A Letter to the Community

**Dates to Remember in 2011**

**JUNE**
- 23 – Student Council~ Yr 4-7 Dinner 6pm
- 24 – Last day of Term 2
- 24 – Walkathon

**JULY**
- 11 – Student free day
- 12 - Term 3 first day back for students
- 12 – School Centenary Meeting
- 19 – P & C Meeting 7pm, staff room

**SEPTEMBER**
- 16 – Last day of Term 3

**OCTOBER**
- 03 - Term 4 first day back for students
- 17 – Student free day

**NOVEMBER**
- 2-4 - Senior Camp

**TUCKSHOP 13TH JULY**

**HELPERS**
- Marlene Houston, Maxine Platell
- CAKES/SLICE
- Janine Riley

**Junior News**

Thank you to all the parents who came to the interviews yesterday. We know the children enjoyed showing their work and we enjoyed telling many happy stories about the children’s progress. We have had an exciting term, with a number of special things happening: NAPLAN tests, Under Eights’ Day, and our annual Excursion to Brisbane. It’s not over yet as we look forward to the big walk tomorrow.

Thank you especially to the people who help out so faithfully in the classroom each week. Thank you to everyone who supports their own children and the work we are doing by helping with homework and keeping in touch with us.

We hope you have a safe, restful and happy holiday.

*Kasey, Cathy and Karin*

**Year 6/7 News**

This week brings to a close term 2 of the 2011 school calendar and what a term it has been. We have endured NAPLAN testing for year 7, Cross Country, Athletics, an audit,
made a film that won an RSL Australian Spirit competition, a unit on change in Science, a unit on the effects of the floods and cyclone on parts of Queensland in SOSE and mapping, we designed a drink, undertook many science investigations, cooked for the school every Friday, completed testing, report cards and then there is our daily Maths and English work. Wow, we have been very busy!

For the first 5 weeks of next term, Mrs Benstead is having a well earned 5 weeks of long service leave. Mrs Watterson will teach the class full time for those 5 weeks. We hope Mrs Benstead enjoys her time off and thinks of us regularly.

Congratulations to Blaire, Zak and Angus who are the winners of the raffle ticket reward system this term. These guys have won a trip to the movies in the second week of the holidays with Mrs Watterson. Well done!

We hope Blaire and Kaine have had a wonderful week at Instrumental Music Camp. They are to be congratulated for their achievements in attending the week long camp and we wish them well for tonight’s culminating concert. The year 6/7 class is very proud of you guys and we look forward to hearing all about it tomorrow and next term.

Happy and safe holidays to all and we’ll see you in two weeks! Enjoy the break!

Maryann Watterson

Thought for the Week

‘Success, like happiness, cannot be pursed; it must ensure … as the unattained side effect of one’s personal dedication to a course greater than oneself.’

Viktor Frankl

District Athletics

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Tori, Zak, Ben, Tayla, Kiara, Mallora, Corey, Hope and Cameron represented Christmas Creek at the Beaudesert District Athletics Carnival. All the children did extremely well at the carnival jumping personal bests, running as fast they could and throwing terrifically. I know it is tough competition at the carnival and huge credit goes to these children for competing at the next level.

Special mention is to be made of Tori Mackay who has made it through to the next level for 100m sprint and relay. Well done Tori and good luck at Regionals!!

On Tuesday afternoon I received a phone call from a supervising teacher at the carnival who rang me to pay tribute to Zak Bullion. She said that Zak’s Christmas Creek relay teammate, from Tamrookum, had fallen flat on his face at the start of the race and had stayed down for awhile only to get up and continue a little bit after the rest of the other teams were a fair way down the track. She said that instead of giving up and not racing, Zak and his team ran the relay as normal giving it their best shot, even though they were a lap behind the rest of the teams at the end. She said
the crowd gave the team a standing ovation for finishing. I was thrilled to receive the call (and must admit had a few tears trickling down my face) and so proud of Zak and his team for completing such a courageous race.

Just a reminder that the $4 fee for competing at Districts needs to be paid if it hasn’t been already and if all shirts could be brought back as soon as possible also. Thanks😊

Maryann Watterson

Annual School Walkathon-
Friday, 24 June

The students will be walking to Bigriggen from the school tomorrow (Friday). We will be leaving the school at about 9:30am and expect to arrive at Bigriggen between 12 and 12:30pm. Parents are invited to join us for the day, but high school children should be at high school on Friday. We don’t encourage high school students to miss their school days by joining with us on the walkathon. If high school-aged students do come on Friday, they will need to be supervised by their own parents, since the staff will be supervising our primary students.

Students can dress in free dress that day, but need to wear comfortable clothing and shoes as well as sunscreen. Boys and girls need to wear sun-safe clothing with sleeves and collars and a sun-safe hat, a water bottle would be a good idea as well.

There will be two checkpoints along the way for a rest stop and a drink of water, fruit or an iceblock. At Bigriggen we will have a sausage sizzle lunch with a drink and a piece of fruit. The cost for the lunch is $5 per person.

Policeman Zaal has promised to patrol our walk and has kindly offered to take students for a ride in his police van after lunch.

There will be only one bus this year to collect children from Bigriggen at 2 o’clock and return them to the school. The bus will make a second trip if need be to return all children to the school. Parents are invited to drive to Bigriggen at 2pm to pick up there child if they so desire.

Forms that went out last week need to be completed and returned by tomorrow (Friday). There is a form attached to this newsletter for those who require another one.

P&C News

Walkathon – The official opening of the Maryann’s Gully footpath and playground equipment is scheduled for the morning of the walkathon at 9am. Everyone is welcome to come and join Scenic Rim council members and community residents for the opening and morning tea.

Clearing Sale this Saturday 25th June 2011 at Tartar Creek Road (off Running Creek Road). The P&C is catering for this clearing sale and would appreciate either baking donations or one hour of your time to help run the stall. We will be there from 8am until approx 2pm and if you could help even for one hour around 8.30 or 9.30 it would be much appreciated as all the usual helpers have a game of soccer on at 8.45am. Please advise Karyn on 55441217 if you can help out. Baking donations can be left at the school on Friday afternoon or call Karyn to arrange collection.
**Pie Drive** – please note that the P&C committee will be having a pie drive early next term.

**Winter Lunches**
As the days are colder now the children are feeling a little hungrier. Can parents please make an effort next term to pack extra food in lunch boxes to satisfy the children.

**Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting 21-06-2011**

**Staff and Students**
At the time of this report, our enrolment stands at 51 students. There have been no students transferring to other schools and no new students have enrolled since the beginning of this term.

Mrs Goggins, our library teacher will return from travel leave to resume library lessons next term. Mrs Jerome, our Japanese LOTE teacher, is also due to return here next semester. She has been away on extended compassionate leave since earlier in term one. Mrs Mears, who was replacing Mrs Jerome on her circuit of schools is expected to teach her last LOTE lessons here on Tuesday.

Next term, Mrs Cullen, our school’s administration officer, will be taking long service leave for all of term 3 and the first couple of weeks of term 4. Mrs Kayleen Todd will be replacing Mrs Cullen while she is away. Mrs Todd will be working here on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs Benstead is also taking long service leave for the first 5 weeks of next term. Mrs Watterson will be teaching Year 6/7 fulltime in her absence and Mrs Perkins will teach year 4/5 on my office days on Wednesdays.

**Student Council**
The student council is busy planning further fund-raising efforts. Friday’s healthy lunches are still proving to be a winner, and will continue next term.
The student council will continue to sell chocolates at every opportunity until all chocolates have been sold. There are still some boxes remaining.
There is a possibility that the council will again be collecting milk bottle tops from Paul’s milk bottles in the near future.
Please watch the school newsletter for further news and keep an eye out for those special milk bottle tops at the supermarket.

**School Band**
The school band performed very well at the recent Christmas Creek athletics carnival where the band led the schools’ marchpast. For just a few students they made a tremendous sound and looked fabulous as they marched around the oval. They were a real credit to our school. Our thanks go to Mrs Wieland and the band members who give up their lunch hours to train each week.
The band regularly practices for weekly school parades. There are no other special band performances planned for next term.

**School Events**
Zumba fitness classes are being held in our school hall every Wednesday evening from
6:30pm to 7:30pm. And Zumba toning classes are held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm that same evening. Community members are invited to attend these classes. The cost is $10 for a single lesson or $15 for 2 lessons. The playgroup continues to meet at school on Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:00. It’s great to see all these new little ones enjoying the play and interaction with other children.

The school’s Centenary committee meets every month on the first Tuesday to prepare for next year’s centenary celebrations in May. This year will be a time for getting the school and grounds ready for this event. The school now has a brand new exciting web-site with a special page for centenary information. The school has employed a private company to maintain and update our website for us. This is especially important to us now as we are very keen to let people know about what is being planned for our school centenary celebrations next year. Having an exciting and current ‘new look’ web site is also important as we try to attract more enrolments to our school. Web sites are becoming the first point of contact for most prospective new families when choosing a school for their children.

This past month has seen much activity throughout the school with the students practising for and competing very successfully in the Christmas Creek cross-country and athletics carnivals. Many of the students then went on to compete at district level, with the district athletics being held on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The school was subject to another Teaching-Learning audit on the 6 June. Ms Debbie Hails from Brisbane was our auditor this year. Normally audits are only undertaken every 4 years, but as Rathdowney is about to start a new strategic planning cycle, this audit will give us information to assist with our new school plan for the next 4 years. There was much preparation needed from all our staff to get ready for this audit. We were very happy to learn that we had improved in all of the eight teaching and learning areas of the audit since last year – and last year’s results were among the best in our region!– now we’ve improved even further with one area rated as ‘outstanding’, six ‘high’s and one ‘medium’ that is well on the way to being a ‘high’ also.

Last week, the Prep’s to Year 4’s went to Brisbane for their annual junior school camp. All but 3 children attended the camp with 5 staff and 6 parents who stayed for the whole camp and a further 3 parents who helped out on some of the camp days. The camp was very successful with the students learning and experiencing many new things. They are still excited about their adventures and have been busy sharing their stories with the upper school. (As well as their families at home no doubt!!) Many thanks go to the P&C who subsidised the cost of the bus and to the student council who subsidised the entry costs to all the venues. Without their help not as many students would have been able to come.

This Wednesday, the school will host the end-of-semester parent-teacher interviews. Parents have been given appointment times throughout the day to discuss their children’s learning and report cards with their teachers. This meeting is highly anticipated by every one of the students as it is a special time when they can also spend some individual time with Mum or Dad in their school environment talking
about their schoolwork. It means a lot to the students when parents can make the time to do this.

Two students, Blaire and Kaine were invited to attend the intermediate music camp in Logan. Mrs Charles, our school’s instrumental music teacher was very impressed with both Blaire and Kaine’s progress and was very pleased to be able to invite these two students to this camp. They are attending camp for four days this week, together with many other students from all over the region. There will be a special concert night at Chandler in Brisbane to showcase their talents and they have learnt. I hope to go to the concert on Thursday night to see them both perform.

On Thursday evening, Mrs Benstead has planned a special evening to showcase the work she has done with the Years 4/5 students in technology this term and to screen the film the Years 6/7 students made. The film was part of the class’ SOSE unit for the term and was also the school’s entry in this year’s RSL “Australian Spirit Competition”. This film entry won the overall primary school award in the competition. Mr Osborn, our chaplain was very involved in the production of the film and will also attend the public premiere on Thursday evening. A two course dinner will be hosted by the students before the film is screened.

On Friday, the school will again celebrate the end of term by inviting parents and friends of the school to join them on their annual walk to Bigriggen camp grounds. It is always a lovely walk that finishes with a sausage sizzle lunch at Bigriggen. Students were given sponsorship forms last week for the walkathon. The money raised will be donated to the Queensland Cancer Fund.

On the morning of the walkathon, the Scenic Rim Shire Council has asked our school if they can host the official opening of the new footpath that was built from school to Maryann’s Gully. We hope to do this with students walking along the footpath to the school at about 9am. The students will then continue from there on the walkathon as planned. The P&C will host morning tea at school for any other community members and councillors who attended the opening.

**Staff Inservice**

In the past month, two teachers have attended an after school workshop in Southport addressing the identification of gifted and talented students within the school. Two teachers attended an after school phonics awareness workshop for early childhood teachers in Beaudesert. Mrs Benstead attended a seminar about the new Australian curriculum last Friday. Last Monday Mrs Perkins, Ms Lane and Mrs O attended a cluster moderation meeting for the Year 2 Net.

All teachers and teacher aides will be attending a spelling workshop in Beaudesert on the pupil-free day at the beginning of next term.

This term, Mrs Cullen has continued to meet with senior regional finance personnel to prepare for the changeover to OneSchool finance (Release 3) Rathdowney is one of 37 schools state-wide that has been selected to participate in the first stage of the release. Mrs Todd has also received some in-service to help prepare her for term 3 when she will relieve for Mrs Cullen as she goes on leave for the term. In our weekly staff meetings, Mrs O is leading discussions on the Developing Performance Plans for Teachers. We have also been discussing better ways to differenti-
ate learning for each of our students to better suit their learning needs.

**Keep safe and warm over winter**

As winter sets in, parents and carers are reminded about the potential hazards when keeping the family warm this winter.

This time of year carries greater risks of scalds and burns as families keep warm with electric blankets, heaters, hot water bottles and fire places.

The Office for Fair Trading has set out a number of practical steps that parents can take to keep the family safe this winter, including:

- installing guards around heaters, fires and stove tops
- supervising young children whenever a heater or open fire place is in use
- checking hot water bottles for damage before filling with water
- checking the condition of heating appliances such as heaters and electric blankets before use, including electrical plugs and cords
- switching off products when not in use

Winter is also a time that children rug up in pyjamas, night dresses, dressing gowns, bathrobes and infant sleeping bags.

Parents are reminded that some clothing styles and fabrics are more flammable than others and are encouraged to choose low risk children’s nightwear with a low fire damage label.

**Fun for students at the Gold Coast Science Fair**

It’s time for all Gold Coast primary and high school students to unleash your inner nutty professor for the Gold Coast Science Fair taking place this year at Varsity College on the 20th and 21st of August.

The Science Fair offers two days of fun with hands-on demonstrations, activities and competitions celebrating the latest scientific techniques, gadgets and discoveries. The Gold Coast Science Fair, run by Gold Coast City Council’s TechGC Division, is open to the whole community. For more information or to be in the running for great prizes in competitions such as the school Battle of the Bands, photography competition, computer build off, and digital engineering marine challenge, please visit the Gold Coast Science Fair website: www.goldcoastcity.com.au/sciencefair

Contact:
Raewyn Wise GCCC TechGC on 0424 778 738
Margot Fraser shac Communications on 0412 696 785

**ZUMBA FITNESS**

Held each Wednesday night in the school hall
5:30 pm - Zumba Toning
6:30 pm - Fitness.
All Welcome to attend.
COST: $10 per class or $15 for two.
For enquiries ph: 0400 192 799
Thank You

As we come to the end of another school term, we would like to thank all parents and volunteers for their help and support of the school. You make our job as staff so much easier through your willingness to give of your time and talents to help the children.

We wish you all a happy and relaxing mid-year break.

See you next term!!