BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER

This year the school has purchased test books to aid the students with their learning, the cost for these books is $54 for each student. Thank you to the parents who have already paid and to the parents who have made arrangements for regular payments to occur until the invoice has been paid. Quite a few parents have a credit balance on the system and this could also be used as part payment towards the payments. Swimming and excursions are also being organised this term, once again you are more than welcome to start paying off these amounts even though the final amount in the case of excursions will not be known until all the fundraising has been completed. By gradually paying a small amount each week is much more practical than trying to find the all money a few weeks before the excursions are due to leave or before swimming starts. Reminder statements will be going home in the next week to parents who have not yet paid. To avoid yet another invoice being sent home could parents please see the office staff re making payments on any outstanding accounts. Thanks

Sandra Lansdowne - Business Service Manager

STUDENT AWARDS & ASSEMBLY

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Beaconsfield News
FORTNIGHTLY EDITION
12 March 2014

Coming Events

March
13 Jennings hosting Assembly @ 2.30pm
13 PGC/ADM Meeting 5.30pm
14 Friday Sport – Beaconsfield V Elymo Road @ Elymo Road
20 ‘Our Story’ Performance Prep to Year 3 from 10am to 11am
21 Bradman hosting Assembly at 8am
21 Friday Sport - Bye
21 Harmony Day
23 Choral Festival Rehearsal
24 Choral Festival Rehearsal and Performance
27 Sporting & Cultural Leadership Assembly @ 2.30pm

April
3 Assembly @2.30pm
4 Last Day Term 1
21 First Term Break Monday
21 First Term Day 2
21 Fcy canoe/Ka lae Swimming
24 Assembly @2.30pm
23 ANZAC Day

Dear Parents, Staff & Students
National Testing Literacy & Numeracy 2014 (NAPLAN): All students in years 3, 5, 7, 9 throughout Australia will have the opportunity starting from May 2014. Results provide families and schools with an external measure of how children are achieving academically, identifies areas of strength or weakness and provides schools with data upon which to reflect on teaching and student learning. Additional support and test modifications are possible to support students with a diagnosed disability. Special education staff and class teachers will assist families to coordinate this. Some Special education children may be considered exempt from testing due to the nature of their disability for which approval must be negotiated with family and school. More information for parents to follow soon.

Harmony Day 2014: Next Friday March 21st is the official day that we recognise the many cultures that make up our nation. As part of the event students are encouraged to wear ORANGE accessories on this day, head bands, bandanas, scarfs, headbands, belts etc. in part of their school uniform for the day. Our normal assembly day will be moved to Friday morning to accommodate these events. To recognise and celebrate this event we have organised an on stage performance for students titled “Our Story” which will take place in the hall on Thursday the 20th (P-1 at 11am & Yrs. 4-7 from 11.30am) All families are welcome. Students yet to pay the $5 performance fee must do so by next Wednesday.

Outstanding Beaconsfields Writers: As part of this newsletter edition we have included some terrific samples of student writing that features exceptional descriptive language that creates tension and suspense for readers. Our students have been very enthused and motivated to improve their writing and share it with class mates and different audiences. See what you think? Year 6-5’s in Griffins have some terrific samples based on a bush fire theme in the admin foyer.

ICAS: International Academic Competitions: Students who enjoy academic challenges and have particular talents in some subject areas may wish to register in this international competition. Areas include Mathematics, Writing, English, Maths and Science. The school subscribes registrations to enable a flat rate of $6 per student per subject nominated. Teachers will also nominate children (to parents) who they believe have shown potential in particular areas. Successful students are recognised with certificates of excellence that are useful to include in student resumes as they approach high school. More information to follow.

Week 6 Champion Class: Attendance and Arriving on time: Year 3 students have earned the trophy for the second time in the challenge to win the class BBQ prize at the end of term. Year 3 were one of those classes that tied with only 1 person with an explained absence for the week but won on count back with only 1 person late to school for the week. Well done Year 3 Trinity.

Quick Reminder
No Backpacks/Bookbags/Chenille this term
No days on school grounds, even on a lead
Top every day is a requirement/Safe days are students, this is for vehicles with Special Education children or instrumental students with large instruments to carry.
Attendance – at school every day and on time makes a difference.
Harmonious Day – Wear your Change Awareness on Friday March 14th
Harmony Day “Our Story” Performances Thursday March 20th and 28th
Friday Sport – away games at Beaconsfield School (soccer & netball)
ICASS: AOM this Thursday March 6th @3.30pm in the school library
Student Writing Samples from Griffith Learning Group (Year 4-6) – Featuring Effective Descriptive Language, tension & Suspense. Theme: ‘Caught in the Bush Fire!!!’

Fire a smoking: Everything is burning: David Harrower
Fire built up at the sky it’s pitch black. All I can taste is smoke in my throat. Josh Wyatt
Birds were squawking as flames covered the trees. Mitchell Parker
Shocking for now I slowly stopped walking. I hear the fire crackling and wolves crying. Luke Blundell
Here I am drowning in sweet and heat. My heart is pounding. George Cortese
I am stuck. I am trapped in a dark hole with nothing all around me. Emily Caven
Tears are rolling into little bits of sparks. Ashes are rolling onto me. Hannah Cameron
I am terrified. Ashes are burning my skin. Jamie Osprey
I can hear the animals speaking in the forest and the trees crumpling to the ground. Georgia Potter
Wings are spreading for help. All the back is burning. Animals are dead on the ground. Owen Daniel

Regards
Brendan Smith
Principal
Beaconsfield State School
NADINA STREET BEACONSFIELD, PO BOX 823 MOUNT PLEASANT MACKAY 4740
Beaconsfield G.P. Community Health 07 4969 8057
PHONE 07 4969 2222 • FAX 07 4969 2235
admin@beaconsfield.qld.edu.au • advances@beaconsfield.qld.edu.au
https://beaconsfield.qld.edu.au

change to Canteen Opening Hours
Wednesday & Thursday
Free Only

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Beaconsfield State School
Mackay State High School
HAROLD STREET BEACONSFIELD, PO BOX 823 MOUNT PLEASANT MACKAY 4740
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https://beaconsfield.qld.edu.au
This week and last week we have been focusing on Step 3 “Tightening Tension”. The Tension scene comes just before the big climax ending. Here are some tips you can try at home to encourage your child to write great tension scenes.

**Step 3: Tightening Tension**

**Top Tip:**
Never leave a cliffhanger at the end of the chapter.

**Activity:**
After you’ve written a tense scene, go back and add more tension.

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**Read Me!**

**How to Support Your Beginning Reader Workshop Sessions**

A partnership project with the AEA MacKay Local Council, the Mackay Regional Council Library Services and the Rotary Club of Mackay.

**Mackay Rotary Literary Luncheon**

These two four “Read Me!” workshops for beginning readers are designed to support parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers to help young readers with their reading development at home, daycare, kindy and at school. The content of the day is dynamic and interactive. Come and learn about the reading process, how young children learn to read and how to support independent readers. Participants will receive session notes, reading resources including a copy of "Reading Magic" by Mem Fox and a professional learning package from the Australian Literacy Educators’ Association (AILA).

**Drummond Street Library**

Two workshops dedicated to reading and writing for children in the Mackay region.

**Drummond Street Library Workshop Sessions**

**Top Tip:**
Always follow up reading and writing with a short story or a reading project.

**Activity:**
Have children use different reading strategies to solve a mystery or solve a puzzle.

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**SMPs – Supporting Positive Behaviour**

The last two weeks have been a busy one with staff recognising our students who are being safe, respectful and responsible learners, with 2130 SMPs. Thanks to the students in the Lawrence class who have topped the school count with 185 SMPs in Wk 5 and 272 in Wk 6. Last week we had 768 SMPs for the whole school which was an improvement from only having 5 classes achieve the goal the week before. Now we will continue to work hard with working towards our goal of having 12 classes achieve 100% SMPs before the Easter break.

Over the last two weeks our school has celebrated the achievements of 21 students who have received Buzz Awards for having earned 100 SMPs. At this weekly assembly we will recognise the achievements of another 27 students who will be presented with Buzz Awards for positive behaviour Special congratulations to the following students who have received their second Buzz Award for the year (having earned 100 SMPs) by Teacher Once, Tymielinose, Douglas Kirk, Trinity Casey and Shay Gossley.

Our whole school behaviour focus for this week has been on our Be Safe line of expectations - 'Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself'. When talking to students about this expectation we often refer to it as following the "hands off" rule. We emphasise to students the importance of following the hands off rule so that everyone can feel safe at school.

We explain to students how this expectation applies to everyone (students and adults alike) outside of school in the community and if this expectation isn’t followed then people can feel themselves in trouble with the authorities.

Our behaviour focus for next week is Learn or Be Responsible “Learn school prayers when dismissed by the teacher”. This expectation helps students to be responsible for their actions by raising the right actions when dismissed when they are not being directly supervised by staff at their home school. It ensures that they aren’t juggling paper and pencils waiting unnecessarily outside the school gate or at home if they are walking home. I encourage all parents/careers to discuss and reinforce these expectations with your children to help them understand the importance of meeting these behaviour standards each and every day. When these standards are met then we can demonstrate those children who are following the right actions over the next few weeks, as they are being acknowledged by our staff for being safe and respectful learners.

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**CURRICULUM NEWS**

This term has seen the introduction of two new programs into the school. We will now have The Support A Reader Program operating in the early years for children not meeting the School Bookworks in Reading. This program gives them the opportunity to read 2 to 3 times a week one on one with a Teacher Aide and work on developing their reading skills further. Children in this program will be closely monitored to ensure their reading levels continue to improve towards meeting school benchmarks.

In grades 3, 5, and 7 this term, we have introduced the 7 Steps to Writing Program which uses several techniques to make story writing more interesting and fun. In the first few weeks of this term we focused on Step 2 "Sizzling Starts". Here are some tips you can try at home to encourage your child to write Sizzling Starts to stories...

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**MUSIC**

Welcome to the Griffiths newsletter items. We love learning! So we decided to share some fun and interesting facts with you. Here are some things you may not know! Did you know...

- Strangest music record is caused by a chemical reaction
- When you put a glow stick in hot water it glows even brighter
- Snowflakes stick together and can be the size of your palm!
- The phrase "as white as snow" is false! Snow isn’t white...
- Light travels in a straight line.
- When you look through a pin-hole camera the image is inverted! Our eye sees inverted images but our brain renormalises the light making it white.

In other news... We’ve all created our own personal learning goals and are working towards achieving them in numeracy, spelling, reading and writing. Here is a great final week from the Griffiths Learning Centre.

Lisa Snedgen - Teacher

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**SPORTS**

Our first home game in Soccer and Netball was against Glenella. Our senior boys soccer teams had convincing wins with the Black team winning 8-4 and the Green team winning 5 goals to 1. However, both of our Junior teams suffered narrow defeats. The senior Netball team had 9 goals to nil victory while the Juniors lost a close match by one goal. Parents and friends were welcome to watch the teams play from about 1pm on Fridays. Unfortunately, our match against Bacaslia was cancelled because of the wet weather. Disappointingly again, a number of our girls who have been selected for various representative teams were unable to attend. It was a straight-line spell for our teams. Our girls certainly will be back in action next week.

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**Choral Festival**

Seventeen students have been attending rehearsals for this year’s combined school Choral Festival. ALL STUDENTS need to have returned their permission note and have paid the $80 participation fee by now. The Choral Festival assembly is on Sunday 26th May at 9am and the stage will be on Saturday 25th May at the MECC. The performance will be Monday evening at the MECC. Parents please get your tickets ASAP or you may miss out. There are still tickets available.

**Instrumental Camp – YEOPI**

All year six and seven ensemble performers received an invitation to attend the Combined Schools Strings and Brass, Woodwind and Percussion Camp to be held in Yeppoon next week. The expressions of interest forms are due back by the next week, please.

**Concert Band Rehearsals**

These are to begin on Thursday 5th May. All students need to be at the instrumental room by 7:45am with a display folder and pencil ready to help with the set up.

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**Camellia Play – Music Teacher**

Darrin Russell – Deputy Principal