AUGUST
22  Book Week Parade
28  School Disco

OCTOBER
31  Free Dress Day & Icy Cups

Date Claimers

Spotlight
2015 PREP
ENROL NOW
Phone 49594333

Queensland School
Term dates 2015
Term 1 - 27 January - 2 April
Term 2 - 20 April - 26 June
Term 3—13 July - 18 September
Term 4 - 6 October - 11 December

General Information
Office Hours  8am—3.30pm
Parade Every Friday at 8.50am
Newsletter every 2nd Thursday
PCYC After School Care 4942 3296
Absence Line:  4959 4366

Walkerton State School P&C Presents:
COUNTRY STYLE SCHOOL DISCO
Come country dressed to impress
(Raising funds for Buy-A-Bale)
THURSDAY AUGUST 28
6.00 PM - 9.00 PM
BASKETBALL COURT
(UNDERCOVER AREA)

Walkerton State School
21 AUGUST 2014

McColl Street, Walkerston 4751 • Telephone (07) 4959 4333 • Fax (07) 4959 3111
E-mail admin@walkerstonss.eq.edu.au • Web http://walkerstonss.eq.edu.au

Junior Band

On Sunday 17th August, our Junior Concert Band performed at the Mackay Orchestra and Bands competition. They performed 3 pieces, ‘Merrily We Roll Along’, ‘Farm Out’ and ‘March of the Romans’. The adjudicator said they played very well for their first ever performance and received a silver placing. Well done Junior Band.

LOST PROPERTY
Could all parents please drop in to check lost property before it is cleared and the remainder given to a charity second hand store?

There are especially a large amount of lunch boxes.
Principal’s Report

(A) teacher will have, at some stage in our early school life, taught us how to decode language into sound symbol relationship and fit that understanding into the world. That is called learning to read. That same teacher will likely have taught us how to build up from those very same sound symbol relationships through word level, clause level, sentence level to text level and compose a text we might be proud to publish or share. This is called learning to write.

Robyn Cox, “NAPLAN tests tell us nothing about the art of writing”, Sydney Morning Herald, August 19th 2014

In this newsletter’s Principal’s Report I will be focussing on our current work in improving our students’ literacy and numeracy, and reporting on how this improvement was evident in our recently released NAPLAN results. The above quote, and the article it is taken from, neatly states what we as a whole school have been doing recently in clarifying what reading at Walkerston State School is. Robyn Cox is president of the Primary English Teaching Association of Australia. As might be guessed by the article’s headline, she was writing in response to news reports that, across the nation and all year levels, the writing result for this year’s NAPLAN tests had dropped. We certainly found evidence of that in our results, and I’ll expand both that and what are remarkable set of NAPLAN results below.

But first, the part that caught my eye with the above quote was the clear statement of the key work that primary school teachers initially do in teaching students to decode language into sound symbol relationships, and the link that has with the later development of writing. At Walkerston State School, we refer to this as Phonological Awareness and Phonics. In my last Principal’s Report, I noted how these form the initial two components of our ‘Reading Big Five’.

A number of parents took the offer up of free childcare and so were able to engage in worthwhile conversations with teachers to not only find out what we are doing, but also, hopefully, pick up some useful tips on what could also be done at home. Thank you to all parents who did attend, our P&C for putting on coffee, tea and biscuits, and for all of the staff who gave up their free time to prepare for the event and talk with parents.
This Monday, our NAPLAN results were released. Here, I’ll share with you some key points from the results:

1. **The average results we achieved in the NAPLAN exams has never been better**

   NAPLAN tests students’ capabilities in five areas: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. Three year levels are tested, Years 3, 5 and 7. So when we look at how the school has performed overall, we’re looking at the results of fifteen exams. The Mean for each of these exams is calculated, and then we can get an idea of how, on average, our school has gone relative to the nation and Queensland. For example, our Year 3 Reading Mean was 415.1, while the national mean for this exam was 418.6, ie, they are similar. If we compare how many times our results are similar to the national average over the past five years, we get the following graph:

   ![Mean Results Similar to Nation](image)

   Since the NAPLAN exam’s inception, this is the best set of Mean results we have achieved.

2. **We’ve never had more students in the Upper Two Bands**

   Upper Two Bands are the NAPLAN equivalent of getting As and Bs. In ten of the fifteen exams, we achieved the greatest percentage of students in these two bands that we’ve ever had. For example, last year, we had 27.7% of our Year 7s in the top two bands for Grammar and Punctuation. This year this result increased to 34.6%. Incidentally, the percentage of students nationally in the top two bands for this exam was 26.5% last year and 29.8% this year – demonstrating that at times, our top students can beat the national average. The exams in which we recorded the highest percentage of students in the top two bands is presented below:

   ![Table of Results](image)

   Where ✓ = highest percentage of students in Upper Two Bands
3. Our students are improving at a greater rate than they were expected to

Schools are given benchmarks by which students are meant to improve over two years. These benchmarks are meant to be somewhat ambitious, but also a fair measure of how a group of students is expected to improve over time. For example, in moving from Year 3 to Year 5, a school’s average Numeracy result is expected to improve by 90 points. This year, our Year 5s’ average improvement was 113, a 26 point difference! Here is how our Year 5 and 7 students performed compared to the average improvement they were expected to show:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predicted improvement benchmark going from Year 3 to Year 5</th>
<th>Predicted improvement benchmark going from Year 5 to Year 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>Benchmark</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interestingly, these results also gives support to the idea that the Writing result this year was ‘off’ in some way. In both cases, Writing was the only exam in which our students weren’t able to meet the predicted rate of improvement expected of them. This is something of a shame too, as I know that practising for the writing exam – writing in different genres; improving the quality of paragraphs; looking at different ways to organise ideas when preparing to write on demand, were the skills that teachers spent most time in class preparing their students for.

Well done staff past and present

By any measure, these are results that we as a school community can take pride in. Largely, this is the outcome of the hard work that staff have been doing, preparing students through both English and Maths lessons based on the Australian Curriculum, and specific, targeted NAPLAN preparation lessons. Though not here to receive the credit, we should recognise that these results have come about due to the decisions and actions taken by our two previous principals, Christine Wilson and Phil Wilson. It was in fact Christine who worked with staff to introduce and implement the WAVE reading program in 2010, and our current Year 7s are the first group to have completed three NAPLAN exams in that time. The WAVE program has definitely helped contribute to the 34 point gap between how much the 7s’ Reading have improved and how much they were predicted to improve by.

We can celebrate this now, but also be mindful that success now doesn’t guarantee success in the future. As the first graph shows, results can go up and down over time.

Also, the NAPLAN results indicate that we have actually failed to meet one of our Great Result Guarantee targets. One of our targets was to have 25% of students in Years 3 and 5 reach the Upper Two Bands for Numeracy. Unfortunately one of the year levels didn’t achieve this, and we’ll be working on an intervention and support program with the students who just missed out on getting into the top two bands during the remainder of this year. We’ll be taking a close look at which questions they missed getting right, and focussing on the mathematical principles underpinning these questions during our CAMS/STAMS lessons. I will be reporting to you on their progress as the year ends.

It is topical that one area in which we need to improve to meet our Great Results Guarantee is in the area of Maths. So I will end this report by putting in a plug here for our next Parent Information afternoon, which will be about Maths. This information session will be on Wednesday September 3rd, starting at 3pm. For any parent who has seen the work that their children are doing at school and thought, ‘Maths has changed since when I was at school’, we want to give you a clear idea of what we are teaching, and why. We would also like to share with you some tips about how you can encourage your children to enjoy working with numbers at home.
**Student of the Week Awards for Term 3 — Weeks 3 & 4**

**Prep A**
- Dayna Craig for always trying her very best and for an amazing effort with her handwriting.
- Lyla Proctor for absolutely AMAZING story writing!
- Riley Miegan for absolutely AMAZING story writing!
- Lilah Noy for working hard to make great progress with her reading and sight words!
- Zara Southwell for working hard to make great progress with her reading and sight words!

**Prep B**
- Chloe Hemley for trying really hard in class with her sentence writing.

**Prep C**
- Elia Ruddell for working well in class and showing improvement with her reading. Keep up the good work Ella!
- Brodie Hermann for trying his best in class. Keep up the great work Brodie.

**Class 1A**
- Tristan Harris for being a wonderfully hardworking student who always tries his best! FANTASTIC JOB, Tristan!!
- Noah Williams for being a wonderful class helper. Thank you!

**Class 1B**
- Maddison Lote for making a big effort to complete work in set time. Well done Maddison!
- Emily Glover for putting in a lot of effort with her writing.
- Jack Newman for showing more effort in the completion of written activities. Keep it up Jack!

**Class 2A**
- Lincoln Eller for placing effort in Maths activities.
- Leilani Schafferius for settling in well to her new school and trying hard at all class activities.

**Class 2B**
- Jeremiah Goodchild for trying hard to become a more productive writer this semester.
- Joydyn Maszczak for always being a helpful and polite classroom member.
- Lily Hansen for trying your hardest to be a better writer. Keep up the great work Lilly.

**Class 3A**
- Bali Morrison-Ghee—You a Super Star! I am so impressed how you have been contributing to discussions in class.
- Jazmyn Neilson—I love how you are listening to instructions and working quietly. You are fabulous. Oohlala!
- Rudy Whittington for writing a GREAT recount in English. Keep working hard Rudy!
- Corey Blackburn - Wow Corey! I am overjoyed with your brilliant attitude and bustling work habits. You are a Star!
- Alyssa Germanotta for You are a writing legend! I am so impressed with your stupendous noun groups. Double Oohlala!

**Class 3B**
- Alysha Brett for showing great enthusiasm towards learning and always putting her best effort into classroom activities.
- Sommer Ruddell for always working EXCEPTIONALLY hard and being a role-model student. Well done Sommer!!

**Class 4A**
- Sam Battaia for taking an interest in all areas of his school work.
- Kyle Herrigan for showing an enthusiasm towards seeing and hearing his STRIVE words in the world around him.

**Class 4B**
- Layla Practor for an enthusiastic attitude and excellent effort in her recount writing.
- Bailey Palmer for putting a great effort into his role play speaking presentation.

**Class 5A**
- Nadia Maritz for wonderful peer tutoring within our class. Keep up the great work, Nadia!
- Belicia Ritchie for following class and school rules carefully and for setting a great example for her classmates.
- Dylan Practor for always paying attention to detail and working well in class. Keep up the great work Dylan!

**Class 67B**
- Gabrielle Dhu for consistently displaying impeccable book work. Congratulations—you have received your pen licence.
- Jordyn Valentine for consistently displaying impeccable book work. Congratulations—you have received your pen licence.
- Ashton Scriha for exceptional work and achievement in Maths. Well done!
- Lucy Baulch for always having a positive and positive attitude in the class.
- Darcy McIntosh for making positive choices about his learning.

**Class 7A**
- Georgia Frerichs for working enthusiastically in all subject areas.
- Jye Barker for improved focus in class and working hard to complete his work.
**P&C News**

**School Fair**
The P&C Association would like to give a hearty thanks to everyone who made the annual Walkerston State School Fair such a resounding success. A very special mention to Tracey Kucks for organising the Fair once again this year. We managed to raise a little over $8000 for the P&C. This will go a long way towards funding improvements and other projects at the school for the benefit of all students.

**Father's Day Stall/Raffle**
Our Father's Day stall will be held next week.
Items will sell for between $1 and $10.
We also have a HUGE multi-draw raffle with some really amazing prizes.
Tickets for the raffle will be sent home by next Monday. Please return all ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets to the office by Wednesday, September 3rd (the Wednesday before Father's Day)
There will be great prizes for the seller of the First Prize ticket as well as the person who sells the most tickets, so start selling!

**Disco**
The next disco will be on Thursday August 28 from 6 -8pm. All money raised will go towards Buy-A-Bale to assist farmers in drought stricken areas to buy feed for their stock. Keep an eye out for a flyer coming home soon!

**Free Dress Day & Icy Cups**
Friday October 31. Wear blue & yellow in support of the CQ Rescue Helicopter. More information to come closer to the date.

**Next P&C Meetings**
Friday September 12, Friday October 24, Friday November 21
All meetings commence at 1pm in the meeting room in the Hall. All parents and interested community members are encouraged to attend.

**DATE CLAIMER – TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2014 — Walkerston State School Melbourne Cup Luncheon**
The Duke Hotel from 10.30am, sweeps, lucky door prizes, raffles, mini cent sale, prizes for best hat and best dressed. Start getting your friends together for a great day of fun. More details to follow.

**Ideas, suggestions etc**
Do you have an idea of how we can do something better? A fundraising suggestion, perhaps or would you just like to contact the P&C? Please submit your suggestions or items for the consideration of the P&C in writing. This can be done by dropping a letter into the P&C box in the foyer or by sending us an email to walkerstonpandc@gmail.com . And you can keep up with what’s going on by liking our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/WalkerstonSS.PandC

Nikki McWhinney
Secretary Walkerston SS P&C

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**HEARING AWARENESS WEEK**

**Official Launch and Services Expo**
You are invited to the official launch of Hearing Awareness Week in Mackay by **Cr Deirdre Comerford, Mayor of Mackay.**
Experience performances from **Northview Signing Choir**, and listen to inspiring stories of special guest, **Maree Stead**.
Stay after the launch to explore the range of services, programs, products and facilities available in the Mackay area to support people who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, their families and their carers.
**Tuesday, 26 August from 10am to 2pm**
Mackay Children & Family Centre, Celeber Drive, Andergrove
To find out more about this FREE event, contact Eunice Donovan at Mackay Regional Council on 1300 622 529.

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**SENSORY MOVIE DAY**

**14th September at 2pm**
Tickets are $8 each
Companion ID Accepted
Children 2 years and under are free
Birch Carroll & Coyle Mackay North Cinemas
Grandview Drive, North Mackay
For more information, email or call Katie at: sensorymovieday.mackay@hotmail.com
0400 843 127
FOR UPDATES, LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
SENSORY MOVIE DAY MACKAY
Is your child eligible for Kindy but not attending because of cost?

QKFS Plus Kindy Support is a new funding scheme to reduce costs for families.

QKFS Plus Kindy Support replaces the Health Care Card and multiple births subsidies and extends support to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

To be eligible for QKFS Plus Kindy Support a family must either:

* hold a current Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Card or Australian Government Pension Concession card with automatic Health Care Card entitlements, OR
* identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (or have a child who does), OR
* have three or more children, of the same age, enrolled in the same year.

QKFS Plus Kindy Support will be provided directly to services to help reduce out-of-pocket expenses for eligible families.

Please contact your local Kindy to talk about your costs for enrolling your child.

Grant Webb
Director
Department of Education and Training
Phone: 07 48 428305
Mobile: 0409623115

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When Can My Child Attend Kindergarten?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Born</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012</td>
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<td>1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013</td>
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