



Newsletter

Issue 16, Term 2, # 4

June 2011

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24th JUNE, Friday: Chocolate Drive fundraiser finishes. Money to be handed in to school office or Biala Support Services front office.

1st JULY, Friday: Term 2 finishes.

18th July, Monday: Teachers return, Staff Development Day.

19th JULY, Tuesday: Term 3 starts for Students.

24th JULY, Sunday: Woodburn/ Evans Head GOLF CLASSIC

16th SEPTEMBER: Hoe Down at Biala Special School

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Staff Farewells...

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to Annalise Puglisi who is leaving us at the end of this Term. We wish her the very best of luck with her future and she will be sorely missed by all the staff and students. Annalise has been working at Biala since 2007, first in a voluntary position and then she became a permanent member of staff in March 2008. She has been an integral part of our school team and has shone through with her kindness, empathy and intelligence, reflecting her professional attitude and manner.

Recently, we also said goodbye to Mel from front reception. She has moved on and is now working in childcare. She is missed, especially by some of the students who ventured in every day to say hello and goodbye to her. We were always greeted with a smile.

Congratulations...

Pearl Glynn, our wonderfully experienced Teacher has now become officially accredited through the NSW Institute of Teachers, recognising her as 'Professionally Competent' within the Australian (NSW) teaching system. Even though

Pearl completed her Bachelor of Education here in NSW, when she taught in Ireland for over five years and returned to NSW they informed her she had to complete certain components. Well done Pearl, there was a lot of extra work and effort required on your part for something we already knew.

Thank you to Parents...

Last week we held our bi-annual Parent-Teacher interviews and we appreciate the effort made by those parents and carers who attended. While the time slots were short, it is always great for us to focus on the students and discuss their educational outcomes. We gave these parents their children's mid-year IEP report and will be sending home a copy to all other students before the end of Term.

Remember, you can make an appointment to meet with your child's classroom Teacher at any time to discuss matters and concerns. Just ring 6686 3395 to make an appointment.

Bon Voyage...

Safe journey and happy travelling to Carol Milne and her family, who are going to Bali on a family holiday, Wednesday 22/6/11 until the end of Term. We are all very jealous!

We also say goodbye to Janiece for the last week of Term as she is assisting the Strikers Bowling League's annual cruise holiday up to Port Douglas. We hope you both have lots of fun, enjoy the sunshine and warmth and enjoy some well-deserved rest.

Professional Development...

I will be in Sydney this Thursday and Friday, 23/6 and 24/6 to attend the AIS Special Education Conference titled 'Planning for Success: Effective Processes in Inclusive Schools.' I am honoured to represent the school during this time and will be implementing what I learn to all staff at the next Staff Development Day on the first day of Term Three.

Zumba...

A very big thank you to Julie Walsh (Jarrah's mum), who voluntarily runs Zumba here at the school for students and staff every Thursday after Lunch. Julie is an excellent Teacher and we all have A LOT of fun, get very sweaty and groove along to some good music.

Do you want to receive this newsletter via email?

Yes! Then please send an email to 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!

University Prac. and Work Experience students...

The school has been very lucky to have had Joanne Foley, a 4th Year Prac student from SCU, learning to become a Primary school Teacher with an interest in Special Education here all Term. Joanne fitted in so well into our school and she was very liked by students and staff alike. We wish her the very best in her future Teaching career and know she will make a good Teacher.

Last week we also had Shannon Cosgrove here for Work Experience. Shannon is in Year 10 at Alstonville High school and was interested in learning about Teacher's aiding. She fitted in well and we all enjoyed having her here. We wish her also the best of luck in her future.

Volunteers...

Thank you to two of our newest volunteers who have begun here at the school this Term: Mark and Karen. We appreciate their support, help and professionalism within the school and with the students. If you know of anyone interested in volunteering at the school or for Biala Support Services Inc. please contact Debbie on **6686 4763**.

End of Term Party and Dates...

School finishes for this Term on Friday 1st July. This last day will be a fun mufti day with a farewell party for Annalise. We plan on having a BBQ lunch with party food and celebration games. All students are asked to provide a savoury or sweet plate to share with the rest of the school. I will send home a memo closer to the date to remind all families.

School resumes for Teachers on Monday 18th July (Staff Development Day) and for students on Tuesday 19th July.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday.

Bhavni Stewart

(Principal)

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

Sensory Room

We all missed Georgia over the past two weeks and we are pleased to see her back fully recovered. We have had visits from ADHC therapists and the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. We are always grateful to receive their expert advice and recommendations. Kaia has begun horse riding this term – well done! What a fantastic accomplishment! Congratulations to Jamie, Roy, Tyler and Amy on receiving awards over the past few weeks. Hope everyone has a lovely holiday; we've all had a great term. Stay healthy!

Pearl



Fig. 1. We had an unexpected visitor to our school, outside the Sensory Room: a Tawny Frogmouth Owl.

Communication Room

Thank you to my parents David and Pauline, Silvana and Mick and Christine who came to Parent-Teacher interviews last week. I will be sending home all half yearly reports to all students before the end of Term. These reports are a general overview of your child's educational programs to date and the parent teacher - interviews were an opportunity to meet to discuss future goals and aims.

I have been very happy with my class all year and have loved teaching the primary curriculum again with focus on communication. My class is a very special group of children who I care for very much and have loved watching them grow, interact and try new things.

Happy holidays and thank you for another wonderful Term.

Bhavni

Life Skills Classroom

Last week was the final week for Joanne Foley, our 4th year Prac student from Southern Cross University. She has developed a lovely relationship with the students in the school and has taught some wonderful lessons. We will miss her greatly.

Gary, myself and the transitioning students had a BBQ last Friday (17/6/11) with REAL (Richmond Employment Access and Learning). They are based in Casino but have clients in Alstonville and Ballina. The staff were very friendly and we were proud of our students who joined in the cricket game. It was lovely to have Liam's mum, Christine join us.

RDA has finished for the term. The head coach, Helen, has another engagement next week (28/6/11) so we will not be going. Kaia Randall has recently commenced RDA and doing really well and enjoying her new experience of riding. Well done Kaia and all our wonderful riders.

Have a great holiday everyone, until next term.....
Jo McCracken

Term 2 is almost over and the Life Skills class has been extremely busy with many activities.

The vegie garden has been very productive and will soon be dug up, composted and left to rest through the upcoming holidays, ready to replant next term. Thank you Janiece Bone for the worm farm; it is now a feature near the garden and operational. Also, thank you to Alek Salinger for writing up the really yummy sausage roll recipe we cooked this week. They were a great hit for all the kids and teachers. What a great effort Alek.

Our transitioning students visited the RSL to meet organisations who provide supported work and community participation programs.

As Jo McCracken has already mentioned, last Friday (17th June) we joined REAL (Richmond Employment Access and Learning) at Missingham Bridge Park for a BBQ and a game of cricket. Everyone had a wonderful time meeting new friends. Biggest hitter of the day went to Martika Dawson-Esler with Jarrah Walsh and Mikaela Blackmore stand out bowlers.

Cheers, *Gary*



Fig. 2. Jo assisting Mikaela and Martika fielding. Thank you to REAL (Richmond Employment Access and Learning) for the fun day.

Fundraising

*** *Friends meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Biala Special School library, commencing at 10.30am.*



Chocolate Drive: Thank you to everyone who supported us in our chocolate drive. I know you probably ate most of them yourself (yummy!), I know we did. If you haven't already returned money or uneaten chocolates, please do so.



Golf Classic: Come and have some fun at the Woodburn/Evans Head Golf Classic being held on Sunday 24th July 2011. This is a three player Ambrose with two teams of three starting at each hole. If you would like to tee off with your mates in another team, when booking, give the club the names of the team. A BBQ will be held plus there will be lots of prizes. In the past this has been a really great, fun day.

To book: phone Woodburn/Evans Head Golf Club on **6682 2385**

Now I thought I would brag a little – nothing to do with fundraising: I am off to Bali with my family on 22nd June. Yeh!!! Have a safe and happy holiday. (I won't be thinking of you!!!)

Thanks, Carol



Fig. 3. Anna and Pearl. Adieu Anna, we will miss you!



Fig. 4. Dylan, Martika, Gary, Sarah, Mikaela, Jarrah



Fig. 5. Jamie, Maverick, Tyler, Martika, Alek, Rhiannon, Jarrah, Roy, Mikaela, Noah, Xena.

From the Office of

😊 *Wendylee* 😊

Hello Everyone - It's hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of June and the completion on Term 2. How quickly the year is flying!!!

Congratulations to all school students, staff and families for your continued support of our school. The students have had a fun and active term even with all the cold weather.

As mentioned earlier there will be some changes in staffing as of Term 3. We farewell Annalise Puglisi who has been employed at the school on a part time basis since 2008. Anna, we wish you the very best of everything and know that whatever you decide to do you will be a success.

Unfortunately staff changes have been implemented due to limited funding of the school and recommendations from both our Accountant and Auditor to address the over budget costs of school operations. Please be assured that all programs will still be running and on behalf of the Board of Management and myself we extend to you our thanks for your support and understanding of this implementation.

Reminder - Could all families who have taken chocolates as part of our annual chocolate drive please have the monies/chocolates returned by the end of the term.

As I too will be on leave next week as a volunteer support staff member for the Strikers Annual Holiday I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy school holiday and I look forward to catching up with you during Term 3.

Regards

😊 *Wendylee* 😊



Fig.6. Julie Walsh instructing a Zumba class at Biala Special School.

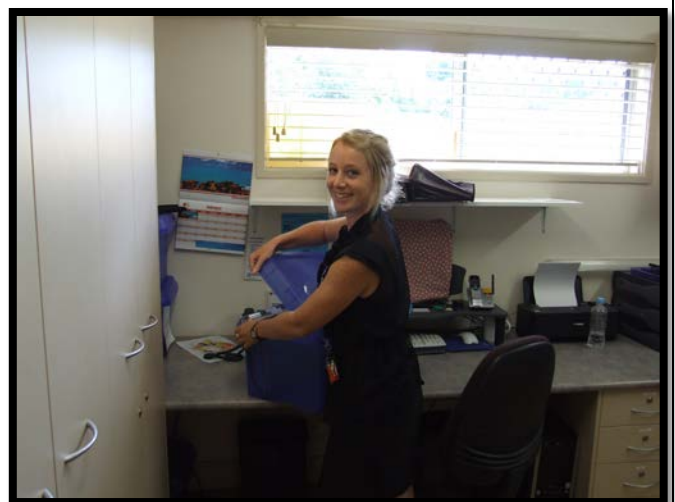


Fig. 7. Farewell Melissa! Thanks for the smiles.



Fig. 8. Kaia – taking time out.