



Biala Special School

NEWSLETTER

17th February 2009



Term 1, 2009

Welcome to Term 1! It has been delightful to see all our students return a little taller, healthy and enthusiastic.



Our hearts go out to all the victims and families touched by the terrible bushfires in Victoria. A nation grieves and we all want to help those affected. This Sunday is a day of mourning for all of Australia. If you want to donate to the Bushfire Appeal, remember we are collecting 1-2 new toiletries such as soaps, washers, toothpastes, combs, toilet paper etc to be brought into the school by this Thursday 19th February.

The New Year has begun with 18 enrolled students with 2 new students, Shaun (who began with us at the end of last year) and Hayden (who began today.) We are all looking forward to Hayden beginning. It has also been a welcomed return to Georgia and her family who has been absent since mid last year.

There is a lot coming up this term:

Courses that I am participating in-

- Safety and Fire Education course on 19th February
- Get a Life Post school service providers Seminar for teachers on 13th March
- P.A.R.T. Train the Trainer- Coffs Harbour 16th-20th February
- Board of Studies **School Registration** on 31st March.

For parents and carers:-

- Early Development and Autism held by Autism Spectrum Australia on Tuesday 31st March (see handout attached).
- TAFE TVET Open Days for Year 10 students with a disability to assist in making informed choices about TAFE delivered VET courses for 2010 (see handouts attached for Kingscliff 16th March and Wollongbar 9th March).
- FamilyCare Information Workshops 26th & 27th February (see handout attached)
- Post school Service Providers Expos in Ballina @ Ballina RSL on 20th May and Lismore @ Lismore Workers Club on 19th May.

I will send home further information regarding this Expo and the local Service Providers to all families with students in High School. For those students finishing school at the end of this year, it is important to ring me and make an appointment to meet and discuss our options and a transitioning program for your child.

We have been fortunate to welcome Pearl back into the position of Literacy and Numeracy Teachers Aide for 1 day per week. This has been a beneficial role where students are taken out of class to work on specific literacy and numeracy goals for half an hour each week. Of course more hours would be beneficial but we make do with what we get and are thankful to Pearl for working as a Teacher's Aide but programming and teaching at a professional Teacher's level.

All families have been notified of the weekly school's routine for each student and classroom and all relevant paperwork has been now sent home for important updates. If you have not yet returned these forms I please urge you to do so, especially RDA's medical forms. I also thank Jane Boardman for helping organise all this and all the work and professionalism she displays in this role. I could not do my role as Teaching Principal without her!

We have just announced our new school captains and vice captains for 2009:

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Boy School Captain- **Shaun Peyton**
Girl School Captain – **Carly Prince**

Boy vice Captain- **Dylan Collins**
Girl vice Captain- **Martika Dawson-Esler**

The staff are happy with our choices and we will hold a *Captain's Induction Ceremony* soon at a later date, to be announced. We would very much like you all to attend and join in this special ceremony with morning or afternoon tea provided.

BDCSA has announced some vacancies in their ESP OOSH and Vacation Care Programmes. Please see the attached handouts provided for information or ring Tommie Crethar from BDCSA on 6686 7776.

The Adolescent Vaccination Program: In 2009 North Coast Area Health Service will again be offering a vaccination service at our school. The schedule for this year is as follows:

YEARS 7 – all students

Hepatitis B- 2 doses
Chickenpox vaccine – 1 dose

YEAR 7 GIRLS ONLY

HPV vaccine (to prevent cervical cancer) – 3 doses

YEAR 10 - all students

Boostrix – Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccination – 1 dose

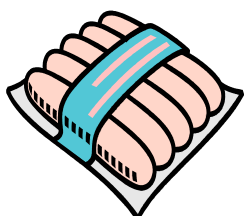


In the past the HPV vaccine has been free of charge to all females aged 12-26 but as of June 2009 it will only be available to those that commenced prior to June 2009 and to year 7 students each year.

A Parent Information Kit will be provided for each vaccine offered. This kit contains information about the vaccine and the disease that it protects against as well as a consent form. A record of vaccination will be kept by the Area Health service and a copy will be provided to the vaccinated student for their records.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal. Parents with any questions or concerns can ring Bernadette at the Public Health Unit on **66207 503**.

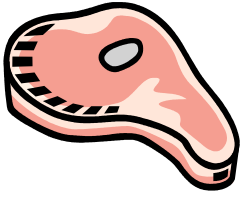
Meat and Seafood Raffles at pub- support us!



Every Thursday night between 6pm-7pm, some school staff sell raffle tickets at The Rous Hotel in River Street to help raise funds



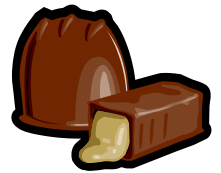
for new school resources such as Sensory equipment. The draw is two fresh meat and two seafood trays each week. Thankyou to Carol, Annalise and Lisa for their continued efforts in this fundraiser and a VERY BIG THANKYOU to Wade from **The Cherry St Butchers** for their weekly donations of a meat tray for this raffle. Please support this local business by buying your quality meat from this great Butcher.



We are also looking for some support to help sell raffle tickets at the Rous for 1 hour on a Thursday night once in a while. If you can offer any time to this raffle, please let Bhavni or Carol know and we will find you a time.

Biala Support Services Inc. also holds a meat and seafood raffle every Friday night at the Shaw's Bay Hotel. The funds from this raffle go towards supporting Biala Special School, North Coast Fun Club, Melaleuca House, and Strikers Disabled Bowling League. Any support that you may be able to offer would be fantastic.

We will be sending home boxes of Cadbury Chocolates for a school fundraising event over this term. If you do not want to sell these chocolates please return the box to school, otherwise if you could sell them all and return money by the end of this term. They are selling at \$1.20 a chocolate bar.



The school has decided to further support Patan Special School in Nepal by raising money through voluntary staff donations. We feel this is very worthwhile as these disabled students have very little and live in very poor circumstances without much food, electricity nor resources. If you are interested in helping support Patan CBR I have attached a flyer which has been organised through ON-Q Human Resources. You can contact me at the school for further details and information on how to make a donation to this school. Later in the year, we are going to hold a fundraising drive where we will ask families to donate old books etc that we can send over to this school.

Lastly, the Staff Development day on Tuesday 27th January was successful with a visit from Amber Funnel the Speech Therapist from DADHC. Amber discussed PECS - Picture Exchange Communication and the benefits for our students who have pre-communication skills. She demonstrated this technique and has continued to come to the school for further demonstrations with the staff. She also helped work on our transitions with the students in the Sensory Room, with the use of photo prompts and unified phrases which help develop language and understanding of the day's routines.

We look forward to a progressive and harmonious year ahead.

From Bhavni and School Staff.

