compulsory age 10 and up - TBA

Positive Behaviour Focus

In the month of FEBRUARY we are - TEAM PLAYERS
- Co-operate and work well with others
- Appreciate other points of view
- Get along with different people
- Value all contributions.

Student of the Week Awards

Our weekly Thursday Assembly, our Student of the Week Award recognises many positive student achievements and can be nominated from any of our staff for many reasons - personal learning goal improvements, outstanding achievement, demonstrating leadership, or an attribute that exemplifies our motto through compassionate and thoughtful acts that embody - Integrity and Industry.

Term 1 - Week 4 - 2015

P-6 - Quade Farrell - Quade is a dedicated learner who works industriously in class. He is a great mate in the playground and like his young friends are enjoying all the bikes and scooters back in service. Quade has been contributing well to lesson discussions and takes great pride in his work!

Positive Behaviour Award - Value of the Month - February - Team Player - Who will it be?
**In The Classroom**

P-6

A busy week on campus as we sorted out all the representative sport for the students, thank you for making it an organised process with flow of information and permission to and from school. We had a special visit from our new Adopt-A-Cop from Biggenden Police - OIC Sgt Bradley. He will visit us monthly and we look forward to this new supportive relationship. We expect visits from the emergency services throughout the year but our Adopt-A-Cop will be a consistent friend at school.

With the impending rain over the next few days and the reminders of floods in recent years it is timely that we are thinking about safety and personal responsibility. NBRCouncil has purchased a game called ShelterBox, developed by the Rotary Club Capalaba and we engaged with the game resource and discussions, on Thursday afternoon for an hour. It works on themes of emergency and disaster management and we must always keep readiness and preparedness at the forefront of our mind. In addition, students have been practicing fire, lockdown and safety drills this week in light of new students, a new year and the new classroom arrangements.

The students now have their ClassDojo behaviour and attendance scrapbook started and on a side project have started their rainfall charts, based on our school rain gauge. We tap the BOM to access data from the Ban Ban weather station established in 1966 to check our findings and also fill in any blacks from weekend rainfall or if we miss some falls or gauge readings.

The new computer minecraftedu server is up and running successfully and the new computer access rules are in effect. Thursday lunch computer club seems to be a hit with a few of the students who enjoy a game on the computer, or iPads once a week.

Congratulations to Max and Amy who both delivered School Captain thank you speeches to guests this week. They spoke the words like they had done them a hundred times before, well done, you are already doing us all proud!

Mr Reed - breed15@eq.edu.au

**Kid’s Corner**

Welcome to Kid’s Corner!

This week we had Police Officer Sgt Bradley from the Biggenden Police Service visit with us for a Q&A. We also had a visit from the Council on Thursday at 2:00pm and new computer games on a Thursday at lunch. Rain, hail or shine, school is always on!

Thanks for reading! Zac

**Community Information**

Community fliers are scanned and emailed to families, once per week, from the Administration Office.

Please send community information for the newsletter to admin@coallakess.eq.edu.au