Dear Parents and Carers,

The past fortnight has been a hectic one, with me being away for the majority of the time due to surgery. However, it has been great to hear that, for the most part, the students have been very well behaved and worked hard during this time. It will be great to be back on Monday and I am looking forward to seeing all of the hard work that has been completed. I was also very pleased to be able to attend the Ingham Earth Smarties camp with the students this week, even though I was a little slow! It was great to see them presenting their results in such a mature way, I was very proud of their achievements.

**School Opinion Surveys**
Thanks to all those parents who have already returned their school opinion surveys (the blue envelopes) to school. As always, your opinions and ideas about our school are very valuable to us and we appreciate your feedback. These surveys are completely confidential. The school will receive a report around October with the survey results, however, no individual responses will be identified. If you have not done so already, please return your surveys to school as soon as possible.

**Small Schools Athletics Carnival**
On Tuesday 20th August, the B&C Schools Athletics Carnival will be held at East Ayr State School. Events will be held on the bottom oval and will begin at 9am. Students will need to arrange their own transport to and from the venue. We will need to meet at East Ayr at 8:50am. The carnival will finish at 2:45pm, please ensure that all students are collected from East Ayr at this time. All parents, carers and friends are welcome to come and watch. We will be setting up a shade marquee for our school, near the running track. All students will need to wear their school uniform, a hat and closed shoes on the day. They will also need to bring sunscreen and a water bottle. Students can either bring their own lunch or order from the tuckshop. Please find attached an order form. If you wish to order tuckshop, orders and money need to be returned to school by Tuesday 13th August.

**Family Games Night**
Wednesday 28th August at 6:30pm we will hold our inaugural Family Games Night here at school. During the evening, we will have a variety of board games for families to play together. We will also be having a ‘pot luck dinner’ so we would ask that each family who is attending, bring a dish to share with the group. Research has shown that when families regularly play board games together, children show improvements in cooperation skills, team work, thinking skills and academic areas, in particular mathematics. All friends and families are welcome to attend – we hope to see you there!

**Reading Strategy of the Week**
This week’s reading strategy is “Flippy Dolphin”. Flippy Dolphin says – Try the other vowel sound. When children come across an unknown word they can try the various vowel sounds while decoding the word. For example ‘a’ can have a short sound as in ‘cat’ or a long sound as in mate. Remind them to look for sounds they know and take notice of the initial sound. So when you are stuck ‘flip the vowel sounds like Flippy Dolphin.’

**P&C Meeting**
Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 9th September at 3pm in the staffroom. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

**Awards**
Congratulations to the following students who have received awards for their great work this fortnight:
- Shaylah Rehbein
- Blaize Palmer
- Lachlan Nagle
- Daly Clay
- Maddison MacGillvray
- Ryland Palmer
- Kasharna Rehbein

Keep up the great work everyone!

Yours in Education

Hayley Laidlow
Principal
This week, we had the opportunity to travel to the Paluma Environmental Education Centre for an overnight stay due to our involvement in the Ingham Earth Smarties project 2013. 12 excited students, Miss Laidlow, Mrs Becke and Mr Palmer were eagerly awaiting the bus, however a mix-up in bookings meant it came a little late! Finally, following a rather late departure, we traveled to Paluma on the bus, collecting the students from Maidavale State School on our way. We stopped at McDonalds for dinner and finally arrived at Paluma at approximately 8:30pm! When we arrived, it was very chilly, so Mrs Venn took us on a rainforest walk to warm us up. On our walk, we saw lots of interesting things including prickly wait-a-while vine and beautiful rainforest trees. Once we returned, we were very tired, and so we jumped into bed as we had an early start on Wednesday morning.

After a yummy breakfast, we packed up our gear and waved goodbye to Paluma. We then traveled down the range and north to Ingham where we visited the Tyto Wetlands Conference Centre. Here, the senior student presented their results from our Agrichar project. As part of the project we conducted a ‘pot trial’, testing the effectiveness of Agrichar when used with various soil types. We discovered that, in our trial, plants grown in sandy soil with a 10% ratio of Agrichar showed the best improvement in growth. We also listened to presentations from Maidavale, Macknade and Victoria Plantation schools and to a presentation from JCU research student Emma Beavan who is testing Agrichar in the field. We then visited 2 local farms where research is being conducted into more environmentally friendly ways of growing and harvesting sugar.

It was then time to make the trek home. Everyone had a great time and did a fabulous job representing Osborne during the conference. Thanks very much to Mrs Becke and Mr Palmer for coming along with us. Well done everyone!