



# Newsletter

Issue 14, Term 1, # 2

March 2011

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

**9<sup>th</sup> April:** GARAGE SALE at Biala Special School.  
Starts at 8am.

**25<sup>th</sup> April:** TWO-UP at the Shaw's Bay Hotel run  
by Biala Support Services Inc. and Biala staff. 12  
noon start.

### **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

- We have had a lot of students and staff away sick. This is a timely reminder to practice healthy hygiene with constant washing of hands and using antibacterial wash and sanitiser. It is good to see everyone recovering well and back at school.
- If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, please tell your child's teacher in the Communication Book or send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence within seven days.
- Parents are reminded that if there is an issue or you need to contact the teacher or the Principal for any reason, you must write in the Communication book

or ring to make an appointment. We will get back to you outside the classroom teaching time.

- DEEWR is conducting a review of funding in schools titled *Australian Government Review of Funding for Schooling* and is calling for submissions. I am currently working on a submission proposal so as our voice and circumstances at Biala are heard and taken into account. I will include the information given previously to the Federal and State Education and Disability Ministers and opposition leaders.
- Gary Alford has been officially offered, and has accepted, the Part-time Teacher position, job sharing with Jo McCracken. I welcome him and know he will contribute greatly to the staff, the organisation and our school.
- Jo McCracken and Gary Alford, as our two Life Skills class Teachers will be attending the *Get A Life* Post School Services Workshop on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at Wollongbar TAFE. This is a great opportunity for them to learn about the transitioning process and network with all the relevant post service providers. For those parents whose children will be graduating at the end of this year, you must start to think about your options. By Term 2 we will begin the transitioning program to the Community Participation and Transition to Work programs. If you have any queries or questions about any of these services or what you're options are, I suggest you make an appointment to meet with me.
- There will be a parent information day about post schooling titled: *School Leaver Expo* at Ballina RSL on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May** and in Lismore at The Workers Club on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. These are essential seminars for all parents of school leavers if you have not already attended in the past. This is YOUR opportunity to meet with the services and ask all the questions, in order to make the right choice for your child.

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!

- Friends of Biala and Fun Club held a fantastic Disco here at the school last Saturday night (19<sup>th</sup> March). It was well attended and a lot of fun. Thank you to all those families who attended.
- The State Government funded helpline, Parent Line NSW (managed by Catholic Care) provides a unique free support service to parents across NSW. Highly skilled professional counselors are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to take calls from parents and carers about any parenting issues, from tips on how to manage the morning routine, to concerns about distant adolescents to complex challenges of living in blended families. It is the only free counseling service available to parents during any part of their parenting journey, at any time of the day or night, anywhere in NSW. It's convenient because parents can call when it suits them, they don't have to arrange child care to talk to a professional counselor and they can call as many times as they need.

### **Parent Line NSW 1300 130 052**

- We welcome Annette McKay to our school who has been volunteering every Monday and is currently completing her Primary Education Degree at Southern Cross University. Annette passed on a lovely story titled Welcome to Holland. We have included it at the end of this newsletter.
- Remember to sell all those Easter raffle tickets. We still need Easter egg donations. Please bring in a small donation if you have not already done so. Only a little assistance can go a long way in helping raise money for the school. We appreciate your support.

*To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk. - Thomas Edison*

*Bhavni Stewart*

**Principal**

### **NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS:**

#### **Sensory Room**

We have had many visitors to the Sensory Room this term: Jessica and Deena from the Guide Dogs, plus visits from Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists and a Behaviour Specialist. They are helping students get the best outcomes. We are always happy to receive new and fresh ideas and support from all our therapists.

Please remember to send in swim nappies for hydrotherapy.

Well done to all our students: Amy, Georgia, Jamie, Kaia, Rhiannon, Roy and Tyler. They have all received awards this term.

I am extremely impressed at how Amy, Roy and Tyler have been adapting to spending some time in the Communication Room. They have been experiencing the Interactive Whiteboard which all the students enjoy.

***Pearl***

#### **Communication Room**

Thank you to all the families who have already sent in a baby photo of your child. If you have not yet done so, can you please send one in as we will be holding a baby guessing competition here at the school. We are going to include all other classroom student's into this competition so if you read this and your child is not in the Communication Room, can you please send in a baby photo of your child that we can keep here at the school to include in this fun guessing game.

We have also been growing grassy heads but so far (and probably more to do with my brown thumbs) our heads are very bald and patchy in grassy bits. We are looking at how plants grow in Science class.

Congratulations to my class winners over the last few weeks:- Liam for great sharing of the computer with Xena, Brandon for great listening in Morning Circle and participating in group times, Hayden for improvements in his language skills and following directions, Jackson for his easy going and kind nature, Noah for always helping clean up, Jake for following instructions well and completing all his work and Xena for excellent communication in her verbal and signing skills.

*Bhavni*

#### **Life Skills Classroom**

In the Life Skills Room we have been discussing friendship and how to get along with each other, even though everyone is different and have different ways of communicating.

Our fish are doing well with everyone on the roster remembering to feed them. Some of the fish have had babies so we have more hungry mouths to feed. Thanks go to Shaun and Carol who have donated fish food.

Our new plant (bought as part of our science theme) is being put outside and watered by the students every morning. This allows it to get some morning sun and then it is put back inside before morning tea so that it doesn't get knocked over by the younger students.

In art we have done some paintings of spiders but have now started on an Easter theme. Since the last newsletter both Shaun and Gary have celebrated their birthdays. Shaun turned 18 so we were very happy for him, although it sadly means it is his last year with us.

### **Jo McCracken**

St Patricks Day (17th March) the Life Skills class with Gary and Janiece visited Bunnings to pick out seedlings to plant in our garden beds. A big thank you to Bunnings again, as they were very generous with seedlings.

Dylan, Shaun and Alek worked hard filling the garden beds and with rain forecast it was a perfect time to plant. One bed is now dedicated to herbs, such as coriander, oregano, thyme and basil. The other two were planted with a mixture of vegies such as butter beans, strawberries, spring onions, capsicum, rocket and lettuce.

We hope to be using herbs and vegies from the garden in our cooking class and perhaps even selling some so we can purchase new seeds and mulch later on.

We have measured our plants as seedlings and will continue to do so to keep a record of growth rates and time to harvest.

If you are visiting Biala at any stage, please take the time to have a look at the garden beds out the back, they are a credit to the Life Skills class, well done everyone!

Cheers, Gary Alford



**Mikaela is selecting herbs from Bunnings for the new garden.**



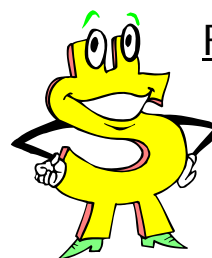
**Shaun watering newly planted herbs & vegetables.**

## **EASTER EGG DONATIONS**



Tickets have been sent home for the Biala Easter Egg raffle. Money from the sale of tickets to be in by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> April. Unsold tickets **MUST** be returned also. **PLEASE** send in your Easter Egg donations **ASAP**. One Easter egg per family would be wonderful (something suitable for the raffle). Eggs for donation can be left at the front office with Mel.

## **FUNDRAISING**



### **DISCO HELD AT BIALA 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

Our disco was a fun night and also a successful night; plenty of dancing and the DJ (Jason Sines) was very entertaining. **THANK YOU** to Jason for donating his time, equipment and providing the extra songs. We really, really appreciated it.

The supper was scrumptious. Thank you, thank you to all those who supplied supper and volunteered their time, we really could not do these events without you

### **GARAGE SALE: 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 8.00am**

Still looking for saleable donations. We can pick up if require. Please phone if you need us to collect your goods. We are **ALSO NEEDING HELPERS** to pack up on the day between 1pm and 2 pm. If you are able

to lend a hand, please contact Carol on 6666 3395 during 9am and 3pm.

Items that will be up for sale:

Near new chest freezer, lounge suite, books, linen, beds, furniture, wardrobes, TV, computer desks, weights bench, BRIC-A-BRAC & more.

TIME: Gates open at 8.00am and close at 1.00pm.

ENTRY: Via Acacia Place (off Moon Street) the back entrance to Biala Special School.

**TWO UP at the SHAWS BAY HOTEL: 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 12PM**

The past has proven this to be a fun filled afternoon. If you come along to this event you will certainly run into one of the lovely staff members from our organisation. We will be the ones in the colour coordinated, lovely blue shirts and possibly carrying a bucket. The Ballina Fishing Club have volunteered to run a BBQ, including soft drinks. This will alleviate extra work for the bar and kitchen staff. Thank you to the Shaws Bay Hotel for allowing us to be there. All monies raised will go towards Biala Support Services Inc. Hope to see you there!!!

Regards, *Carol*

**Welcome to Holland**

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this.....

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum, the Michelangelo David, the gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will

meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills.... and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

Emily Perl Kingsley 1987

<http://www.journeyofhearts.org/kirstimd/holland.htm>



Anna assisting Jamie painting. He loved it!



Randon (Janiece and therapist looking on) working with Georgia in the hydrotherapy pool.

SPECIAL THANK YOU's

- Thank you to Peter Berrier for the kind donation of a much needed clothes dryer.
- Thank you to Edna Moss (Aunt Edna) for the two paintings she did and donated them to the school. One is proudly hanging in the school hallway, the other is in the Principals' office at the moment. (What a talented lady!)

*"thank you, thank you, thank you"*