



Biala Support Services Inc.
BIALA SPECIAL SCHOOL

Phone: 6686 3395
www.biala.org.au



TERM 1

8th March 2010

Newsletter

A Note from the Principal:

What a wonderful term we are having. All our new students have settled in so well and have become part of our Biala community as if they have always been here.

Thank you to the Year 7 and 10 parents who returned the vaccination forms. Follow-up vaccinations will be the 28th April.

Free flu vaccinations: North Coast Area Health have advised us they will come to school to administer free flu vaccines to students if there is enough interest. Please advise us by Tuesday 9/3/10 if you would like your child to have this flu vaccine at school. Under 9 years of age require two injections one month apart. Over 9 years of age require only one injection. Your child can have the vaccination for free at your local doctors if you prefer.

Parents Talk: "Encouraging Positive Behaviour in Children with Special Needs". (Free) Tuesday 30 March at Goonellabah. Presented by The Spastic Centre. See attached flyer.

Education Tax Refund: We received an email from Janelle Saffin asking us to remind all families of the opportunity to claim the Education Tax Refund they may be entitled to. Remember to save all receipts. The refund is for up to \$375 for primary school students and up to \$750 for secondary students for books, computer expenses, etc.

Information on the refund is available at www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

Healthy Harold: Will be coming to our school in May (Term 2). There will be a cost involved. I will advise what the exact amount will be and the date at the beginning of Term 2.

School Easter Holidays: Please note in your diaries Term 1 finishes on Thursday 1st April and recommences **Tuesday 20th April**. Monday 19th April is a Staff Development day.

NEW LAW: Did you all know there is a new National Child Restraint Law for 0-7 year olds? I received notification from Jodie Hewett, Road Safety Officer, Ballina Shire Council requesting I put this advice in our newsletter.



"As at the 1st March 2010, all children up to the age of seven years must be correctly restrained in an approved child restraint, suitable for their size and age." For more information go to www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/children/child_restraints or contact Ballina Shire Council's Road Safety Officer on 6686 4444.

Biala 2010 Calendars: Just a reminder that there are still some calendars available for sale. They are now half price being that we are now into March. Just ask for one at the office or make a note in your child's communication book with **\$5.00** and we will send one home.

New School Captains for 2010: We will be announcing new school captains at a Captains' Induction Ceremony on the last

day of term (Thursday, 1st April 2010). All parents are invited to attend as we will also be drawing the Easter raffle. In the meantime our present school captains – Shaun Peyton (Captain), Dylan Collins (Vice Captain), Carly Prince (Captain) and Martika Dawson-Esler (Vice Captain) are doing a great job and I am very proud of them.

Nappy Service: If you are not already using this service CAAS (Continence Aids Assistance Scheme) and PADP (Program for Appliances for Disabled People) provide financial support with the purchasing of nappies for your child.

CAAS - www.intouchdirect.com.au
Phone: Intouch on 1300 366 455

PADP – Phone: 6625 5701

Cheers, *Bhavni*

The Communication Room:

We had several weeks of RDA before the rain set in. Jarrah Walsh, Amy Tarasenko and Mikaela Blackmore are our new riders. All the volunteers and our coach, Helen, commented on how well Jarrah and Amy worked in their first lesson. Mikaela begins next week.

We are concentrating on the letter 'R' this week, number '9' and our shape is a triangle. We have been doing some great abstract painting in art with flowers and plants being our theme this term.

In Science we have been experimenting with different materials. We have purchased a new science book with lots of quick and exciting experiments to do over the term.

In HSIE we are discussing our school life.

Jo, Isaac, Annalise, Janiece, Lisa & Carol

LOST PROPERTY: Carol is missing a black rashie (swim shirt). If it found its way to your place could you return it to school. Thanks!



Liam, Mikaela, Annalise (Teachers' Aide), Olivia, Shaun, & Jo McCracken (Teacher)

The Sensory Room:

We are all very happy in the Sensory Room. Claudia, Rhiannon and Amy received awards over the past two weeks. Congratulations to you all! We are very excited to be accessing the hydrotherapy pool. The children absolutely love it. We have also been managing to get lots of bike riding in (in between showers) which Kaia, Amy and Rhiannon love. Georgia and Jamie have been enjoying the music sessions Bhavni takes on Mondays. Jake and Roy had fun playing together in the school Library. Smiles all round.

Pearl, Lisa, Carol, Janiece and Randon



Roy and Jake enjoying the library.

The Life Skills Room

I know I am biased but I LOVE my class and our new classroom.

A very big WELCOME to Jarrah Walsh and his family. Jarrah is the newest enrolment to our school. He has settled in well to our class and

school and has been a very welcomed addition to our class.

Our weeks consist of functional Literacy and Numeracy learning in the mornings with Woodwork on Wednesdays and Thursdays with Randon. Carly has physiotherapy on Wednesdays. Science is on Fridays and HSIE on Wednesdays. We visit the Library in Ballina on Thursdays, go shopping, cook and prepare food, paint and enjoy Art on Thursdays and sing, laugh and dance our hearts out in Music on Wednesdays.

Our class participates with many Life Skills activities throughout the week with all our high school students participating in community outings, walks through town, trips to different social and community gatherings and visits to local Post School Service Providers.

We have been invited to attend the BDCSA's Community Participation monthly Disco soon which is always fun and a great social experience.

Hydrotherapy will begin soon for my students and a timetable will be sent home with the days your child will participate. Please make sure swimmers and a towel are brought in on these days. Luckily, the school has arranged that ALL our students will participate in Hydrotherapy for FREE as other community service provider, such as ADHC and therapists, who will be charged a fee. This will cover the cost of maintaining the pool.

We are very fortunate to have acquired all the Rudd Government federal funding to build the new infrastructure on our school grounds and if you have not already visited the school and had a tour of the new buildings, what are you waiting for??

Bhavni, Janiece, Randon, Carol and Lisa



Carly and Dylan playing coits!

NRL Footy Tipping Competition: Are you interested in being part of the school's NRL footy tipping competition? It is starting Friday March 12th. The cost to enter for the season is \$5.00 and should be given to Carol Milne. (There is no rush for the money but let us know if you want to enter. Entries to be in by Wednesday)

Fundraising

Upcoming events:

1. The **Debutante Ball** is booked in for **1st May 2010**. To date there has been a lot of interest. Rehearsals started Sunday 7th March. Notes should have been received for those who are participating.

2. The **EASTER RAFFLE:** a small donation of Easter Eggs for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. If they could be in by **Friday 26th March**. If everyone donates one Easter egg we will have a great raffle.



Tickets (\$1 each) are being sent out to families by the Fundraising committee. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday, 1st April. GOOD LUCK!

3. **Rotary Charity Golf Day** was held Sunday 7th March at Ballina Golf Club. All proceeds will go to Biala Support Services Inc. Rumour has it, it was a fantastic day!!!

Please note in your diary:

April: 25th Anzac Day. 2-Up at the Shawsy

May: 1st Debutante Ball at the RSL
22nd Garage Sale

June: Chocolate drive (Strikers Bowling)

July: Evans Head GOLF Day

Sept: 11th Hoe Down @ School

From the Desk of Wendylee

Congratulations to all our upcoming school debutantes and their partners. I look forward to attending on the night and I am sure that all of you will look both beautiful and handsome!!!! Tickets for the night are yet to be finalised but when they are, all families will be notified and encouraged to come along and support our lovely young ladies and gents. All the best for your first dance practise this Sunday morning.

Many thanks to the school and Liam for lending their Trikes to House With No Steps for their bike and road safety program which is running each Thursday in Ballina. They are very appreciative of the use and their clients (which include an ex-Biala student) are thoroughly enjoying the time.

Rotary Charity Golf Day held Sunday 7th March was a fantastic day. To all who attended, thank you! To all who assisted, thank you! Once again, thank you for supporting this group who assist our organisation

Thank you to the Headliners Choral Group for their support of Biala through their Movie Night last night at Ballina Cinema's. The Movie "Dear John" was fabulous. The Headliners are a fantastic group whose members are extremely talented. They have spoken to us in regards to offering support through their fundraising events so you will be hearing more about them and how you can assist us at any joint fundraising events. This group will also be performing on the evening of the Debutante Ball on the 1st May.

Term 1 – Can you believe that there is only 4 weeks to go of this term!!! How quickly does it fly! Did you hear that the earthquake in Chile was of such a force that it apparently has made the earth rotate quicker which has shortened our day time by .000010 of a second, as if we need the day to go faster!!!! Our prayers and thoughts go out to the people of Chile and Haiti and we wish them a speedy recovery. ☺

Sympathy – Our thoughts and prayers go out to one of our school family members at the recent sad and tragic loss of a much loved Aunt during an OS holiday.

All the best for our school families and please remember should you wish to have a chat or there

is anything that I can do to assist you please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

Regards

Wendylee ☺

Students enjoying the new hydrotherapy pool at school:



Mikaela



Shaun

Xena (Olivia looking on; Randon and Amy in the background.)

