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!

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
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