**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Apply yourself. Get all the education you can, but then, do something. Don’t just stand there, make it happen.

**ATTENDANCE:** 96.9%

Last night our Annual General Meeting of the Bundaberg East State School P&C Association was held at the school. After what was another highly successful year for the P&C, 2016 reports were presented by our President and Treasurer. Office bearers for 2017 were elected and are as follows:

- **PRESIDENT:** Dee Fuller
- **SECRETARY:** Christie Marschke
- **TREASURER:** Delise Lutz
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** Jodie Hack
- **ASSISTANT SECRETARY:** Susie Maher
- **ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Vicki Hartnett
- **PREP LIASON OFFICER:** Emma Reibelt

I would like to congratulate all of our 2017 office bearers on their appointment and look forward to working closely with them. A special thanks to our 2016 committee of Dee Fuller, Christie Marschke, Susie Maher, Delise Lutz, Jodie Hack, Wendy Redshaw, and Liz Baker for their hard work, dedication and support during 2016. Their work, along with your support, saw over $40,000 transferred to the school to support programs as part of the global budgeting process. They also provided valuable support and direction for our school on matters of policy and resourcing ensuring that we are able to cater fully for all students in our care. Thanks again to all of our P&C members and I wish the new committee all the very best for 2017.

*Mr D B Ambrose*
LEADERSHIP CAMP

Last Thursday afternoon Mr Pozzebon accompanied me to Chaverim to join our Student Councillors on leadership camp. When we arrived one group was doing rock climbing. Many were challenged and it was great to see the way students encouraged one another to reach the top. Another group were returning from canoeing and were very keen to retell their experience of falling out of the canoe. Experiences such as these are unique and special. We then joined the group for dinner which again was a pleasure to observe 40 students aged from 8 to 11 interacting positively with one another.

I am sure the students returned with many more stories including close encounters with kangaroos. A special thanks to Mr Brennan and Mrs Sward for accompanying the students and supervising them.

P&C MEETING

Last night at the general monthly meeting of the Bundaberg East State School P&C Association a number of issues were discussed. Our school audit report from the end of last year was tabled and discussed. Our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan based on the Audit report was also presented and approved along with our 2017 Annual Improvement Plan. These plans will not only set our direction for the coming year but also in future years. Other business included payment of QCPCA membership and insurance, discussion on a set down area on Scotland Street, review of the End of Year awards based on the recent survey, booking of the photographer for the Family Portraits Fundraiser for 25th, 26th and 27th August and confirmed the date for Market Night as Friday, 27th October.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Next FRIDAY, 24th FEBRUARY Religious Instruction (RI) lessons will commence for many classes. RI will only be delivered to students in accordance with parental consent given at the time of enrolment. If your wishes regarding your child’s participation in RI have changed since enrolment please contact the school office to update your instructions. A list of classes participating in RI and their instructors will be published in next week’s Newsletter.

The Religious Instruction program provided at our school is endorsed by the combined churches.

The cost of participating in RI is $5 per student or $10 per family. This amount can be paid at the office.

ATTENDANCE CONCERNS

A review of current school daily attendance rates is revealing a concerning trend. From the graph it is evident that we have a number of students flexing off on Fridays. Fridays are just as important as any other day and missing of any school is not in the best interest of students. When students are at school they do better and are more socially connected. If students miss Fridays consistently, this accounts for 20% of their schooling which is a considerable amount of time. Over the coming weeks we will be following the data closely and making contact with parents of students who are suffering ‘Fridayitis’.

2017 DAILY ATTENDANCE RATES

SUPPORT-A-READER WORKSHOPS

FREE Support-A-Reader (SAR) workshops are being offered to all parents who are interested in learning strategies to help children become independent readers. Parents who help with reading groups in their child’s class may find this workshop particularly helpful when guiding students.

Please contact the office by TOMORROW, Friday 17th February on 4132 6111 if you would like to register!

DATE: TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
TIMES: 9:00am to 11:00am OR 12:30pm to 2:30pm
VENUE: School Library

A Support-A-Reader workshop will develop your knowledge about how children learn to read and equip you with some very valuable strategies to use when reading with children!!!
**YEAR 2 SWIMMING CONTINUES**
The Year 2 swimming program will continue next Tuesday, 21st February.

**INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN MEETINGS**
We advise that Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meetings will commence on Monday 6th March (week 7) and continue through until Thursday 23rd March (week 9). We will publish a copy of the timetable outlining the date each class has been allocated together with the location of each classes’ meetings in next week’s newsletter.

**CASEY CATERPILLAR & CRUNCH THE CROCODILE MOVE IN** ~ Last weekend we had Casey Caterpillar and Crunch the Crocodile make an appearance at our school thanks to Mark Terry, a local artist and a parent of the school. The two characters, Casey with the 26 letters of the alphabet on her body and Crunch with the digits one to ten have been painted onto the footpath outside the prep buildings. A special thanks to Mr Terry. Be ready for more additions across the school!

**USE OF CROSSINGS**
At this time of year it is timely to remind all students and parents of the school the need to use school crossings. Our school is fortunate to have three fully supervised crossings for the safety of our children and adults. Please take the time to use the crossings as our children are extremely precious and we should take every precaution to avoid an accident.

**SMALL JARS & EMPTY 2L SOFTDRINK BOTTLES**
We require small jars (for example: baby food jars, small jam bottles, cocktail onion bottles etc) and empty 2L soft drink bottles to assist with our science program. If you have any small jars or 2L soft drink bottles that we could have, please deliver to the school office. Thank you!

**DISCO**
Thursday 9th March
6:00pm - 7:30pm - $3 Admission
Theme: ‘Let’s Go Wild’
Wild Hair . . . . . . Wild Styles . . . . .
& of course, Wild Dancing!

**STUDENT ABSENCES – PROVIDING A REASON**
We thank parents who advise us of their child’s absence via the Student Absence Line (Ph. 4132 6166) but can we please remind parents to provide a REASON for the absence. Otherwise, the absence may still be recorded as ‘unexplained’.

**INTER-SCHOOL SPORT TO COMMENCE NEXT WEEK**
Inter-school sport is due to commence NEXT FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY for all students in years 4 to 6. Information and permission notes will be forwarded home with all students involved in the very near future and they will need to be returned to their child’s coach before next Friday. We advise parents that students will not be able to participate in inter-school sport if they have not returned a signed permission note.

**RSL COMMUNITY LINK PLAQUES**
Our school proudly supports the RSL Community Link Scheme where students who have deceased relatives who served in the Armed Forces can apply for a distinctive badge to remember them. These badges are engraved with the veteran’s full name, service details and feature miniature representations of their service decorations and are presented by service personnel at our Anzac Day Service each year. I have been talking to all classes this week about this so your children should be well informed. If you would like more information, see a sample badge or get an application form please come to see me. The RSL has modified the process required to get these fabulous family mementoes making it much easier. You must have some evidence of their service history to support your application and they will help with the rest. If you need help to find these details I can also assist. These plaques cost $15 each and applications can be made throughout the year to avoid the rush around Anzac Day. Come and talk to me if you are interested and I will help you remember your relative’s service. Thank you - Paul McMillen, Teacher Librarian

**CHAPPY KELLY’S NEWS**

➤ **FREE BREAD** - I have been generously offered (upon availability) a selection of fresh breads from a local bakery each week to distribute to my school families. We will provide a supply to a different class each week and allow children to bring it home for families to enjoy. We will endeavour to work around each class but we have 24 classes so your child’s class may not receive bread to bring home until Term 3. *If you do not wish your child to receive bread to bring home, please let me know.*

➤ **Local Chaplaincy Committee postponed** - our LCC meeting scheduled for Thursday 22nd February has been postponed to THURSDAY 2nd MARCH at 7PM. Lutheran Church Hall, George Street, South Bundaberg. Anyone wanting to know more about Chaplaincy or ways you can get involved with your local “Chappies” is welcome to attend. Chappy Kelly

**ATTENTION!**
Please provide any documents regarding medical/health issues DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE!
CLUB AUSKICK SIGN ON & COME & TRY
FRIDAY 24TH OF FEBRUARY
Venue: Brothers Bulldogs AFL ground, Faircloth Ave OR
Across the Waves AFL ground, Clayton Rd
Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm  Cost: $75
Who: For boys and girls ages 5 to 9
Please contact Shaun Stone on 0420980514.

Thabeban State School Hall
(Entry at Newitt St Gate)
FRI 17TH FEBRUARY - 6:30PM
$5 PER PERSON – 6 PER TABLE
Book a table 0476 205 857
Food... Drinks... Raffle
~ In Support of Bundaberg Little Athletics ~