

16 February 2017



Where Individuals are Valued

March	
P & C Meeting 3.30 pm Rec Room	13
April	
School Photos	21
May	
Show Holiday	19

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.



Principal's Message

Hello Biloela Families

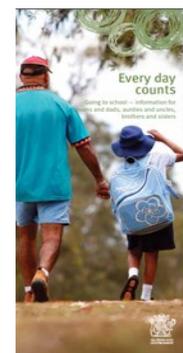
The weeks continue to fly by and the middle of term is fast approaching. It is timely to remind our community of our school priorities and share some information about what these will look like in 2017.

Toward the end of 2016, school staff spent time looking at school data and deciding what the focus should be for 2017. A school focus does not mean that we stop doing everything else, it just prioritises areas that perhaps require more of our attention and energy at a particular time.

In 2017, Biloela State School is prioritising:

- **MATHEMATICS**
- **ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

We have just begun working closely with our Regional Mathematics Coach to learn more about the Inquiry and Active Participation aspects of Maths in the Australian Curriculum. This is a little different to the traditional thinking of Maths as content such as Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. Maths through Inquiry and Active Participation highlights the proficiencies or 'things we do' in Maths such as Reasoning, Problem Solving, Fluency, Understanding and most importantly ATTITUDE! Everyone can do Maths!



Our second priority of Attendance and Engagement will continue the current focus on Every Day Counts and the importance of students being at school every day unless they are sick. This will include closely monitoring attendance data trends, rewards and incentives for improvement and consistently high attendance and individual support for students whose attendance is not yet regular.

Please take a minute to look at the table below – very quickly, the odd day off here and there amounts to your child missing a significant amount of teaching and learning. Does your child have the best chance of being successful? 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but...

If your child misses...	That equals....	Which is.....	& over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child might perform is ...
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years	Equal to finishing in Yr 11
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years	Equal to finishing in Yr 10
2 days per week	80 Days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Equal to finishing in Yr 7
3 days per week	120 Days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years	Equal to finishing at Yr 4

In conclusion, I would like to thank our School Leaders for the pleasure of their company on our excursion to the GRIP Leadership Conference in Tannum Sands on Monday. Charlie, Hayley, Khloe, Cameron, Lianne, Subin, Saxon, Ben and Charlie – you are an absolute credit to yourselves, your families and the school community.

Yours in Education
Anne Saunders
Principal



SCIENCE



This semester Year 6K & 5/6BF are working in the areas of Physical and Chemical Sciences.

6K have been learning everything there is to know about electricity! Captivated by fun experiments and comic style lessons; we have discovered how a battery works and who created it, what you need to do to make your very own electrical circuit and even all the working components of a flashlight.

5/6BF have been discussing solids, liquids and gases. Each individual state of matter has been investigated and interactive activities completed as we experimented with the conditions that change them from one form to another.

Writing in Year 5/6BF and 6K



In writing this term we are focussing on four of the 7 Steps to Writing Success: Planning for Success, Sizzling Starts, Tightening Tension and Exciting Endings. The students have been writing sizzling starts this week, using strategies to make their writing more exciting and interesting. Students have grasped the concept of using an action or dialogue to start their stories and captivate their audience.

Chappy Chat...

Hi Parents and Carers

It has been great to get to know more of the students and staff this past fortnight and even a few more parents around the school. I am blown away by the welcome I've received here and have definitely hit the ground running with starting Chappy toast mornings again and visiting classes.

We have a very exciting program starting next week called **MATES**. We have 17, Year 6 students who have been chosen for **MATES** and are incredibly keen to get started. So what is it all about?

Four **MATES** team members will be out during first break every day. They will be wearing bright blue vests and carrying around a bag stocked with supplies for their duty. They are there to be a positive presence in the school playground. They will be looking to help students who may be feeling lonely or having trouble in the playground. They will have a few games up their sleeves to engage with different groups during the break and be a listening ear to students who'd like a chat.

We have completed 3 training sessions with the **MATES** team and they are feeling confident to head out on their first duty on Monday. These students have committed giving up one lunch break every week for the whole year to serve their school community and be positive role models for our younger students. If you see them around please encourage them in their good work!

And again, I am here to support students, staff and parents so if there is any way I can do this for you, please come and have chat.

Chappy Jess



School Tuckshop is open tomorrow Friday 17 February 2017

Please use Flexischool to order tuckshop and uniforms. Follow the easy online registration if you haven't already registered.



EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER NOW
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.

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Please contact Alison Cullen if you have any uniform queries on 0428 965 543.

- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.