Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, my apologies for not getting a newsletter out last fortnight, it has been a hectic month and unfortunately I was not able to finish the newsletter in time. The students have been kept very busy this month, traveling to Paluma for science camp working hard on their insect constructions, learning persuasive language in English and working on number and time in Maths. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term 1 already! As we approach the end of term, it is important to continue reinforcing good behaviour choices with your child. At this time of the term, it is common for children to become tired and they can make behaviour choices which are not appropriate, however, in order to continue learning effectively, they need to remain on task and engaged whilst at school. Please encourage them to remember our 3Bs – Be respectful, Be responsible and Be safe, this way we will all have a great last week together.

P&C Meeting

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 April 2014 at 7pm in the staff room. 2014 will be an extremely busy year for our school and any assistance you can offer us is greatly appreciated. We are currently looking for someone to take up the position of treasurer, if you are able to assist, please come along to the meeting. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

Easter Bonnet Parade

Our Easter Bonnet Parade will be held next Thursday 3 April from 2-3pm. We would ask that each family bring a plate of food to share, we will be presenting Easter songs, Easter hats and also sharing some of the great work the children have completed this term. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

JAG – Junior Astronomy Group

JAG has been cancelled for tonight due to thick cloud cover and wet conditions on the school oval. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 16 May.

Reading Strategy of the Week

Each fortnight, we are going to feature a reading strategy in the newsletter. This week we are featuring ‘Lips the Fish’. Lips the Fish strategy says – Get your lips ready, say the first few sounds. When your child encounters a word they do not know, ask them to get their lips ready and say the initial sound in the word. Then ask them ‘What starts like that and would make sense here?’ This is a much more effective strategy than ‘Sound it out’ as it asks your child to think about the context of the word, not just the word itself. They could also use their ‘Eagle Eyes’ and look at the picture clues for help. So remember, when they are stuck, tell them to ‘get your lips ready and say the first few sounds.’

Student Resource Scheme 2014

The current levy is $55 per child per year. This levy will cover ALL stationery items for the 2014 school year. Items that are not covered under this levy are: school bags, hats, lunch boxes, lunches and school excursions. All student resource scheme payments will need to be finalised by Week 10.
Classroom Rules
This week we have been focussing on learning our classroom rules and putting them into action. This week’s rule focus has been Be respectful. It is important for students to understand the need to speak to each other and to school staff with respect and courtesy. We have been focussing this week on learning to control what we say and how we say it. We have been working hard to reinforce the concept ‘If you have nothing nice to say, say nothing at all’. We have also talked about having good manners. Good manners, or acting appropriately in a way that’s socially acceptable and respectful, display respect, care, and consideration for others. Excellent manners can help children to have better relationships with people they know, and those they will meet. Good manners convey respect to those they interact with, and also commands respect from those they interact with. Some basic rules for good manners are:

1. **Practice basic courtesy.** Say "please" and "thank you," when you need to, even to the person behind the counter at McDonald’s. People notice when you’re courteous and respectful toward them, and it can count for a lot
2. **Speak politely.** Keep the volume of your voice as low as possible while still allowing people to hear you, and don’t use slang or filler words (such as "like," "uh," "so..." and so on).
3. **Be a good sport.** Congratulate anyone who beats you in a race, sporting event, election or other competition.

For more information visit [http://www.wikihow.com/Have-Good-Manners](http://www.wikihow.com/Have-Good-Manners)

Hi 5
This year we are continuing our use of the Hi 5 strategy at school to help increase children’s coping strategies and resilience in the playground. Hi 5 is a strategy children can use when another student is annoying them or is not treating them respectfully.

The Hi 5 steps are:
1. Ignore
2. Talk friendly
3. Walk away
4. Talk firmly – ‘Stop it! I don’t like it’
5. Tell a teacher

Please reinforce these strategies with your child at home.

Yours in Education
*Hayley Laidlow*
Principal

Wonderful Work from Osborne this week...

**Interesting Insects**

Over the past 3 weeks, in technology, the students have been building models of insects. During the design phase they needed to think about the 3 parts of an insect’s body; its head, thorax and abdomen; and how they would create these using salt dough.

The students then built their bodies and they were baked. They were then painted and the students added appendages such as wings and antennae. The insect creations will be on display during the Easter Bonnet Parade.

<<<<<< Some of our interesting insects!
Wednesday 19 March saw our Year 3-7 students board the bus and travel to Paluma Environmental Education Centre (PEEC) for 3 days of intensive science learning and part of the Supporting Small School Science online learning program.

The students had a fantastic time investigating the rainforest and putting their science knowledge into action, conducting a number of investigations. They conducted an investigation into the best colour for camouflage in open and closed environments where they randomly spread coloured rubber bands and collected them under timed conditions. Interestingly, the students found that blue was the easiest colour to spot, not the bright pink bands which were our initial prediction. The students also had the opportunity to collect and examine macro invertebrates from the creek and leaf litter. When they compared their results with the investigation they had conducted here in the Burdekin, they found many similarities, however the students did note that there was a larger number of samples taken in the Burdekin and this may have affected their results.

Observing rainforest species such as the strangler fig was another activity the students participated in. They battled clouds of mosquitoes and thick mist on their way through the forest but still managed to make excellent observations about the strangler fig and its place in the rainforest ecosystem. The students also spent time identifying plants using dichotomous keys and discussing their impact on the environment and how to reduce it.

During the excursion, the students had the chance to work cooperatively with both the PEEC staff and students from Maidavale State School. It was fantastic to see them putting their knowledge into action and working extremely hard in their cooperative learning teams. We are looking forward to continuing our science learning in Term 2 when we will be investigating Earth-Space science.
Reflections on Paluma

From Johnny:

Paluma camp was fantastic because we did a camouflage investigation on the first day. On the second day we did a bot fly investigation and on the third day we went on the beach and had a big web. We went on a snake hunt and we went on an eagle hunt. On the last day we were on the environment sensory trail and my friend kept saying he we got to a snake. Well Johnny its not a snake deep.

From Tim:

Our school camp we went to Paluma. We did lots of fun stuff for science. Paluma is a kilometer about sea level. We went up a really steep hill. There were lots of weeds, flies and leaches. Someone got a tick and they had to go to the hospital. Some people got sick on the bus. To stop someone specled but too many people sick on the bus so we went to Malivale then back to school.

From Shaylah:

On camp we saw a brown tree snake, it was near the block at night. We took a photo of it and on Friday we did a blind fold activity. It was fun and on the first day we did a rubber band activity. And on the first night we went on a walk through the rainforest and on the second night we saw a bat up close.