



# Newsletter

Issue 13, Term 1, # 1

10 February 2011

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**19<sup>th</sup> March:** DISCO held at Biala Special School

**8<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Raffle drawn

**9<sup>th</sup> April:** GARAGE SALE at Biala Special School

**25<sup>th</sup> April:** TWO-UP at the Shaw's Bay Hotel run by Biala Support Services Inc. and Biala staff.

### **TERM 1, 2011 ENDS:**

Students & Staff – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April

### **Easter:**

Good Friday - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011(Public Holiday)

Easter Saturday – 23<sup>rd</sup> April (Public Holiday)

Easter Monday & Anzac Day – 25<sup>th</sup> April

(Public Holidays Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011)

### **TERM 2, 2011 STARTS:**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April- Pupil free Day, Staff Development Day

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April- Students return to school

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **Welcome back to school**

I would like to welcome students and their families back to school and I hope everyone had a refreshing holiday.

I wish a special greeting to our new student, Maverick and his family and welcome you all to our school community. I encourage you and all our families to become active members of our school community.

Join the Board of Management or come along to our *Friends of Biala* Fundraising meetings on the first Tuesday of every Month.

Also, welcome back to our school staff members who have spent many days preparing for the year's start.

This year we have several changes to our staff team and classes.

### **Sensory room:**

*Teacher-* Pearl Glynn

*Students-* Jamie, Georgia, Kaia, Rhiannon, Tyler, Amy, Roy.

### **Communication Room:**

*Teacher-* Bhavni Stewart

*Students-* Sarah, Jackson, Jake, Noah, Xena, Brandon, Hayden, Liam.

### **Life Skills Room:**

*Teachers-* (Job Shared)

Jo McCracken on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Gary Alford on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

*Students-* Martika, Mikaela, Shaun, Alek, Dylan, Maverick, Jarrah.

*Teachers Aides-* Janiece Bone, Carol Milne, Lisa Regan, Annalise Puglisi and Randon Evans. All work throughout each class and programs.

*School Administrator-* Jane Boardman

### **Parent Calendar**

I sent home with all students a *Term One Parent Calendar* stating all the events coming up this term, including what happens on each school day, swimming dates and cooking of lunches, etc. If you did not receive this Calendar please note it in your child's communication books and we will send home a copy.

### **School newsletter**

The school newsletter is published three times a term and distributed to parents as an email, paper copy and it is on the school's website. Our aim is to reduce resources used to produce the newsletter and encourage parents to receive an email newsletter. Just contact the school's office

Do you want to receive this newsletter via email?

Yes! Then please send an email to [school@biala.org.au](mailto:school@biala.org.au) so we can add you to our mailing list.

A great way to save time and it's a greener option!

with your email details and the newsletter will be emailed to you.

### **Education Tax Refund**

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their receipts from education related expenses to take advantage of a federal government tax initiative.

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) gives you refunds of 50% on a range of primary and secondary school education expenses. You can receive refunds up to a maximum of \$397 per primary school student and \$794 per secondary school student.

#### **Items you can claim**

You can claim the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- Home computers and laptops
- Computer-related equipment, such as printers, USB flash drives and disability aides to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- Computer repairs
- Home internet connections
- Computer software for educational use
- School textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationary.

#### **Items you can't claim**

The types of items you can't claim include:

- School uniform expenses (though uniforms purchased after 1 July 2011 will be claimable in the 2011-12 financial year)
- School fees
- Sporting equipment
- Musical instruments.

See the Education Tax Refund (ETR) website for a full list of items you can't claim:

[www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/index.html](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/index.html)

You can claim the ETR if you have eligible education expenses and receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for the child that the expenses relate to.

### **Resource Levy**

All families will now have received a letter stating your payment options for the school's resource levy. This letter follows on from the Resource Levy Guidelines and Procedures letter. As stated in both letters it is important to make an appointment to meet with Wendylee Playford and myself if you have difficulty in meeting the Resource Levy. There are options and we do not want to add any further stresses for families.

However, as we have been communicating for a long while, the Resource Levy has been a long time coming and a hard decision for the school and Board to implement. The Special School's funding cuts as distributed through State and Federal governments have been the ultimate reason for the implementation of the Resource Levy. Special Education and Students with Disabilities are always under the knife and at risk of losing even further funding which consequently will put even further financial responsibility back to the parents in a user-pays society. If you want to help, begin lobbying your local, state and federal ministers and opposition ministers. Write letters and meet with them, explain your situation, ask what will they do to represent your children's education? Why are these cuts happening Australia wide?

Bhavni Stewart

**Principal**

### NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS:

#### Sensory Room

Welcome back to all the children in the Sensory Room. This year we have Amy, Georgia, Jamie, Kaia, Rhiannon and Roy in our room. I am the full-time teacher for the Sensory Room. Well done to Rhiannon receiving an award last week for requesting music during morning tea and lunch breaks.

Also this term, we will be integrating students from the sensory room to the communication room. This will be for activities such as the morning circle, interactive whiteboard and the computer. **Pearl**

#### Communication Room

Oh, what a joy to have a new class, new students, new beginnings. I love change and already love my new class! We are beginning the year following much of their last year's programs, beginning with a morning circle using the interactive whiteboard, focusing on a letter and number of the day.

In HSIE this term we are learning about ourselves, our families and our likes and dislikes. I will be sending home a questionnaire about your child's family and I would greatly appreciate some photos of your family and a photo of your child as a baby. Please return the questionnaire ASAP as we will be using this information in our learning.

In Science we are learning about how our bodies grow and change, integrating our HSIE learning. We are still combining classes for Art, where our topic this term is Insects and Bugs; Sport which is swimming at the Ballina Pool and Personal Development with the focus on 'Healthy Life Choices and Puberty'. My high school students will be joining the Life Skills Room for this lesson as well as for Community Access.

I am looking forward to a great term and getting to know my students and their educational needs.

Happy learning, *Bhavni*



*Welcome Gary to Biala and the Life Skills Room*

### Life Skills Classroom

- It has been a great start to the school year and Gary Alford and I are very happy to see everyone again in 2011. (Gary and I are job sharing this year in the Life Skills classroom.)

- We have a few changes this year. We welcome Maverick to our school and our classroom. Our room now has a fish tank (with fish!) where we will be discussing fish and other animals in science during Term 1.

- Gary and the class will be setting up raised garden beds concentrating on growing herbs and vegetables. Some of the garden beds will be made available by Bunning's Warehouse, Ballina. Thank you to them for supporting the healthy learning of our children.

- Riding for the Disabled (RDA) will begin next week (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February).

- We are looking forward to an enjoyable year in the Life Skills classroom, getting to know the

students better and engaging in some challenging and meaningful activities for everyone.

*Jo McCracken and Gary Alford*



**Happy Birthday Jake (18/2/11)**



*Welcome Maverick and your family to Biala Special School.*



*We also welcome Brandon back. Brandon joined Biala Special School late last year.*

## FUNDRAISING

Just a short note to let you know we are having our annual **GARAGE SALE** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. We are seeking donations now! Saleable items only please (no clothes, shoes, soft toys or mattresses.) We are happy to pick-up, so please ask your family and friends if they have anything suitable, we'd love to have it. Contact Carol at school on 6686 3395.

Also coming up is a 'fun'-raiser **DISCO** night being held here at school on 19<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start, until 10.00pm. Entry will be \$5.00 with a light supper included. This will be a fun night for all, so come along and dance the night away and catch up with your friends! We have sent home a disco brochure with students to put up on your fridge. For any enquiries please phone 6686 3395 or 6686 4763.

Regards, *Carol*



Gary, Merv and Allan instructing and helping the highschool Life Skills class put the garden beds together. Thank you to **Bunnings Ballina** for their donation of two iron garden beds and the seedlings and tools required to make two herb & vegetable gardens.

Please support those companies and businesses that support us.



## *Thank-You's*

A big THANK YOU goes out to the Board of Management and to Merv Parker for his never ending work around the school repairing, adjusting and fixing things when needed. He always has a lovely grin – never a complaint! We love your work Merv!!!

Another big THANK YOU to Allan Ridgewell who has made our school grounds/gardens look so spectacular.

## School Captain Induction Ceremony

When: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Where: Biala Special School

Time: 2.00pm

Congratulations to our new 2011 School Captains- **Dylan Collins** and **Alek Salinger**, Vice Captains- **Jarrah Walsh** and **Mikaela Blackmore** and Prefect- **Shaun Peyton**. They will be presented with their badge at this official ceremony.

Everyone is welcome to attend this presentation and join us for afternoon tea following. Could

you bring a small plate to share -  
thank you!



## EASTER EGG DONATIONS

As last year's Easter Egg raffle was such a success, we are holding another one this year. (Yum!) We are asking all families to donate an Easter Egg or Eggs - something suitable for the raffle. Tickets for the raffle will go on sale soon and booklets will be sent home.

Eggs (etc) for donation can be left at the front office with Mel.