What a whirlwind couple of weeks we have had. We had fifty-nine students and five teachers attend camp at Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre from 1st – 4th March. Together they completed team building activities, marine and ecosystem studies, beach rescue drills and games and high rope challenges. The students challenged themselves to partake in all activities, and, it was a great opportunity for relationships to be developed especially for the new students and staff.

This week we have had the great pleasure of Josh Arnold and Jason (the film man) working within our school to write, with our students, the Baralaba School Song – “The Baralaba Beat”. This has been an amazing experience with students developing the lyrics, showing we are one school from two different communities. At times we challenged each other on lyrics about who we really are. I was really impressed with how the students took advantage to be involved in such a powerful experience that will strengthen the culture within our school. Once the film clip is finalised, we will host an event to celebrate the launch of “The Baralaba Beat”. You can see the other film clips that Josh has created by visiting smalltownculture.com and follow the links. You can also ‘like’ Small Town Culture – Josh Arnold on Facebook.

Amongst this busy period, the students have been completing their end of term assessment for each of their subject areas. They have also completed their writing samples, which will be used to gather data on writing improvement. This is in line with our school explicit improvement agenda. The teachers, with the guidance of our Master Teacher Carol Haigh, have commenced planning for Term 2.

Next Thursday, in conjunction with our Inter house Cross Country, our students will partake in the end of term celebration afternoon. The celebration will include swimming activities, minute to win it games; photo displays from the cross country and attendance rewards initiatives. Currently we have 26 students still on 100% attendance for this year and our Term One attendance is 1.5% higher than last year. Great job everyone!

Remember: Every day does count for your future.

Kind regards,
Mel Austin

Josh Arnold and Miss Saldez singing our school song at assembly.

Please remember that no students are to arrive at school before 8.30 a.m. If there is a legitimate reason for a student needing to be at school before this time, they are to be signed in at Admin.

AWARDS
Week 7

Chloe: Student of the Week.
Finn: YCDI Persistence for constantly working hard in developing his letter and sound awareness.
Miles: Writing Award for trying really hard to remember his finger spacings.
Damien: Writing Award for consistently trying hard to use adjectives and compound sentences.
Jack: Student of the Week.
Tommy: Fantastic listening.
Archie: YCDI Confidence Award for demonstrating confidence while independently reading and writing ordinal numbers.
Charlotte: Good friend award.
Xavier: YCDI Getting Along Award for kindly giving another student his ice block, as the other student was upset.
Clinton: Writing Award for improved writing skills.
Jeremy: Responsibility Award for being a good citizen and being a positive role model on camp.
Week 8

Grace: Student of the Week.

Kitty: YCDI Persistence Award for consistently wanting to learn her letter/sounds in any learning experience.

Goothala: Student of the Week and You remembered to bring your homework.

Miles: You’re trying hard – keep going.

Jackie: YCDI Persistence Award Consistently for trying her best in all areas and persisting to complete homework.

Tommy: YCDI Organisation Award for consistently demonstrating organisation.

Lily: 100% in Spelling and Writing Award for great use of sound and descriptive vocabulary in her Sizzling Start.

Damien: 100% in Spelling.

Will: 100% in Spelling and Writing Award for successfully using a sound and interesting adjectives in his Sizzling Start.

Geoffrey: For remembering his homework.

Archie: Writing Award for great use of a sound and original ideas in his Sizzling Start.

Jack: Writing Award for creative thinking and original ideas in his Sizzling Start.

Sierra: YCDI Confidence Award for consistently demonstrating confidence in her ability and participating willingly in all activities.

Brooke: Student of the Week

Mackayla: YCDI Persistence Award for showing great sportsmanship on the cricket field and never giving up.

Annika: Writing Award for putting in an awesome effort to produce a fantastic piece of writing.

Billie-Ann: Student of the Week

Assam: Writing Award for putting in a huge effort when planning for persuasive writing.

Melanie: Responsibility Award for taking a holistic approach to her learning and focusing on improving in all areas.

**ICAS TESTING**

The ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools) is an independent assessment that provides an insight into student performance in subject across the curriculum. The testing is voluntary, and participating students will be taken out of class to complete the assessment. Payment is required to the school (cash or cheque) – clearly indicating which test you want your son/daughter to participate in. Tests are available for students in years 2 – 10. The following is the schedule of tests available to each year level and the cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year Levels</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>3 - 10</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2 - 10</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3 - 10</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>2 - 7</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2 - 10</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2 - 10</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

Parent/teacher interviews are on Monday 21st March from 3.30 – 5.00 pm (with the exception of the Year 1/2 Class). Parents/Carers are to call the school to arrange a time. For those who are unable to attend the interviews on Monday, you can call the school to make other arrangements.

All HPE – Stephen Denning
Prep 1 – Chantelle Payne
Year 1/2 – Joy Stewart WEDNESDAY 23rd March
Year 3/4 – Louise Hunt
Year 3/4 Digital Technologies – Stephen Denning
Year 5/6 – Katie Dunne
Year 7 – Debbie Read
Year 7 Maths – Melissa Long
Year 8 – Allan Read
Year 8 Science – Stephen Denning
Year 9/10/11 – Sara Saldez
Year 9/10/11 Maths – Melissa Long

Dianne Walton is also available for those parents/carers who have students under her guidance.

**Writing – Our Improvement Focus**

No doubt you have been following the success of our student writers, each week in the Local Links. As we continue with our Seven Steps to Writing Success Program, students are consolidating their knowledge and application of each step. This term our focus was on ‘Planning For Success’ and ‘Sizzling Starts’.

Our new teachers, that had not used The Seven Steps Program before, have given very positive feedback about their training this term.

All students have writing goals that they are working on. Why not ask your child/ren about their current goal?

**Woorabinda Homework Club**

Home–School Clipping Program

When: Every Thursday, starting 4th February 2016
Where: Opal Hall
Time: Woorabinda State School students from 3pm–4pm
Baralaba State School students from 4pm–5pm

We are also looking for parents to volunteer an hour of their time on a Thursday to help out with supervision, setting up & preparing afternoon tea. If you are interested in helping please come along.
SPORT TRIAL DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Trial Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>10 – 12 Boys</td>
<td>18th – 22nd April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>10-12 Boys</td>
<td>25th – 28th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>10-12 Girls</td>
<td>25th – 28th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>10-12 Girls</td>
<td>06th – 10th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>10-12 Boys</td>
<td>06th – 10th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>15 Yrs. Boys/Girls</td>
<td>03rd May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>15 Yrs. Boys/Girls</td>
<td>04th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football (soccer)</td>
<td>15 Yrs. Boys/Girls</td>
<td>06th May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are to see Mr. Denning if they are interested in nominating. Parents can contact the school if they require more information about the selection process.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country day is Thursday 24th March. The first race starts at 9.00am. Please ensure students are wearing sunsane clothing. The P & C is holding a BBQ lunch at approximately 11.00 am. This is free for all enrolled students, with everyone else expected to make a gold coin donation. All ice-creams, poppers etc. will need to be purchased. Spectators are welcome.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Some awesome borrowing for Term One and a number of students will be eligible for Champion Borrower status which means that they have borrowed and returned each week. How good it that! Fantastic to see some students changing books at break time if they have haven’t returned their book on Library day or better still just because they want to.

Library is every Tuesday for Preps to Year 6 so a little reminder to your child that they have their Library book in their school bag would be appreciated. The lower classes have been learning about caring for books by using a library bag and keeping their books in a safe place. Unfortunately, we do have some overdue books and it would be great to see these returned as soon as possible. Children with overdue books are issued with a reminder. If there is a problem finding a book it would be helpful if parents could write a note to explain.

We have lots and lots of new books for all ages – thank you to Miss Kyla for accessioning and the aides who have been busy covering. These books have been purchased from our reward points from Scholastic Book Club so thank you to all who support Book Club.

Also it has been so good to see so many students coming to do try the art activities from the APT8 Kids on Tour at break time.

Yours in Reading
Julie Webb and Miss Kyla

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Our school is participating in Scholastic Book Clubs this year. Twice a term during the school year I will send home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered. You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites.

In 2015, Baralaba State School earned $645 in rewards from Scholastic Book Club. This year so far, we have earned $354.50 and there have only been 2 Book Clubs! This money is earned from school families and staff purchasing books and resources from Book Club each month. Our School earns 20% in Scholastic Rewards on all Book Club orders to help us obtain free books and additional learning resources.

Here are just a few of the awesome new resources we have obtained from Book Club rewards.

MIMOSA/DUNSTAN

Any parents wanting to purchase Dunstan or Mimosa shirts for their children or themselves can contact Amanda Lang on 0409 209 636, or leave a message at the school.

Please Note: These shirts are not part of the school uniform.

UNIFORM ORDERS

ALL uniform orders will need to be placed at the office in the drop box. The money needs to be in an envelope with the order form stapled to the outside of the envelope.

Correct Money Only.
Order forms are available at the office.
All polo shirts $30
Junior secondary jerseys $60
Jackets $35
Hats $12
BARALABA TENNIS CLUB SIGN ON
Where: Baralaba Tennis Club
When: 7/04/16 and 14/04/16
If you can’t make the sign on nights, you can ring Tasha on 0400 539 863 to put your name in the fixtures draw!!
Time: 6:00pm
Canteen and Bar will be open.
Fixtures and Coaching will then start on the 21/04/2016
ALL Welcome
We look forward to seeing you there!!!