Date Claimers

February
- 27 Life Education—Let’s Talk
About It, Year 5 & 6
- 28 School Photo Day—MSP
- 30 Gymnastics Exc P,1, 2A & 2B
- 31 Fun Run

March
- 19-20 Choral Festival
- 24 Cross Country
- 28 School Photo Day—MSP
- 30 Gymnastics Exc P,1, 2A & 2B

April
- 14 Public Holiday Good Friday
- 17 Public Holiday Easter Monday
- 18 First Day Term 2

Spotlight

Dental forms are now overdue. Please return asap if not already.

Parade is on Monday at 8.50am. All Welcome!

Like our Facebook page to stay up to date.

Did you know you can read the Newsletter from the QSchool app?

General Information

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

Principal’s Report—Mr J Feeney

It's difficult to believe that we’re almost half-way through our first term already! And I’d like to thank parents and families for their efforts at getting children in to school every day. Our core business is putting the learning first for every child, every day, and all our professional learning is around finding more and more effective ways of doing that. All the work the staff at Walkerston are doing to improve the learning of your children obviously has no effect if the children are not here; fortunately, most of the children are here! Our attendance rate so far is this year is 96%, which is fantastic. More than 200 children have attend every single school day, which is quite a feat. In the next week or so, I’ll be making contact with parents via email to let you know how your child’s attendance is shaping up this year, though it is early days.

You can also get access to attendance (and lots of other!) information through the QParents App. If you haven’t registered yet, please do come and speak to the office about it. It’s a great way to streamline communication with the school, and we recommend it to all parents.

And, in the interests of streamlining communication, we will be starting to email out information to all parents for whom we have an email address instead of providing paper copies. This will not only help out our budget, but is also, in my view, a more reliable method of communication. I do understand, though, that some people would prefer to continue to receive paper newsletters etc. If you would prefer a paper copy, please let the office know, and we will arrange that for you.

We will be celebrating HPE Week next week to encourage health lifestyles as part of our focus on student wellbeing. The children will have an opportunity to participate in a different activity each day at lunchtimes. I look forward to seeing and publishing some of the photos of the events!

The weather at the beginning of this week was decidedly hotter than we would have liked, which was further complicated at our school due to the air conditioners which broke down. Our air conditioners were provided under the Cool Schools program some time ago, and we will be replacing the older units as part of our building program this year. In the meantime, we are able to provide air-conditioned spaces for all children when the weather heats up, and we’re working closely with regional office to have the broken units repaired as soon as possible.

To keep up-to-date with what’s going on at Walkerston State School, do follow our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/walkerstonss](http://www.facebook.com/walkerstonss)). On the page, I’ll post any information which is important for you to know. Our feed is also reproduced on our school website ([walkerstonss.eq.edu.au](http://walkerstonss.eq.edu.au)). If you haven’t already given us permission to publish photos of the children on our Facebook page, please consider doing so. We won’t publish photos of children with their names (it would be one or the other), and we’d like to celebrate all those children who are putting their learning first everyday by publishing photos of our Students of the Week.

In line with guidance from DET, we offer Religious Instruction to all children other than Prep. Not all parents want their children to participate in Religious Instruction, and in the past, we have asked parents to ‘opt out’ of RI if they choose to do so. In line with more recent guidance from DET, we will now be offering children whose parents have recorded Christian as their religion participation. Anyone who has recorded any other religion, or have left that section of the form blank, will be taken from the class rooms and alternate educational activities provided. If this applies to you and your children, you will soon receive a letter from us, which you will need to sign to have your children continue to receive Religious Instruction. The change is simply to cater for the fact that for lots of families, Religious Instruction is a personal matter which they would prefer to handle themselves.
Join the Dollarmites on a savings adventure in the future with School Banking!

Every year the School Banking program launches a new savings theme and eight new exclusive School Banking reward items.

In 2017, School Banking is getting children excited about the future with a brand new look for the Dollarmites. As Future Savers, students will join the Dollarmites on a journey to reach the Savings Hover Park, an amazing playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech city.

There are 8 new reward items for 2017 from the Future Savers range:
- Cyber Handball, Colour Change Marker, 3D Chalk Set, Tablet Case, Smiley Emoji Keyring, Volt Handball, Pencil + Tech Case, Epic Earphones.

**Win a family adventure holiday at Tokyo Disneyland!**

This year, School Banking is running a Future Savers Grand Prize competition that will take one lucky School Banker all the way to Tokyo, Japan. The winner gets an unforgettable family trip, for up to two adults and three children, where they'll explore Tokyo Disneyland with its amazing attractions, including the futuristic Tomorrowland, plus enjoy the fun rides at Tokyo DisneySea.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2017 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit commbank.com.au

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**P&C News**

**Who is the P&C?**
The P&C is you. Parents and Citizens. This is a voluntary group of parents who work to raise money and provide extra resources for their school. At Walkerston State School, our P&C is open to all parents and citizens of the school community. The P&C is a great way to keep up with what's going on at the school and to have greater input into how we raise the money to assist the school. Many hands do make light work but your commitment to the P&C can be as great or small as you desire. Come along and see what we're all about. Information about our next meeting is below. If you want more information you can email us at walkerstonpandc@gmail.com

**Tuckshop News**

This year there will be changes to how we operate the Scubby Snack Shack (Tuckshop). There will be a new menu with a lot more food made freshly on site. The P&C is looking at an online ordering system and we may even trial 5 day a week tuckshop! So if you have a couple of hours to spare on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday please consider giving the ladies in the tuckshop a hand. Please go and see Ida or Kirsty in the tuckshop to volunteer your time.

**P&C Facebook Page:** Keep up to date with what's happening by visiting our Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/WalkerstonSS.PandC

**P&C meeting** Please come along and join in. We'd love to see you. Our next meeting is the AGM followed by a General Meeting on Monday February 20 at 6 pm in the P&C room in the Hall.

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**Chappy News**

I am currently at school Mondays to Thursdays from 8am until 11.50am and Fridays 8am until 9am.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club runs on a daily basis from 8am to 8.40am in the school hall. We serve toast, fruit and juice on Mondays and Wednesdays; and cereal, toast, fruit and juice on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. I would like to thank Walkerston Bakery for their generous donations. If anyone would like to make donations of bread, jam, vegemite, honey or cream cheese, they would be greatly appreciated. Fresh fruit from backyard crops would be fantastic. We avoid using nut spreads to cater to our students with allergies.

**Support our Local Chaplains**

On Saturday the 11th and 25th of February the Freemasons are running a sausage sizzle at Walkerston Woolworths for Pioneer Valley Chaplaincy. I would like to thank the freemasons for the amazing support they have given school chaplaincy this last year. Come down and grab a sausage on bread and support our local chaplains.

Here to a great year of school working together to support our school community.

Cheers and Blessings. Chappy A.

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**PE News**

School Fun Run notes have now been sent home. The fundraiser is all about participation! Students raise funds and are rewarded with fantastic incentive prizes, and it finishes with a School Fun Run on the 31st of March. Forms and monies are due back to the School office on 17th March.

Cross Country Training has now started on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at first break. Students are reminded to bring a hat, appropriate footwear and a sun safe shirt to train in so that they can change into their school shirt for class. Please note training will not be on if it is raining. The Walkerston State School Cross Country will be held on 24th of March.
Student of the Week Awards for Week 1, Week 2 & Week 3

Class PA

**Kyran Vella-Evans**—For making a great start to school and always helping others.

**Amelia Murdoch**—You always have a big smile on your face and are ready to learn! Keep it up Amelia!

**Slayter Edwards**—For a fantastic work ethic and for always trying your best!

Class PB

**Madison Richards**—For making a fantastic start to your schooling.

**Millie-Mae Barron**—For being extremely attentive in lessons and trying hard with rhymes.

**Heath Schafer**—For having a positive attitude and a great role model.

Class PA1

**Oliver Hamelink**—For an AMAZING Australia Day recount. We are so proud of you. Great Job!

**Ngaire Casey**—For her positive, enthusiastic attitude towards learning. Way to go Ngaire!

**Riley West**—For an amazing effort with writing this week. Great work Riley!

Class 1A

**Hannah Webb**—For following class and school rules carefully and setting a great example for her classmates. Well done.

**Jude Fidler**—Always working quietly and conscientiously on all class activities. Keep it up Jude!

**Karana Gartner**—For displaying excellent enthusiasm and knowledge during class discussions this week. Well Done!

Class 1B

**Alysha Perry**—You have made an excellent start to the year. Well done!

**Ruby Stephens**—For always being a helpful and courteous member of the class!

**Logan Cunningham**—For displaying an exceptional work ethic in all areas!

Class 2A

**Ayla Moss**—Settling in well to her new school.

**Logan Burgess**—For being a wonderful help in the class.

**Aimee Cabassi**—For showing a positive attitude towards her work and participating actively in all class activities.

Class 2B

**Montana Wicks**—For being a responsible and helpful class member of 2B!

**Matilda Davies**—For always being an active listener and consistently strives to do her best.

**Kandyce Leeson**—For being a responsible and hard working student who always puts in a 100%.

Class 23A

**Lenesha-Lee Ball**—I am so impressed with your manners and willingness to assist others. It’s such a beautiful trait.

**Zac Hansen**—Zac, you are a very kind and considerate young man. Bravo!

**Ella Ruddell**—For your great, greatest and greatest responses to our spelling activities!

**Tayha Cork**—I’m so impressed with the effort you’ve put into your writing tasks this week. Amazing sentences!

Class 3A

**Kaighen Moohin-Beitzel**—For settling into your new school and becoming a lovely member of our class.

**Kevin Sinclair**—For settling into your new school and becoming a friendly member of our class.

**Bailey Barker**—For your wonderful enthusiasm and hard work you have demonstrated this week.

**Chloe Hemley**—For your great effort in sounding out tricky words when writing. Fantastic work Chloe, keep it up.

Class 34A

**Brianna King**—For displaying pride in her schoolwork this week.

**Tyler Morris**—For displaying a keen interest in his knowledge of telling the time.

**Joshua Germanotta**—For being a very responsible and helpful member of 3/4A.

**Brody Galea**—For writing well constructed and very suspenseful orientations and complications.

Class 4A

**Charli Bostock**—For giving 100 percent effort to her learning in class all of the time. A great first week, well done.

**Kereama Gartner**—For his awesome attitude to learning.

**Gabrielle North**—For being persistent in editing her exciting narrative independently. Great work!

Class 45A

**Sienna Hannon-Long**—For settling in well and contributing to all class discussions. Keep it up!

**Joseph Germanotta**—For his enthusiastic participation in all areas of school. Keep it up!

**Brandt Glover**—For always giving 100% in everything you do. Keep it up Brandt!

Class 5A

**Chelsea Meigan**—For displaying an excellent work ethic in everything she does.

**Samuel Springis**—For meeting new challenges head on and always striving to do his best.

**Estefania Figueiredo Derikha**—For settling into her new class and having an excellent first week at Walkerston.

Class 56A

**Ava Noy**—For always being an active participant in class discussions.

**Zara Hampson**—For enhancing her writing with some sensational sizzling starts.

Class 6A

**Holly Delaforce**—Working really hard in literacy with her writing.

**Sommer Ruddell**—Student of the Week Award! Sommer has produced some sensational sentence starters in her writing this week. Well Done!
Dear Parents,

The School Dental Service is now offering services to students enrolled at your school. Medical/Consent forms have been sent home and need to be fully completed and returned to the school office.

The school Dental Service will contact the parent/guardian to make an appointment at School Dental Van 12B in the grounds of the school.

If you have any enquiries please phone 0412 680 635

A Parent/Guardian must transport and accompany their child to all appointments at this clinic.

For further information on this service, please visit our website:


We are pleased to inform you that our school is live with the secure online parent portal QParents. The QParents web and mobile application provides an easier way for you to interact with our school. Parents will have secure, online access to their child’s student information, anytime, anywhere, through a smartphone, tablet or computer.

QParents allows parents to connect instantly with our school to access and manage their child’s student information, including:

- Attendance and absence details, as well as the ability to notify the school of an absence
- Behaviour information
- Academic report cards
- Class timetables
- Viewing unpaid invoice details, payment history, and making payments online
- Viewing and updating personal student details, including medical conditions and address
- Enrolment details

If you would like to register or find out some more information please see Bernie or Belinda in the Administration Office.

Mackay Oral Health Services – School Dental Service

2017 NATIONAL SIGN ON DAY

GET ON YOUR BIKE AND RIDE
YOUR LOCAL CLUB IS AT: DATE TO COME AND TRY: CONTACT:
Walkerston BMX Club
Creek Street Walkerston
Sunday 5th March
9am-1pm
Kirsty Skaines
0407 153 133

Mackay Youth Support Services

Who’s in Charge?
Does your child threaten, hurt or intimidate Do you feel you are losing Want to better handle

Reclaim respect and calm in your family!
The Who’s in Charge? program is an 8 week program for parents or carers of young people (10 to 18) who are abusive, violent or defiant.
The group aims to
- Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
- Reduce the guilt and shame which most parents feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child’s behaviour
- Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
- Help parents feel more in control and less stressed

Starting: 2017 Term 1 : Tuesday 31st Jan 9.30am - 11.30am
Thursday 2nd Feb 10.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday 2nd Feb 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Place: Mackay Youth Support Services
CASA office, Cnr Gregory & Alfred Sts, Mky.
Contact: Karen 4951 4299
Email u-nite@myss.org.au

BMX AUSTRALIA

2017 NATIONAL SIGN ON DAY

GET ON YOUR BIKE AND RIDE
YOUR LOCAL CLUB IS AT: DATE TO COME AND TRY: CONTACT:
Walkerston BMX Club
Creek Street Walkerston
Sunday 5th March
9am-1pm
Kirsty Skaines
0407 153 133