



Biala Support Services Inc.

BIALA SPECIAL SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Issue 4, Term 2

29th April 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER in TERM 2

Saturday 1st May - Debutante Ball at the RSL
Tuesday 11th May – Healthy Harold at school
Saturday 22nd May – Garage Sale Fun Club/ Strikers
Bowling
June – Strikers Bowling Chocolate Drive
July – Evans Head Golf Day
Friday 2nd July – End of Term 2.

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to EVERYONE and I trust all our families had a fun, happy and safe Easter break and long weekend. We are all rearing to get into the new term with a few changes to the school week which I previously sent home to everyone last week.

This included the sport timetable on Fridays. I have increased the number of Fridays where we will access the Hydrotherapy pool. So please ensure swimmers and towels are left at school so your child does not miss out on this fun and worthwhile activity. The bowling dates and cost will remain on the same dates.

This week we began our new Personal Training session with Byron Fitness with Katy and Nick. They made exercising fun but challenging, as we worked around different exercise stations, each designed to work different parts of the body. Katy and Nick will be joining us every Monday mornings at 10.00am-11.00am and help us set up our very own gym and work-out space. Please remember, students who want to participate in this exercise program need to wear comfortable running shoes and exercise clothing. Katy and Nick are interested in promoting their work at Biala on their website. Please let me know if you have any objections to them using any photography of your child from these workout sessions in their newsletters or website. Check them out on

Congratulations to our new school captains, Vice captains and Prefects. They are doing a great job in

their new roles and I am very proud of how responsibly they take their roles.

Thank you to Chris Hackett who brought in the Fire engine to school on Wednesday and let the kids use the fire hose.

Thank you to all the school and Biala Support Services Inc. staff who helped out and volunteered their time at the Shawsy on ANZAC day for our 2-UP fundraiser.

Please think about helping out with fundraising for the school and organisation. We hold *The Friends of Biala* fundraising meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the school at 10am. The next meeting is next Tuesday 3rd May. Your input and ideas are much appreciated.

Congratulations to all the participants of the Debutante Ball that will be held this Saturday 1st May at the RSL. It will be a fun night and I know everyone will look amazing.

Healthy Harold will be visiting on Tuesday 11th May.

The School Leavers Expo will be on Wednesday 16th June in Week 9. This is one of the MOST important events for parents to attend if your child will be leaving school in the next few years. This is your opportunity to meet with all the different organisations who work with young adults with disabilities after they leave school and make up your own mind where will best suit your child for their post schooling.



Above: Our 2010 Prefects (Liam & Sarah), our Vice Captains (Mikaela & Dylan) and our School Captains (Carly and Shaun)

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

The Communication Room

Welcome back to Term 2 – I hope everyone had a good holiday. In Art we are doing Mothers Day Craft and continuing on with our flowers theme. Weather is the new topic in Science where we will be doing some experiments as well as written work. We took some photos at riding today (some are in this Newsletter). In Numeracy and Literacy we are using a new booklet which has an interactive CD that all the students love.

Jo and staff.

It has been a lively and fun filled start to Term Two. The communications class is doing Wet and Dry environments in HSIE (social studies) and we will be looking at animals in wet and dry environments - who knows, we may even meet a creepy one soon! In music we are enjoying a blend of traditional rhyming songs /nursery rhymes and modern pop (specifically the sound track to High School Music Three). If you would like to sing along at home, and have internet access, why not access www.youtube.com and type in 'nursery rhymes'. We are using a brand new multimedia kit to teach phonemic (sound) awareness and so far it seems

to have been a hit with the kids. This kit is called Reading Eggs and is available from the Ballina

Post Office if you wish to purchase it for your use at home. It is a pleasure to be back at school and trying out new teaching resources with this truly wonderful group of kids and we look forward to many exciting weeks ahead.

Jo, Isaac, Annalise, Janiece, Lisa & Carol

The Sensory Room

Welcome back to Term 2. We are all happy to be back and over our collective illnesses! We will be using the Therapy room considerably more this term. The children thoroughly enjoy the different sensory experiences. We are looking forward to Healthy Harold's visit next month.

Pearl, Carol, Janiece, Randon, Lisa

The Life Skills Room

Jarrah, Shaun, Alek and Dylan have all been working hard on their woodwork with Randon during the week. They made a beautiful wooden box each which was sent home at the end of last term. I know how much time, care and new skill development that went into the building of those boxes - so well done. Their new project is a mother's day present for their lucky mums!

Transitioning into the Post school services and some work experience for all my students are being organised. I hope to have it all up and running this term.

Looking forward to a good term and a reminder that parent teacher interviews are on at the end of this term. I look forward to catching up with all my students' parents and carers.

Bhavni, Randon, Janiece, Carol and Lisa



The local Fire Brigade visited our school Wednesday, 28th April. Everyone was very excited to see them and the truck. Some students got to use the bushfire hose.



Olivia experiencing the bushfire hose.

FROM THE OFFICE OF WENDYLEE

Welcome back to Term 2 all students and families. I hope that you had a fabulous Easter and holiday break! How quickly the year is flying by..... Christmas is only 34 weeks away!!!! ☺ A lot has been happening across the school and the organisation. Fundraising continues to be a major component of our organisation and your assistance and support of any fundraising event is much appreciated. A reminder that the next Friends of Biala Fundraising Committee Meeting is being held next Tuesday 4th May at the school at 10.30 am in the School Library. Please come along and have a cuppa and a chat.

As you would all be aware, the ongoing operational costs of the school and the decrease in funding have put a huge amount of pressure on the school's limited budget. With this in mind it has been decided that a 'Voluntary Financial

Contribution" is to be implemented across all school students. This decision has not been made lightly by the Board of Management who feel that we have no alternative. You will receive a letter in May outlining the details of this. I know that all of you are very supportive of our school and I believe will see this in a positive way. Should you have any questions after receiving your letter please feel free to contact my office to make an appointment.

Fundraising events recently held and results are:

- 2-Up Day at the Shawsy, 25th April – Profit for the Day = \$2,000.00 approx. What an outstanding day! Many thanks to the staff of Biala Support Services Inc. Admin and School along with the amazing volunteers who made this day a great success. Special thanks to Ray Eddy, Steve Bocking and Andrew Playford for a well organised event. A huge thanks also to Brendan Byrne, Licensee of the Shaws Bay Hotel for supporting the day. It was a massive crowd with approximately 3,000 people attending across the day. I felt for the kitchen staff that provided 580 meals between 12.00 pm and 5.00 pm. I will never complain again about having to cook for my family of 4!!!!

Events Coming Up:

- Biala Support Services Inc 4th Debutante Ball – This Saturday 1st May at the Ballina RSL Club. Debutantes will be arriving at the Club between 4.30 and 5.00 pm with doors opening for the function at 6.00 pm. Debutantes and their partners will be presented to both Don Page State MP, Janelle Saffin Federal MP along with Mayor Phil Silver and Officials from Biala Support Services Inc. at 7.00 pm. The evening will be a great night with food and band being supplied. Unfortunately tickets will not be available at the door and all purchases must have been made by today (Friday 30/4/10) for catering purposes. 4 Biala Special School students (1 Deb & 3 Partners) are involved and are very excited about the night. Photos will be published in the schools next newsletter.
- Strikers Disabled Bowling League Garage Sale – At the back of the school on 22nd May from 8.00 am. Lots of good stuff so

remember to mark it on your calendar to come along and have a look and help support this group. Funds raised from the Garage Sale will assist with the holding of the Annual Group Holiday for adults with intellectual disabilities which is held in September/October each year. Any donations for the day would be greatly appreciated.

All the best for Term 2 and I look forward to seeing some of you at the Friends of Biala Meeting next week or at the Garage Sale on the 22nd. Have a great week!!!

Regards,

Wendylee ☺



An exciting day with the local Fire Brigade.

PHOTO GALLERY:

Below are some beautiful photos of students at Riding for the Disabled.



↑ Polo playing Jake (and volunteer)



↑ Jarrah, Mikaela and Carol

Jarrah and Carol ↓



↑ Xena looking very proud of herself (and volunteer)



↑ Jackson – very relaxed and comfortable on his mount.

Mikaela getting help to begin riding. ↓



