



Biala Support Services Inc

Biala Special School

Phone: 6686 3395

Newsletter

Term 2

Friday 15th May 2009



School News

Welcome to term 2. We trust everyone had a lovely and relaxing holiday break. We are already into week 3 of our eleven week term. Term 2 is the autumn/winter time of the year when students increase the amount of clothing worn to school. Parents, please label all clothing. We can not account for clothing when lost if unlabelled.

Term dates

Term 2 will finish on Friday 10th July.

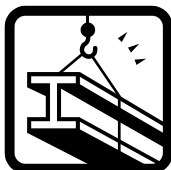
Building the Education Revolution

The federal government has approved two projects for Biala Special School under the Building the Education Revolution (BER), Values up to \$300,000.

This is a unique opportunity to improve school infrastructure and stimulate our local economy. The program has two funding categories for our school.

The **National Pride Project** will provide \$50,000 to the new fencing, footpaths around the school, rain water tanks, solar panels on the roof and an undercover area for when students arrive and leave school by taxis etc.

While the **Primary School for the 21st Century** will provide the school with a new Library and Sensory Room and additional Administrative space.



2009 School Leavers Expo

The School Leavers Expo invites all current and future school leavers and people with a disability looking for information about a range of disability programs and services. The Expo will include services from both the Government and non-government sectors, with a focus on education, training and employment, and also advocacy, centrelink and post school programs.

Lismore Workers Club – Tuesday 19th May 2009 10.00am– 12.30pm
Ballina RSL – Wednesday 20th May 2009 10.00am–12.30pm
Club Banora – Thursday 21st May 2009 10.30am-12.30pm
(See flyer attached)

For more information, contact Bhavni at school or Cherie Harris on 6623 5955 or email cherie.a.harris@det.nsw.edu.au

Bhavni and Carol will attend this Expo with **all** Life Skills students, it is highly recommended those parents whose child is in their last two years of schooling join us. We will meet at the RSL at 9.45am. Please let Bhavni know if you are able to come.

Fit for the job challenge

Biala has put together a team in the nation wide Shining Light 'Fit for the Job' Challenge. This challenge has been introduced to schools throughout Australia to encourage staff to increase fitness and healthy living and hence, increase work productivity and enjoyment.

Our team's title, **The Biala Babes** is a combination of Biala Special School and Biala Support Services Inc. staff and over 12 weeks we aim to increase our fitness through regular group sessions before and after school. Wish us luck!



Sunrise Cycles Charity Bike Ride



Sunrise Cycles in Ballina is organising their second annual charity bike ride in support of Biala. This is a very generous community effort organised by Craig and Bronwyn Gibson of Sunrise Cycles in Ballina and Byron Bay and the Sunrise Cycles team, which includes the wonderful Janiece. All riders will ride for three days over 380 kms from 20th – 22nd June to raise funds for the school.

Last year was a HUGE success with about \$16,000 raised towards the purchase of our new bus which we have been informed will be delivered to us by July.

A big thank you also to Janiece in helping get all this happening and for participating in the ride and thanks also goes to Carol for all her support.

When the cyclists return to school on the afternoon of Monday 22nd June at the end of their ride, the school is hosting a huge than you BBQ and celebration (like last year). It is important that as many family and students are able to be there to cheer them home and share in the celebrations.

The riders want to meet the students and see where their hard work and financial support is going. We will be encouraging all families to bring a plate to share: cakes, slices etc to help make the festivities. Raffle tickets have been sent home in support of this charity ride. Please sell as many as you can and return tickets and money ASAP.

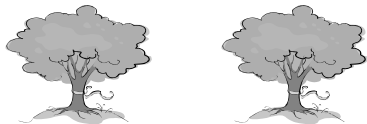
Prizes:

- 1 x Malvern Star Ladies bike worth \$299.00
- 1 x Malvern Star Mens bike worth \$359.00
- 1 x Power Drill supplied by J.H. Williams and Sons.
- 3 Months free membership at Riverside Gym, Ballina.
- 2 x Vaude hydration backpacks valued at \$119 and \$150 donated by Rucsac Supplies, Ballina.

National Schools Tree Day

Every year our school participates in the national Schools Tree Day which is on Friday 31st July. Most of our students get involved in planting native trees and shrubs which are delivered to us free by the Ballina Shire Council.

It is a good experience and our students take pride in planting, watering and looking after these plants and watching them grow.



Hello from Wendylee's Office ☺

Hello students and families, welcome back for another term. It is hard to believe that we are already 3 weeks into the term and only 32 weeks to Christmas..... Can you believe it!!! As you are aware we have had some fantastic news with grant acceptance and we look forward to the commencement of much building construction during the remainder of the year. All building is expected to be completed by December this year and it is hoped prior so that we can have a swim in our pool before the end of the school year.

Just a couple of things that I would like you to think about or consider :-

- Annual General Meeting – The 2009 AGM is being held on Tuesday 9th June, 2009 at Biala Special School commencing at 7.00 pm. All parents and carers are invited to attend this meeting. If any parent or carer is interested in becoming more involved with the organisation and would consider becoming a board member please contact me and I will give you the run down. Your input into our organisation would be wonderful. Please be assured that it is not hard and yes you do have what it takes!!
- Membership – We encourage all parents/carers and staff of our organisation to become financial members. The cost for a family is \$20.00 per year and \$15.00 for a single. There has been a minor increase in fee this year; this is the first increase in over 15 years so we hope that you understand our need to cover costs. I will be sending home next week a letter explaining membership along with an application. I encourage all of you to consider becoming a financial member.
- Fundraising Events Coming Up:

Annual Charity Golf Day – This event is being held in **July** and is a fabulous fun day. Gather a team of 4 and come along. It is held at the Woodburn/Evans Head Golf Club and an all day BBQ is included in the entry fee. All golfers receive a prize. Please note that you do not need to be a regular golfer to participate as it is a social day. We will be running the bus down for those who wish to participate and have a little drink or two.

2010 Calendar – This is a new fundraising event and calendars will be available for sale at the beginning of term 4 for a small cost of \$10.00, a good present for family members for Christmas. The calendars will have photos of students and clients on each month. We are seeking sponsors for each month, for a whole page the cost is \$100.00 or for half a page, \$50.00. You may like to consider sponsoring a page or half a page, or you may know someone that would like to. More information is available from me at the office.

Well I guess that's about it for the time being, I hope that you are all well and if you need to speak to me at any time, please feel free to either call into the office and speak to our new Admin Assistant, Melissa Williams, who will be able to track me down or make an appointment for you to see me, or you could always give me a phone call. Have a happy week!!

Regards

Wendylee

Pub Draws

Remember that every Thursday nights and Friday nights between 6-7pm there are meat and seafood raffles at The Rous Hotel and The Shaws Bay Hotel respectively.

The money collected by these raffles is given to the school and Biala Support services, which helps Melaleuca House. These raffles are organised and done by our very own staff and their families in their own time and is done for your children. These funds help towards new books and school resources as well as play equipment like sand repairs and bike repairs etc.

A **VERY** big thank you to Maree Faddy (Kaia's mum) who has offered her time and support in helping sell these tickets.

If you want to help you can do the odd raffle draw at the Rous on a Thursday night. Please let Bhavni or Carol know as we are in need of more parent support.



Reminder to all parents:

Please send in your completed parent questionnaire forms by the end of June. This questionnaire will help us formulate our annual Board of Studies Report and is a great communication aid for our staff and school.

Thank you to those parents who have already sent their forms back to school.

Student of the Month

Hayden Tunks !!!!!

Our newest and youngest student. We welcome you and your family to our school. We are very proud of how you have already made friends and joined in with all our school activities and routines.



Patan Special School in Nepal

As you may be aware, Biala Special School has a sister school that we correspond with in Nepal and occasionally send old books and resources we do not need to help them.

This School has nothing, no government funding or support and they do everything through donations and fundraising. Our staff are proud to donate funds towards this school where as little as \$100 goes along way.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or give a one off donation to the school, please contact Bhavni to find out how.

Sometimes it is good to give to others less fortunate.



Letter from the School in Nepal

Dear Bhavni Stewart
Principal
2nd Baishak, 2066
Biala Support Services Inc
Australia

Thank you very much to remember Patan CBR. Really this New Year B.S 2066 brings us unlimited happiness because today we receive your parcel. We got 2 boxes which are full of story books and other important materials which are really useful for our children. We're sure our children with disabilities will be benefited by your parcel. The children are very happy with these wonderful books. On behalf of CWDs and all the teachers we heartily thank you all.

Anticipating your continue support in future.

With best regards
Indira

Quote of the Week

Never look down on someone unless your helping them up.

