We advise that the 2014 crushing season is expected to commence in the second half of June. The start date will be finalised pending the estimate for the crop. However, it is expected that cane rail operations will begin around 12 June 2014 from the Smithfield area in the north to Babinda in the south.

Unsafe practices include children playing on cane railway property, fishing on cane railway bridges, joy-riding on cane bins or riding trail-bikes along the cane railway. As you will appreciate, all these practices are extremely dangerous and your assistance in keeping children away from the cane railway line could prevent a serious injury. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Problem solving strategies for Parents & Teachers

General tips:

- Let teachers know from the outset that you respect them as professionals who have your child’s best interests at heart.
- Even if you find that you and a teacher disagree, be sure not to criticise the teacher within earshot of your child.
- When you sit down with a teacher to discuss a problem, it’s important to stay focused on your goal: finding a solution.
- Don’t get side tracked by looking for someone to blame – the teacher, yourself, your child or even another child.
- Try to understand the situation in as much detail as time permits.

“Watch Out – Cane Trains About”

Starting to think about school holiday activities?

Check out www.cairnskidsactivities.com.au for activities and a comprehensive events calendar for the whole family.

This website lists activities and events for kids and families in the Cairns area. Our motto is “keeping our kids inspired and active”.

School Photo Day

NQ School Photography will be taking our school photographs this year on Thursday 19th June. Envelopes will be sent home and must be returned on photo day. Each child must have their own envelope, payments can be made together but please mark clearly which envelope the money is in. Sibling photos are also available and will be taken if ordered. Sibling envelopes and order forms will be made available at the school office.

We also have our order forms available online at nqschoolphotography.com.au for parents who need extra copies.

Special Group photos e.g.: School Captains, Choir etc. can be ordered and are $12 each.

Looking forward to seeing all of those smiles.

Regards,
NQSP Team

I HAVE READ MY NEWSLETTER!

Would you like the chance to win a free tuckshop for your child? Simply complete the form below, and hand it into the office no later than next Friday morning. The winner will be announced on parade.

WEEK 5, Term 2, 2014 Congratulations Mailina Prep 1 who was the winner of this week’s free tuckshop.

The family (name) ___________________________ has read the newsletter this week!

Parent signature: __________________________________________

Date Claimers

Thu 19 Jun School Photo Day
Fri 20 Jun Athletics Carnival
Fri 20 Jun RSPCA School Visit
Fri 20 Jun Y6/7 Senior Camp
Fri 20 Jun End of Term 2
Fri 27 Jun Operation Clean-Up
Mon 14 Jul Beginning of Term 3

Residential Address
418 Mulgrave Road
Westcourt QLD 4870

Postal Address
PO Box 266M
Marunda QLD 4870

Email
admin@balaclavas.eq.edu.au

Website
www.balaclavas.eq.edu.au

Phone Numbers
School - 40815333
Fax - 4081 5300
Tuck Shop - 4081 5312

After School Care - 4054 5911
C&K Kindergarten - 4033 5192

Dental Clinic - 4054 1677
(QLD Health)

Principal’s Pen

Dear parents and caregivers,

We are now past the half way mark for this term, with next half looking to be as busy as the first. Thanks you to the parents and families who have supported us so far this term, kept the communication channels open and have helped out with school activities. Working together makes difference to your child.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

There have been a number of instances recently where we have been unable to contact parents/caregivers. If you have changed your phone number, address or any other details, please notify the office. It is important in the event of an emergency that we are able to contact you.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013

It’s time for the Premier’s Reading Challenge again in 2014 and students in all classes are invited to take part in the challenge. The challenge runs from the end of May until 6th September. Children from Prep to Year 2 need to read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 are challenged to read 20 books and Years 5 to 7 are challenged to read 15 books. Every child who meets the challenge will receive a certificate signed by the Premier to recognise their achievement. Students can obtain a record sheet from their teacher to keep track of the books they have read. When the students have read the required number of books they can hand in their completed sheet signed by their class teacher. All children are encouraged to participate. Towards the end of the challenge, students who have handed in a completed sheet will be in the running for a treat.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

To Family and Friends

In the coming weeks our Athletic Carnival events will begin. The first day that you need to remember is our Trial Day which will be held on Friday 6th June from 12:30 – 2:30pm. This session is for the Year 4-7 to compete in their age group and house colour in the events of long jump, high jump and shot put. The top four students for each age group and house colour will compete in our Athletics Carnival against other students in their age group.

The next day is our 800m finals and 200m heats, which will be held on Friday 13th June in the afternoon session. Only students born in 2004, 2003, and 2002 will be able to compete. Students do not have to compete in the 800m and 200m events, it’s only if they want to.

Our Athletics Carnival is Friday 20th June where all students from Prep to 7 will participate in events including sprints, long jump, high jump and ball games. Please come and support students participating in the Athletics Carnival on Friday 20th June at Balacalla SS. The day will commence at 8:45am.
**Principal’s Pen continued….**

It is important to note that all students must be wearing enclosed shoes, if they are not wearing enclosed shoes they will not be able to participate on the day.

All students will be involved in activities until around 2pm, then we will have a presentation and clean up the school. The tuckshop will be open for everyone to purchase foods and drinks. This day is a great day for all families and friends to become involved in the school community. It will be a day of fun and games and we hope to see you all there.

Kate Movley (Physical Education Teacher)

**FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER**

These tips may be useful if you feel that your child is spending too much time in front of a screen. Remember that you are the adult and you can turn off the screen or confiscate/ remove the Xbox/ computer/iPad etc if your child does not co-operate.

**Internet Addiction or Video Gaming Addiction**

The 5 tell-tale signs of online gaming addiction:

1. Preoccupation with gaming and hiding gaming use
2. Social withdrawal or isolation
3. Disengagement from school life
4. Loss of interest in other activities
5. Defensiveness and anger

**Tips on how to help young people with a gaming addiction**

1. Parent tag team: it is important that both parents take the addiction seriously and back each other up. They must approach their child together so that the child knows they cannot divide and conquer their parents by playing one off against the other in an effort cover up their addiction, appealing to the weaker parent for support only enables the child to continue and to some extent hide their game playing from the other parent.

2. Encourage educational games: there are plenty of games that have an education base, encourage a child to play these instead of violent online games. There are also websites that engage players with other players from around the world to see who can complete educational tasks, like maths problems, the quickest. The games can give the player the same sense of empowerment, satisfaction and achievement as online commercial games.

3. Set time limits: parents need to establish clear time limits with a child. Enter into a contract if necessary. Sit down with the child and involve them in the decision making process, they are more likely to adhere to the boundaries set.

4. Look for the school connection: is a child turning to online games because they are not doing well at school? It is hard to tell if the poor marks or the online games. Not performing well at school impacts a child’s self-esteem. They may retreat more into the game to cope with negative feelings about themselves. At least in the virtual world they can control things. Try to encourage their studies and find out if they are finding any areas difficult.

**WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL**

Thank you to the parents and students who laced up and walked to school in the rain last Friday. It was a very wet day but the activity was still very well attended.

**BREAKFAST READING PROGRAM**

Congratulations to the students who have already received their first McDonald’s voucher. Thanks you to the parents who come and lend a hand during these busy mornings. The breakfast program runs twice a week on Mondays and Thursday at 8 am-8:25 am. Parents and caregivers are welcome to come along and read with their child or other children.

**DON’T BE AWAY, COME EVERY DAY**

Remember that “Every day counts.” If your child is going to absent, please notify the school office on 40815333. Thank you for helping your child to learn.

**P&C MEETING- ALL WELCOME**

The next meeting on the 17th June at 5:15 in the school office. All parents are welcome to join the meetings, to share ideas, concerns, or simply to find out what is going on in our school. If you are interested in coming along, you can simply let Jo at the tuckshop know or even let the office know.

**PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2015**

Please help us plan our staffing; 20 Children born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010 are eligible to enrol for Prep here at Balalava State School for NEXT YEAR. Birth certificates must be presented upon enrolment. Enquiries are most welcome on (07) 40815333.

**USING REWARDS TO CHANGE BEHAVIOUR**

A reward is a consequence of good behaviour. It’s a way of saying ‘well done’ after your child has done something good or behaved well. It could be a treat, a surprise or an extra privilege. Rewards can make your praise and encouragement more effective in encouraging good behaviour. Most behaviour is influenced by the consequences that follow it, so when you reward your child’s behaviour, the behaviour is more likely to happen again in the future. Sometimes it’s easier to criticise than it is to compliment. Bad behaviour is more obvious than good behaviour – you’re much more likely to notice your child is yelling than you are to notice when your child is quietly reading a book. Try to pay attention to the good behaviour, too!

**WHAT’S COMING UP?**

**June**

13th: Athletics Trial Afternoon
20th: 800m race & 200m trials
17th: P&C meeting
19th: Whole school photo day
20th: Athletics carnival
24th: RSPCA – school visit and presentation to classes
24-27 Year 6/7 camp.

**July**

3rd: Operation Pride – Mooroobool clean-up day
More to follow...

Jane Termaat
Principal

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The ANZAC story shows us how important it was and still is to do our very best for our country Australia and to fight for what we believe is right. The story tells us that we must always be loyal to our country, and to our friends, no matter what the cost and to do everything as well as we possibly can. The example of the men of ANZAC and later generations of Australian service men and women should inspire us today. Those men and women believed in mateship, of helping out a mate or a friend, they were determined and courageous people.

ANZAC Day is not about talking of war and fighting as something fantastic. It is a reminder that war is horrible and while we should be proud of what the ANZAC’s and other Australian soldiers have done, we should always remember there are never any winners in wars. Every ANZAC Day, we should remember all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force.

Our School Captains present some of the commemorative wreaths.