Principals Report

As I write this newsletter our Yr 5-7 students are enjoying an evening at The Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast. Miss I has reported back to me each day and is very proud of the behaviour of our students. The students and teachers have had some big days at the planetarium and botanical gardens, as well as Dreamworld. The teachers are lacking a little bit of sleep but are also enjoying their time with the students. Tomorrow they are going on a boat trip to St Helena Island. By the time you read this they will be on their way back home. I look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return.

Term four will see some significant changes as we trial the new school hours from 8.30am - 2.30pm. I understand this is a shift from the norm for many families. Thank you to all those families who are supporting the change in a positive way and encouraging their children to see the benefits of the change. Children are generally very resilient and will adapt to the change quite readily. If you are feeling a bit reticent about the change please focus on the benefits for your child and their learning. I know we all want what is best for the children. I believe our school times should operate around what is best for the students and their learning outcomes, not on what is convenient for adults. Research shows the children do learn better first thing in the morning. It is for this reason Bluff State School staff and P&C have supported the trial and will be inviting feedback later in term four.

Congratulations to our Star Students

Petria, Blake, Flynn, Tramaine and Varleigha
We have supported the trial and will be inviting feedback later in term four.

The holidays are fast approaching. While it may be tempting to let your child stay home for the last day, or even the last week of term, our school would prefer to see every child on every day of every term. We strongly believe children need to attend school every day to receive the most benefits from their education. Assessment will be happening in both classrooms over the next week. Please ensure your child is at school (unless they are sick) to participate in their learning and assessments. If students miss their assessments due to family holidays in term time, there will not be opportunities to make it up next term. From the beginning of term 4 intensive teaching of new units will occur, with assessment happening around weeks 4, 5 and 6 for these units. Report cards will reflect any missed assessments. I cannot stress strongly enough the need for the students to be at school in term time.

Did you realise that skipping the last day of every term adds up to more than a whole term of schooling missed throughout a child’s education? Skipping a whole week of school each term means your child will miss more than 15 months of their education! For further information on the importance of regular school attendance, please visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/posters.html](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/posters.html)

The last P&C meeting for this term will be held this Tuesday 18th September at 3.15 pm. All are welcome to attend. Although there is still one week to go in term 3 there will not be another newsletter until after the holidays. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

*A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity but an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.*

Winston Churchill
As part of our everyday classroom routine we have an activity that is called Fast and Furi-
ous. This involves exposing the children to learned concepts, such as number facts, measure-
ment rules, grammar concepts, sight words, sounds, letters etc, in a fast paced activity of flashcards and slideshows. This repetitious, quick paced activity works to reinforce what the students have previously learned and helps embed the concepts in long term memory. This is proving to be an effective strategy and is assisting the students develop automatici-
ty in their literacy and numeracy work.

The children were very excited to make Jam Drops as part of an integrated literacy and nu-
meracy activity last week. In this activity we measured ingredients and used command verbs. The children discussed how they are used to give directions in a recipe. This week the children turned the narrative text of Wombat Stew into a procedural text, whereby they wrote a recipe for Wombat Stew. There was some outstanding work done by our stu-
dents on this project, with a vast range of command verbs used throughout their recipes.

One of our focus areas over the past 2 weeks in the classroom has been on neatness in handwriting, in both numeracy and literacy. I am encouraging the children to be aware of their seated posture and their pencil grip, to ensure their wrists remain flexible. If they use these actions correctly, neater writing will eventuate. We have also focused on different words that have the “ir” “ur” “er” sound (preps and Gr 1) as well as the “or” sound for other year levels.
The students have worked very hard this term and I have seen significant improvement in many of the key learning areas. I congratulate all the students in our classroom on the successes they are having. It is very rewarding to see the pride they are having in their work and in their achievements. I hope they all have a well deserved holiday and return refreshed for another term of successful learning.