FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter, we will be testing and assessing now until the end of the term. If your child/ren are not present, it is very difficult to catch up missed assessment, which will impact on their results in Semester 2 report cards.

Reports will be out in the last week of school, but interviews will be before report cards come out – next week and the week after.

Practice is underway to fine tune our play in preparation for the end of year concert. We are looking for costumes: Woodpeckers need a red shirt and black shorts; Ducks need yellow shirts and shorts; turtles need green shirts and shorts. This will be in conjunction with the Community Christmas Party. This will be on Thursday, 8 December, starting at 6.00pm with a sausage sizzle.

Students will also be singing songs they learnt in music in Term 3, plus some Christmas tunes. There will also be at least 2 pieces with the children playing the Boom whackers. The songs and music will be sent home so they can also do some practice for homework, within the next week.

Regards

Judy Angel

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Student of the Week has been awarded to Cody Poulsen.

Our school rule awards are:

- Respect – Andrew Rhodes
- Being Safe – Abella Fleming

SCHOOL PRIORITIES:

1. Improve Reading
2. Improve Writing
3. More students in U2Bs
4. Increase Attendance (>96%)

P&C MEETING

The P&C meeting was held on Monday, 14th November and the following items were discussed:

- School budget is being wound up
- Interviews before reports come out
- Booklist given out
- Christmas program – 29th November
- Swimming carnival – Warra not attending
- Last day of school – spent at school
- Band 5 PD day – Dalby on Thursday
- Student free days (Mon 16-Fri 20 Jan)
- Principals’ Conference 2017 – Gold Coast
- QSR Teleconference Tues 29th Nov at 8.00am (Pauline volunteered to be P&C rep)
- The pencils purchased will be erected next to school sign
- A water cooler was purchased for students to use in hotter weather
- School Concert and Christmas party – flyer to be attached to newsletter
- Absentee data was discussed
- Tennis – bad debts – due to this, it was decided that payment is to be upfront before students commence lessons in 2017.
- Ring school watch if anyone is seen on school grounds

General Business

- Provide a plate for supper
- The school will conduct a multi-draw raffle. Tickets $1 each or 6 for $5
- Change of auditor – Qld Audit Services
- Movie night fundraiser – in 2017 January
- Date for AGM: 6 February, 2017 at 6.00pm.

BOOK CLUB

Book club orders are due on the 18th November, please.

TENNIS

Any outstanding debts for Tennis need to be paid as soon as possible. We can offer a payment plan for those who are finding it difficult to pay.

Due to the amount of bad debts, it was decided at the P&C meeting that next year, payment will be required...
BEFORE students start tennis lessons. This does not mean that any outstanding fees will be written off.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is again on Tuesdays this year. Please ensure the bank books are at the school on this day.

PREP ENROLMENTS
Warra State School is now taking enrolments for Prep 2017. If your child turns 5 by June 30th, 2017, they are eligible to commence Prep next year. If your child is born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012, please drop into our office to collect an enrolment pack. Also, please contact the school for an interview time. Enrolment forms need to be completed and given to the school plus the interview needs to be conducted BEFORE your child can commence Prep.

ATTENDANCE
Let’s work on attendance this term. The target for attendance in our school priorities as mentioned above, is > 96% (greater than 96%). Unfortunately our attendance rate is at 93.7% at the moment. Remember, every day does count.

EVERY DAY COUNTS
Parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year. Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year.

More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html

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<tr>
<th>If your child misses</th>
<th>That equals</th>
<th>Which is</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
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<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
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<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
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<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 4</td>
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ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS
If you see anyone on school grounds after hours or on the weekends, please ring the School Watch number – 13 17 88 or the police - 000.

RESPECT OUR STAFF, RESPECT OUR SCHOOL
Being intimidated or harassed at work is not part of our job. The department has launched a new campaign to raise awareness that violent or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated in Queensland state schools http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/respectourstaff/index.html

Violent or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated at this school. It’s not just a courtesy, it’s the law. Visit the website for more information. http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/respectourstaff/index.html

Posters are being displayed at our school to raise awareness that violent or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated. Everyone in our school community deserves respect.

PHOTOS
Update on your School Photos
We have individually cropped all of the portrait photos and where possible, removed toothpaste marks, spots and replaced buttons on the school shirts.

Multiple photos were taken of each class and the best overall photo has been chosen and printed.

The delivery time of your School Photos is during the week of 21st November 2016.

If you have any queries about your order or to order other photos please contact Donna on 0427 946 360 or email countryschoolphotos@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.

We enjoyed photographing your children and are proud to have been a part of recording history for your family and school.

Kind regards

Paul & Donna
Country School Photos
PO Box 3317
Bracken Ridge Qld 4017
Mob: 0427 946 360
countryschoolphotos@gmail.com
www.countryschoolphotos.com.au

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EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular is a combination of the Latin prefix extra-meaning "on the outside" and the word curriculum, meaning "a running, course, career."

Benefits of Extracurricular Activities

So what's in it for you? You get to explore your physical, creative, social, political, and career interests with like-minded people. You'll find friends: Trying something different may bring you in contact with people you didn't know who share your interests and curiosity.

A club or group also can be a great way to meet people who are different from you. Lots of youth programs bring people together with those who are different as a way to break down the barriers between people.

Participating in extracurricular activities helps you in other ways, too: It looks good on college and job applications and shows admissions officers and employers you're well-rounded and responsible. Specific activities help with specific goals — if you want to teach language or get a bilingual job, being the president of the judo club shows the depth of your commitment.

The most basic reason for joining a club or team is that it gives you something better to do than staring at the wall, wandering the hall, or napping all afternoon.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE KIDS TO BE PROBLEM SOLVERS
By Michael Grose

When parents solve all children's problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach kids to be afraid of making mistakes and to blame themselves for not being good enough. That's fertile ground for anxiety and depressive illness.

So, how can we raise kids to be courageous problem-solvers rather than self-critical scaredy cats? Here are three practical ideas to get you started.

1. Turn requests into problems for kids to solve
Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve. If you keep solving them, they'll keep bringing them. 'Mum, my sister is annoying me!' 'Dad, can you ask my teacher to pick me for the team?' 'Hey, I can't find my socks!' It's tempting if you are in a time-poor family to simply jump in and help kids out. Alternatively, you can take a problem-solving approach, cuing them to resolve their own problems and take responsibility for their concerns. 'What can you do to make her stop annoying you?' 'What's the best approach to take with your teacher?' 'Socks, smocks! Where might they be?'

2. Ask good questions to prompt problem-solving
A problem-solving approach relies on asking good questions, which can be challenging if you are used to solving your child's problems. The first question when a child brings you a problem should be: 'Can you handle this on your own?' Next should be, 'What do you want me to do to help you solve the problem?' These questions are not meant to deter children from coming to you; rather, to encourage and teach them to start working through their own concerns themselves.

3. Coach them through problems and concerns
So, your child feels she was unfairly left out of a school sports team by a teacher and asks you get involved. The easiest solution may be to meet with the teacher and find out what's going on. You may or not resolve the problem but in doing so you are teaching a child to become dependent on you. Alternatively, you could coach your child to speak to the teacher herself and find out why she was left out. Obviously, there are times when children need their parents to be advocates for them such as when they are being bullied, but we need to make the most of the opportunities for children to speak for themselves. Better to help your child find the right words to use and discuss the best way to approach another person when they have problems. These are great skills to take into adulthood.