It’s hard to believe we’re already at the end of Week 3! Classes have settled in nicely, and I’ve had a few children already coming to my office to show me their excellent work in writing. Seeing the evidence of the good work of your children is pleasing as my main priority at the school is to ensure good progress for the children. One way in which I hope to achieve this is to improve attendance. There are lots of reasons that good attendance is important. One reason is that by establishing the routine of dropping the children at their class before 8:50 and leaving them to start the day helps them to settle and overcome any difficulties in separating from parents for the day. Another reason is that missing a day, going home early or arriving late can be disruptive for the child themselves, as they miss out on what the other’s have learned and need to catch up. The main reason good attendance is important, though, is that we can’t teach a child if they aren’t here!

Organising holidays during term time should be avoided. If you feel that it is unavoidable, please come and talk to me about your plans, so we can do what we can to minimise the impact of time out of school on your child’s learning.

A day off here and there may not seem like a big issue, but they can quickly add up to a large chunk of learning time being missed. Later in the term, I will be holding some attendance workshops with parents to look at ways of improving children’s attendance.

Last year, average attendance across the school was 92.4%, which is considered to be quite low. Our current attendance is up to 95.2%, which is excellent! Your help in keeping our attendance rate high is greatly appreciated.

Parking and Drop Off

I’m sure I’m not telling you anything you don’t already know when I tell you that parking around the school is hard to come by! This has led to the small public car park on Bridge Street being very busy at the start and end of the school day. I will be discussing some ideas to address this with the P&C at their AGM on Friday, February 20 at 1:00pm in the school hall. If you’re affected by the parking near the school, or have some ideas about what we could do about it, please feel free to attend the meeting, or email in any suggestions. In the meantime, there are a few things we could do to help keep our children and families safe:

- Consider walking or cycling with your children to school if you live nearby. Then, you don’t need to find a park, and it frees up a space for someone who lives further away.
- If you do need to drive to school, be very careful both when entering the Bridge Street car park and when reversing into the angle parks there. With so many families and small children using that area, we want to make sure any incidents are avoided.

Australia, The Story Of Us

It’s not often I’ll be advocating that children watch more TV, but on Sunday night, there is an historical series starting called, “Australia, The Story Of Us”. It’s being billed as a documentary, which uses CGI effects to bring history to life for the children. It is rated as PG, so might be suitable for children in Years 4 and up with your supervision. As there are always elements of any country’s history which are open to interpretation, watching the programme with
your children will give you the chance to talk to them about alternative points of view. This programme is also likely to tie in with work the school will be doing around the ANZAC centenary later on in the term.

For those children who may be a little more competitive, Channel 7 are having an online, nation-wide competition based on the series. The top prize is $10,000 for the school. Check out the website if this is something you and your children might like to try together: au.tv.yahoo.com/the-story-of-us

Contact Details
It’s important that we have the most up-to-date contact details and medical information for all our school families in case of an emergency. If you think our information may be out of date, please pop in or email us to let us know your current details.

Email Only Notifications
Thanks so much to everyone who’s signed up to receive notifications by email. I’ve had good feedback from the scheme so far, and already we have saved the school $25. That may not sound like a lot, but it’s only week 3, and every cent we save on paper copies can be put towards resources for the children.

Student Leaders
I met recently with our school captains, and they had some excellent ideas about what goals they would like us to achieve for the children. We will shortly be organising some house captains, who will help use to achieve our school vision.

Volunteers
Though it’s still early in the school year, we already have a number of people who have volunteered their time to help out the teachers and children. If you would also like to volunteer, or know someone who might, please feel free to pop in and see what needs to be done. I will hold a brief, 10 minute induction for all volunteers and people interested in joining the P&C to talk about working in schools, so if you volunteer and haven’t had your induction yet, please pop in and see me.

Collection Arrangements
Thanks to all parents for cooperating with our signing in and signing out arrangements. This helps us to know where people are to keep our visitors safe, but also to protect our children. In a similar vein, if you are unable to collect your child as usual after school and need someone else to do it for you, such as a friend of the family or a neighbour, please let the office know, as we are unable to release children to adults who do not normally collect the children unless we have had confirmation from you.

CHAPLAINCY NEWS
Thankyou to all who bought tickets and supported The Pioneer Valley Combined Chaplaincy Service.

The winners are 1st Prize – Gemma Hamelink, 2nd Prize – M Ziebarth, 3rd Prize - Sara Spillman.

We would also like to thank the following generous local Businesses who donated prizes.

Raw Fitness 24/7, The Duke Hotel, Walkerston Fuel, Valley Vet Surgery, Marian Massage Centre, Pioneer Chiropractic, Barber Jo's, Beauty Licious, Walkerston Country Meats, Tina's Takeaway, Walkerston Lucky Takeaway, Walkerston Chemist, Andrea Pinkard - Avon Representative

Your Child will have received the chaplaincy consent form. Please complete and return these to your child’s class teacher or the office. This is a permission slip for your child to come and see me, if they need to, in an initial one on one meeting.

Breakfast Club is on every morning from 8.15am and we stop serving at 8.40am so the students are ready to start the school day on time. We serve cereal, toast, fruit and juice. I would like to thank Walkerston Bakery, Woolworths Walkerston and Kellogg’s for supplying all of our breakfast needs. Also to the Walkerston Rotary Club who recently donated funds for the purchase of a conveyor toaster. If anyone has fruit donations, please bring them to the hall in the mornings or leave them at the office. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who help at Breakfast Club. Remember all are welcome at Breakfast Club and parents and teachers are invited to pop in and say hello. We are always looking for helpers, so if you have a spare few minutes, please come and give us a hand.

Should you wish to support the chaplaincy programme financially, you can drop donations in the tin at the office or contact me if you would like to donate on a more regular basis.

Remember, I am available every Monday and Wednesday from 8am until 3pm. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday you will find me at the hall between 8 and 9. If you can’t find me, please ask at the office and they will assist you.

Hope we all have a splendid year working together to make our school even better.

Chappy A
Cross Country Training has now started. All permissions slips are due back if you wish your child to participate. Training is every Tuesday and Thursday on the School oval from 8.10am to 8.40am. Students are required to wear a hat, appropriate footwear and an appropriate sun safe shirt to train in so that they can then change into their school shirt at 8.30am for class.

Seeking Expressions of Interest for 10 and 11 year old girls who may be interested in joining a School Netball Team to compete in the Mackay Netball Competition. Please leave your details with the School office by Wednesday the 18th of February.

Student of the Week Awards for Term 1 — Weeks 1 & Week 2

**Class PA**
- **Jade Williams**—For being a kind and caring classmate who helps others when they need a friend.

**Class 1A**
- **Autumn Matsen**—For an excellent start to Grade 1. Keep up the great work!
- **Byron Knight**—For always working quietly and having a positive attitude.

**Class 1B**
- **Brody Galea**—For having an excellent start to the year and always using beautiful manners. Fantastic work Brody!
- **Chloe Parker**—For great contribution to our Science discussions. Excellent work Chloe!

**Class 1/3C**
- **Max Mole**—For working hard to reach his writing goals. Fantastic!

**Class 2A**
- **Charli Bostock**—For working conscientiously on all class activities. Good start, Charli!

**Class 2B**
- **Paige Larsen**—For putting in a sensational effort in all subject areas.

**Class 3A**
- **Ella Platffuss**—Working hard to improve writing.

**Class 4A**
- **Emily Austin**—For being an extremely organised and responsible student. Thank you!
- **Corey Muir**—For an excellent start to the school year. Well done, Corey!

**Class 4B**
- **Jack Galea**—For always completing his work to a high standard and upholding school rules at all times. You Rock!

**Class 5A**
- **Brodie McCowat**—For consistently working very hard and showing great organisation. Keep up the great work, Brodie!
- **Mason Finn**—For always being an active participant in our lesson. Keep up the great work, Mason!

**Class 6A**
- **Amber Glover**—Working really hard in class. Great effort Amber!
- **Jessika Bath**—For being a helpful and caring student.

**Tuckshop Assistant**

Walkerston State School P&C Association is seeking applicants for the above casual position.

Must be energetic, well-organised and able to work as part of a team. Should enjoy interacting with staff, parent volunteers and students.

Tuckshop currently operates on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Approx hours per week - 8 @ $22.01 per hour – worked over the 3 day period, to be confirmed at interview.

Applicants should provide a full CV and contact details of three referees.

For application details and a role description, please email request to walkerstonpandc@gmail.com Closing date for applications: Thursday 26th February 2015.

Applications to: P&C Executive, PO Box 281, Walkerston Qld 4751 or above email.

Please note: In accordance with new Child Protection legislation all people seeking child-related employment are required to complete a Working with Children Check clearance prior to employment.
Dear Parents,

The School Dental Service is now offering services to students enrolled at your school.

Medical/Consent forms will be sent home and need to be fully completed and returned to the school office by: 13th February, 2015

The van will be visiting the school to do check ups and treatment will be completed at the Walkerston Primary School in Van 12 B

Further enquiries please phone 0412 680 635  Van 12B

For further information on this service, please visit our website: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/services/school.asp

Proudly supporting Walkerston State School

Mark Daniel 0400 257 229
Your Local Partner for Success’