



Biala Support Services Inc.
BIALA SPECIAL SCHOOL

Phone: 6686 3395
www.biala.org.au



TERM 1

11th February 2010

Newsletter

Principal's Report:

Welcome

Welcome to the 2010 school year. I extend a special welcome to new students and their families. I would like to welcome them into the Biala School community. Our 2010 enrolment consists of 21 students placed into 3 needs-based classes: The Sensory Room, The Communication Room and The Life Skills Room. At present the school is reaching capacity and any new enrolments will need to complete an application form. The enrolment process will consist of reviewing each application to determine whether we have room in the appropriate class.

New staff

I would like to welcome Isaac Reed to our school in the role of third teacher. He will job share this position part-time with Jo McCracken. Isaac brings to our school new and innovative educational and technological experience, as well as AFL coaching. I would also like to welcome to Biala Support Services Inc. Debbie Anderton as our new part-time 'Public Relations Officer' and Rachael Paull, in a voluntary role, is our new 'Volunteer Co-ordinator'. Our organisation is growing rapidly at the moment and we welcome these new people and changes.

Building News

We have begun our new school year with the use of the third classroom for the Life Skills students, and the school library and Therapy Room. The Therapy Room currently stores all our new and wonderful sensory equipment, where much of it was donated by Sunrise Cycles. These rooms

have proven to be a big hit with all our students, especially the ball pool in the Therapy Room. We are still waiting upon the use of the Hydrotherapy pool which should be utilised in the next couple of weeks. Policies and signs have to be in place first - It won't be long! I am still collecting parental interest for their children to be part of the Hydrotherapy program.

There is a new Administration area and all parents and visitors must now enter through the main office door and sign in. There will be a grand opening of the organisation's new buildings for all families and community dignitaries soon. This date is yet to be announced. We will keep you informed.

Donations

Thank you to Scooters and Mobility for the very generous donation of the Massage chair which is in our Therapy Room, the new wheel chair and slanted table which has been a big hit with Carly. Did everyone see the lovely photograph of Biala with Scooters and Mobility in last week's Advocate? Our organisation is very appreciative of all the community support we receive from our local businesses and patrons.

Precious toys, mobiles and valuables

Please do not allow these items to come to school. We suggest they are kept at home to avoid accidents or misfortune.

Labelling

Labelling of your child's belongings helps us to locate misplaced items and avoids distress.



The new Life Skills Classroom.

Tissues, Wet ones and Liquid Soap Pumps

Donations of tissues, soap and Wet Ones (if your child requires them for toileting) would be very much appreciated for classroom use. Students can bring in donations throughout the year. Your donations will not go unnoticed.

Fundraising

There are a few events coming up to put into your diaries.

1. Biala Support Services Inc. is holding a **Debutante Ball** for girls over 16 years of age on **1st May**. We are looking for girls and their families interested in participating in this. (See flyer attached)
2. We are having an **Easter raffle** at the end of this term and will be asking for donations of chocolate and Easter eggs later in the term.



The next fundraising meeting which all parents are invited to attend and help out is Tuesday 2nd March at the school at 10.30am. Thank you to Simone, Georgia's mum who always attends this meeting. Her opinions, suggestions and support are invaluable to the school as coming from a parent's perspective.

General Consent and Medical Forms

We are sending home with every student information forms to be checked and completed covering student details, medical information and consent forms. Please return these as soon as possible. Also, if you require your child to be administered paracetamol at school, as detailed in the consent form, this requires you to bring the medicine to school for us to keep labelled and locked away. Otherwise we will not be able to administer it even if you give permission.

Head lice Alert

We have had a case of head lice at school so I remind all parents to please check your child's hair again and treat accordingly. We recommend no student to return to school if their hair has not been treated or there are live nits. We understand the difficulty of getting rid of the lice cycle but we do not want it to spread to other students and staff. An information flyer on head lice and how to treat it was sent home last week. Please phone the office if you need further information.

Sick students

If your child is sick at school we will ring you to come and pick them up. We are no longer able to drive any students home. We can order a taxi for them if you are home to receive them.

Uniform

It is great seeing all our students back looking older and all in uniform. We do ask all students to wear their uniform to school as often as possible which includes covered shoes. Thongs are not allowed to be worn to school even on pool days for OHS reasons.

School's weekly routine

*Shopping and cooking on **Mondays**. A reminder that we will no longer be buying student lunches or providing this at school. Music classes are in the Sensory Room and Yoga and relaxation has now been introduced in the afternoons.*

*RDA on **Tuesdays**. Please note the increase in registration costs as stated in the Communication Room's update. Please see Jo McCracken regarding RDA for your child.*

***Wednesdays** we do Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) and Music in the afternoons.*

***Thursdays** is now our Library day to both Ballina Library and to our very own school library. All classes do Art and Craft.*

***Fridays** is our swimming day to Ballina Pool. A consent form has been sent home for you to fill in and return to school before Friday 12th February. The cost: \$2.60 each week and we ask all students to arrive at school in their swimmers underneath their*

uniforms as this helps us get to the pool quicker. All students are to bring their own towel, LABELLED and a hat. Remember: NO thongs. All classes then do science followed by free time in the afternoon.

All staff look forward to a happy and safe first term. The last day of this term is on Thursday 1st April.

Bhavni

The Life Skills Room:

What a difference a new classroom makes...we have settled in well with the new space and our very own interactive whiteboard. The class dynamic has changed a little with the following students: Carly, Mikaela, Isac, Dylan, Alek and Shaun being taught by me due to their needs, rather than age. We do however, include the other high school students in Life Skills activities such as shopping, cooking, community access and Post School Transitioning. This term we are focusing on Australia in HSIE learning about its geography, landforms, population and special events. In Science we are learning about different forms of energy and electricity. All the boys in my class are beginning Woodwork with Randon from next week, building with wood and using specific tools to design and make their own things. The boys have been invited to work with Allan in the garden this term instead of Music or Art. On these afternoons in the garden they are expected to wear good strong covered shoes, a hat and a change of clothes so their uniforms do not get dirty.

The best change to our class is I now have a teacher's aide working with me every day. This will assist in my student's learning and 1:1 intensive teaching time. I am looking forward to a good term.

From Bhavni, Janiece, Carol, Lisa & Randon.

The Sensory Room

Welcome back to all the children in the Sensory Room. This year we have Amy, Claudia, Georgia, Jamie, Kaia, Rhiannon and Roy in our room. Also, Pearl is the new full-time teacher for the Sensory Room. We are delighted to have Amy full-time this year and welcome Roy back to Biala on a part-time basis. Well done to Rhiannon receiving an

award last week for requesting music during morning tea and lunch breaks. Thank you.

From Pearl, Lisa, Carol, Janiece & Randon

The Communication Room:



Our newest student: Olivia. Welcome!

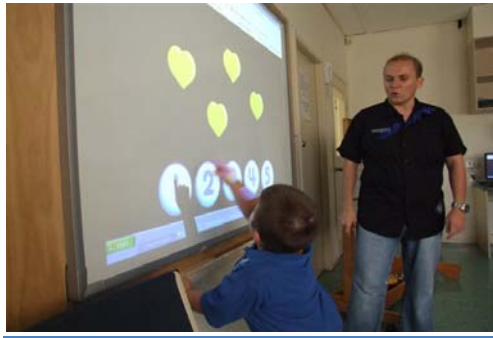
Welcome back to a new school year in the Communication Room. We are very happy to see everyone back and would like to welcome a new student to our class: Olivia!

- RDA (Riding for the Disabled) will start back on Tuesday 16th February. Registration has increased slightly to \$75.00 for the year.
- In Science this term (Fridays with Jo and Anna) we will be doing lots of experiments with different materials in our environment.
- For Art & Craft on Thursdays we are looking at all different types of flowers and plants and how to draw, paint and print them.

Jo, Isaac, Annalise, Carol, Janiece and Lisa.

My name is Isaac Reed and I will be teaching the communication class two days a week. It is wonderful to work for Biala Special School and to be part of such a dedicated and professional team. Thank you to the parents/carers who have welcomed me to the school and I look forward to making contact with those I haven't yet met in the near future. The students in the communication class have been a pleasure to teach and have had a fantastic start to 2010 - I have particularly been impressed with their cooking skills and singing/dancing ability!

Isaac



Hayden using the interactive whiteboard – Isaac teaching.



Exercise for Amy (and Pearl)

Message from the Desk of Wendylee

Welcome back to all our families along with our new families who have enrolled in our school for 2010. I hope that you all had a fabulous Christmas and a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. 2010 see's both our organisation and school moving towards providing a service and facility of excellence. Many thanks to the staff of the school and organisation that volunteered their time over the holidays to help set up the new rooms so that the students on their return were able to utilise the new spaces.

A couple of things for families to please note:

- **Debutante Ball** – Biala Support Services Inc will be holding a Deb ball on the 1st of May 2010 at the Ballina RSL Club any young ladies with a disability who are interested are invited to attend a meeting at Biala Special School next Monday evening (15th February) at 7.00 pm. If you are interested and unable to attend please contact either Sue Parker 6686 5143 or Trish Puglisi 6686 4153 for further information.

- **SALE 2010 BIALA CALENDARS!** –

The calendars that were produced last year with photos of the students and clients that are involved with our organisation are still available for sale but at **HALF PRICE. They are now \$5.00 each.** I encourage all that have not already purchased one (or more) to help support the organisation by purchasing one. They are available from the front office. All funds raised through this fundraiser support all entities of the organisation, especially the school.

- **Parent Financial Contribution** –

The Board of Management at their December meeting have approved the introduction of a voluntary contribution to assist the school with operating costs. You will receive a letter during this term outlining this. Should any parents/carers wish to discuss this matter please contact me.

- **Friends of Biala** –

This group is our fundraising committee who oversee all fundraising across the organisation. The Chairperson of the group has informed me that she will be sending a letter to all families in the near future to outline ways in which you can assist us. Again any queries in regards to this can be directed to Sue Parker, Chairperson, Friends of Biala c/- the School.

Well thanks for your attention and again welcome back! We all look forward to a great year with much progression across the organisation and the school. Should you need to discuss any issue raised, please feel free to contact our office on 6686 4763 to make an appointment to see me.

Fond Regards, Wendylee ☺