A Letter to the Community

Term 3 has come to a close for 2011 and the class can be very proud of what they’ve achieved throughout the term. We have had a massive 10 weeks with so many extra curricular highlights. These highlights include the Beaudesert Show’s Ag Ed excursion, photography lessons, SEAT visit, Friday cooking, an Arts Council visit, a skipping performance and Raw Art. We have also written and published a book of poems, a narrative for the show, a myth or legend, created superb artwork, produced excellent projects for the show (Year 7), 2 QCATs for the year 6’s, completed our maths units for the term and daily maths mentals, as well as the term’s spelling program with Spelling Conventions and lessons in Science and S.O.S.E. WOW!

Part of this term’s work, as just mentioned, was our entries for the show. Congratulations to all the children in our class who won prizes at the show! We did very well this year again in all categories we entered.

Our class has had a raffle ticket reward system again this term whereby a raffle ticket was given every time a child displayed a positive behaviour etc. The prize for the 2 winners is the same as previous times, this being a trip to the movies and out for lunch with Mrs Watterson. Congratulations to this term’s winners Erin and Mallora. Tori and Blaire are also attending the day with Miss van Bennekom as a reward for receiv-
ing 50 principal stickers on their citizenship certificates. Good work girls!
NAPLAN results were published this week and our class did extremely well. We had no one in our class achieve at below minimum standard which is a remarkable accomplishment. It is really evident that our small group rotations, in term 1, focusing on the different areas tested, were extremely beneficial. Excellent achievement year 7’s!

We can look forward to another action-packed term next term with our Moreton Island camp, swimming, a play to get ready for and perform, Dance Fever, a trip to Eureka, testing, report cards, leadership days and other great learning experiences!

Wishing all the children and their families in our school a happy and safe holiday and we’ll see you in a couple of weeks.

A picture of all the children in our school who won either 1st, 2nd or 3rd with their work in the Beaudesert Show. Of our 54 students, 30 kids won one or more prizes.  

Colleen Benstead & Maryann Watterson

Thought for the Week
Never give up on yourself, even if you think others have.
Anonymous

School Photos

All families requiring school photos, who have not already returned their students’ envelopes will need to contact the photographer personally on 55202999. The school office cannot process orders.

Bike Activities For Friday 16 September
8.45 – 9.30 – Bling Your bike/Scooter  
 Students decorate bikes & scooters.
10.00 – 10.30 – Cycling Safety Chat  
 Presented by cyclists on the tour.
10.30 -11.00 – Morning Tea
11.00 – 12.30 – Cycling/Scootering Obstacle Course- Fun Time Trial
1.30 – 3.00 – Fun Games

Colleen Benstead

Gardening Day
I am putting the call out to anyone else interested in going up to the school one morning in the holidays to do a bit of weeding and mulching of the gardens. Nothing too strenuous. Kids welcome.
When: The first Wednesday, 21st September
Time: 9am – 12pm
Bring: Weeding equipment
Hope to see you there,
Carol Taylor

Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting 13.09.11
Staff and Students
Two new students have enrolled at the school this month, the Holland family have moved here from Broome in WA. Sophie (Year 5) and Alice (Year 7) arrived three weeks ago and have settled in well. We have also had two new students enrol for next year. The Scott family have bought a house in John Street and will be moving in soon. They have moved here from Jimboomba and have two little girls to start here in January – in Year 2 and in Prep. It is heartening to have these new enrolments. Our school will need a few more children to maintain its Band 6 status for Day 8 next year. Our target is to have at least 61 students by Day 8!! (That way we’ll keep our teachers, our teacher aide time and our Principal!!)

Mrs Cullen, our Admin Assistant, has been on long service leave for this term but will be back at work after the spring vacation. We sincerely thank Mrs Todd for relieving in Rosemary’s position while she was away.

Mrs Houston who volunteers in our school office on Tuesdays has been absent in recent weeks due to illness. We all miss her and wish her well and a speedy recovery from her illness. Mrs Houston is also sorely missed as the school’s uniform co-ordinator. She is missed in the school’s tuckshop where she often helps out when extra help is needed. We all hope you get well soon, Marlene.

Next term, Mrs Easton, our school’s PE teacher will be on leave. She’s planning a lovely holiday with her family to New Zealand. In her absence, another PE teacher will be taking her place.

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 probably continue to the end of next term. The Student Council will continue to sell chocolates at every opportunity until all chocolates have been sold. There are still some boxes left. The numbers of chocolates remaining is gradually decreasing, thanks to some of the staff with a sweet tooth!!
With the help of the school’s P&C, the Council are holding a raffle for a set of beautiful Lorraine Lea bed linen. The funds raised will help to subsidise student excursions this year. The Council will continue collecting milk bottle tops from Paul’s milk bottles. Please keep an eye out for special milk bottle tops at the supermarket, and please save and send in those bottle tops to the school. The Student Council has finalised the process of collecting the sponsorship money raised from the walkathon day (held on the last day of term in June) and the money raised will be donated to the Queensland Cancer Fund. The Student Council is presently also supervising the collection of vouchers for sports equipment from Coles. Parents and friends are asked to please send these vouchers along to school so that we can reorder some much-needed sports’ equipment.
We are also collecting Woolworths docket which will earn the school points which will in turn buy us some educational books, toys, games and craft materials from Modern Teaching Aids, a company that sells
educational goods to schools all around Australia.
We offer a big “thank you” to all the parents and community members who have already helped us to collect vouchers, docket’s and bottle tops for the school.

**School Band**
The band regularly practises for weekly school parades. There are no other special band performances planned for this year. However, since there are presently only 3 students under Year 7 in the band we are looking to encourage students now in Years 3, 4 and 5 to consider learning the fife or the drums and joining the band ready for next year, when our school has its centenary celebrations. The band will be a special feature of the program at the centenary.

**School Events**
To celebrate the end of the term and to recognise the state’s ‘Literacy and Numeracy Week’, the school held a special event last Wednesday. Parents and friends of the school were invited to watch a skipping demonstration involving all the students of the school. Three multi-age groups of students had created, practised and presented skipping routines to music. The Year 7’s were responsible for leading this daily fitness activity throughout the term and they were congratulated on the great job they did. Following the skipping demonstration, Ms Bauer, our school’s music teacher led the students in the singing of a whole school song and this was followed by a special morning tea hosted by the Year 7’s. After morning tea, Mrs O., our very talented Learning Support Teacher, ran a short workshop at the Early Learning Centre for parents of young children on how to make the most of reading with children at home. Her tips for making reading better at home were well received. 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. Tomorrow, we will be visited by two ladies from the Education Department with a lot of expertise in how to make the most of the playgroup experience for young 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 has a 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 term, the Years 4/5 and 6/7 classes learned about digital photography through as series of weekly, hourly workshops. Kelly from Blue Bird Photography on Mt Tamborine conducted the workshops with our students on Tuesday afternoons for the past 8 weeks.
The older classes have started their practice for the end-of-year musical this term. This year’s musical is entitled “Kids in Space”. We also hope to stage our school concert in our own hall at the end of this year. Students should already be hum-
ming and singing the songs for this musical around the house. We only have to block one more scene of the play and then just practice, practice and practice it until the end of the year. Parents could help by reminding the students with speaking roles to learn their lines as soon as possible.

The school visited the Beaudesert Show last Friday, 9 September. We were very happy to see that so many of the prizes awarded for each of the categories in the schoolwork section went to Rathdowney State School students. Of the 54 students at the school, 30 received one or more 1st, 2nd, or 3rd places in their classes. This was a fabulous effort from such a small school!! The most remarkable result would be from our Prep and Year 1 students who scooped the pool of all places in their story writing. While on the Show visit, the students participated in the Ag-Ed program, learning more about our local primary industries, through the various workshops held during the day.

The Spinal Education Awareness Team presented a workshop for all students about personal safety and spinal care at school on Monday, 12 September. The talk from a young quadriplegic man in a motorised wheelchair was informative, entertaining and very inspirational. Hopefully, all the students learned some important lessons about personal safety from his talk.

This Friday, the school’s P&C are catering morning tea at Palen Creek (Number4 crossing) for more than 800 cyclists involved in the Cycling Queensland ride from Goondiwindi to Brisbane. Each class at school will be helping by cooking various goodies for the P&C to sell on Friday. Cyclists on the ride will be riding past the school on their way to lunch at the memorial grounds. Mrs Benstead has planned a number of activities for the students at school on the day. These have been written up in the school’s Newsletter. We also hope to have a couple of speakers from Cycling Queensland to speak to the students on Friday.

The school hall and the pool have been subject to some maintenance and repair work which isn’t yet completed. However we are hopeful that the pool will be ready for school swimming lessons at the beginning of next term.

**Staff Inservice**

This term, Mrs Todd has met with senior regional finance personnel to learn more about the school’s new finance system. Mrs Benstead attended a leadership seminar during her period of leave and shared the information she had learned with the school staff at weekly staff meetings. In our weekly staff meetings, Mrs O is continuing to lead discussions on the Developing Performance Plans for Teachers. On the pupil-free day next term we will also spend some time becoming acquainted with the new Australian Curriculum.

It is also part of our task for the remainder of the year to prepare the next 4-year planning cycle for the school.

**Double Helix Holiday Science**

A fun, 3 hour hands-on science experience for children aged 7 to 12, 27 September at Canterbury College, Old Logan Village Road, Waterford.

These holidays come exploring the Earth with Rocks, Minerals and Mining, and dis-
cover the most amazing things about our bodies with DNA Discovery.

Cost: $30 Double Helix Member/ $35 non-member (pre-payment is required to secure your booking).

Times: 2 sessions daily: 8.30am – 12.00pm OR 1.00pm – 4.30pm.

The sessions include a 30 minute break for a snack. Please note: nuts and products containing nuts are banned.

Sessions are limited to 25 children so bookings are essential!

Bookings open on August 22

Please note: children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult

For more information and bookings:
www.csiro.au/events/QLD-Holidays

Reptile Workshop

"See reptiles you may never have seen before, plus some common ones. Learn about their behaviour, ecology and conservation needs. Join in discussions on the keeping of reptiles and on plans for surveys for conservation purposes. Come just for the Sunday or arrive the previous afternoon for full range of activities (bring own food, water and camping gear, or ask Jarrah about cost of hiring tents for the night)

Venue: Bush Adventure Camp at Maroon, near 629 Burnett Creek Rd, Maroon QLD, Australia (see below for directions and the note to drivers, also look up Bush Adventure Camp, Maroon on Google maps)

Main event - 10.30am presentation on Sunday 25th of live reptiles

Cost: Sunday only, $10.00 per adult (to help us cover costs), children of school age free (must be accompanied by parent or other adult guardian)

Coming Saturday afternoon and staying overnight on the property incurs an additional camping fee of $10.00 per adult (for those who want to join in but do not wish to camp, there are a number of accommodation venues within about a half-hour drive, including motels, farmstays, B&Bs and cottages)

Full schedule:

Saturday 3.00pm Welcome, settle in
• 4.00pm set up sand/soil rakings to check for footprints overnight
• 5.30pm dinner
• 6.30pm dusk and nocturnal explorations, and listen for frogs
• 8.00pm discussion on the conservation aspects (positive and negative) of hobby reptile keepers

Sunday (those coming for the day are welcome to join us before breakfast (BYO breakfast), or to arrive 9.00 for the 9.30 discussion or 10.00 for the 10.30am live reptile demonstration)
• 6.30am check tracks left overnight
• 7.30am breakfast
• 8.30am general exploration of property and looking for reptiles and other creatures
• 9.30am discussion on the conservation aspects (positive and negative) of hobby reptile keepers
• 10.30am Martin Fingland with Gecko's live reptile collection
• 12.00 - lunch
• 1.00 Discuss why wildlife monitoring is important, plans for monitoring locations of reptile sightings in the Scenic Rim over the next few years, and collation of records to date
• 3.00pm another walk on the property
• 4.00pm close

How to get there: Burnett Creek Rd. comes off the main road between Rathdowney and Boonah (to the right if coming from Boonah, or to the left if coming from Rathdowney). You will travel about 6.3km from the main road, and see the Maroon Dam on your right as you get close to the driveway (which is on your left), with a large black sign with orange and white writing announcing the Bush Adventure Camp property. You can see a map by going to google maps and searching for "Bush Adventure Camp at Maroon."

A note to drivers: the last few kilometres are on a narrow, winding sealed road, and the driveway into the property takes you over a one kilometre, rather bumpy dirt track through cow paddocks (unless feeling adventurous or in a 4WD, do NOT take the road that leads straight upwards - take the more sensible-looking track (see photos on the website ). Unless there are several days of heavy rain beforehand, the track will be okay for normal vehicles, but if your vehicle has a low undercarriage you may need to watch the track carefully and be prepared to manoeuvre around the roughest patches.

What to bring for the day: food (of a kind that does not need a fridge), water, sensible shoes, long pants, raincoat, sunhat, insect repellent, sunscreen (and you would regret not bringing a camera - both for the reptiles and the rugged mountain scenery)

For campers: bring your own tent or hire one (contact Jarrah

Keenanjarrah@bushadventurecamp.net.au or ph 5463 6106 for cost of tent hire in addition to the $10 camping fee), or just bring a mattress and sleeping bag and bunk down on the floor of the large shed, also bring own towel. Bring warm clothing for evening and early morning.

For further details contact Ronda Green, scenicrim@wildlife.org.au or 5544 1283 (or Jarrah as above)

Dione Green

**Sewing**

Alterations, Repairs
Curtains & Clothes
Call Kymberly Griffiths
5544 1230

**GIVE AWAY Dog**
Kelpie X Male black in colour, Micro-chipped
12mths old
Please ring: 0419678046
School Thanks!

The staff of Rathdowney School would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and volunteers for their support throughout term three.

We wish all families a safe and happy holiday and hope to see you all looking refreshed when back with us again next term.

Thanks again!!

from

The staff at Rathdowney State School