



Issue 10  
19 August 2025

# WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PUTTING LEARNING FIRST - EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY

## Date Claimers

Aug

18—22 Book Week  
21 Book Week Parade  
22 Interschool Sport—Yr 5 & 6  
28 School Musical Performance  
29 School Musical Performance  
September  
1-3 Year 5 Leadership Camp  
2 Ylead Mirani SHS  
2 Wheelie Safe Kids  
4 Fathers & Families Night ~ Prep  
5 Pupil Free Day  
8 P&C Meeting 4.45pm  
11 Y4 Megaband ~ Marian  
11 R U Ok Day  
12 Interschool Sport Y5 & 6  
16 PV Junior Rugby League & Netball Gala Day

## Spotlight Book Week Parade 21/08

### General Information

Office Hours 8am—3.30pm  
Parade Every Monday at 9am  
Newsletter published fortnightly  
PCYC After School Care 4942 3296  
Absence Line: 4959 4366

## Whole School Wellbeing Focus

### Concept 6: Situations that Trigger and Spark



#### Principal's Report—

#### Mrs Jacinta Wimmer

Hello Walkerston Families  
Welcome to the half-way mark of the term! Hard to believe we only have **24 days of learning left this term**. A reminder that in Week 8 we have a **student free day on the Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**. The school office will be shut that day for training, with no admin or classroom teachers on site. These past few weeks we have continued to have moments of 'magic' in our school. Magic represents the awe, wonder, inspiration, and deep emotional resonance that learning can ignite. It's not about tricks and illusions - it's about creating moments in education where curiosity and meaning connect, drawing learners in wholeheartedly.

I truly believe from these 'sparks' we get deeper learning happening for students and therefore improved student outcomes and engagement. Our **Year Four Camp to Kinchant Dam** was a wonderful opportunity for students to spend time out of the school setting with their peers and teachers, working through team building activities and building resilience and problem-solving skills. I was so impressed by our students and their behaviour. A big thank you to staff and our parent helpers who helped make it a memorable experience for our students.

The magic was again alive for our students in 2/3C, 3A and 3/4C when they participated in their **Oh Deere Farm excursion** as part of their HASS unit this term. Students learnt about the workings of a sugar cane farm, their history and enjoyed hands on experiences, including tasting sugar cane and riding tractors. Students involved are now taking their learning even further with the support of

their amazing teachers, by growing their very own sugar cane in the school grounds!! Watch this space.

We finished last week on a high with our day of action against bullying. It was great to see a sea of purple at Walkerston on Friday. Together we can say **no way to bullying and yes to kindness!** It is pleasing to see the reduction this year in reported incidences of bullying. As a staff we are committed to ensuring all students feel like they 'belong,' and school is a safe space. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated and consequences will be enforced in line with our student code of conduct. I thank parents for your support with this.

Be Kind:  
Small actions  
make a big impact

BULLYING NO WAY WEEK  
19th - 25th AUGUST 2025



We also finished last week with a 'magical moment' of delight in the Prep Area, with our very own Big Ted visiting to celebrate his sixth birthday at our **Teddy Bear's Picnic**. Our Prep teachers have cleverly linked this to their English assessment this term based on a spoken retell of an experience. Thank you to our Prep parents who joined us, your support this year has been amazing. We all had a wonderful time and the smiles on our little faces ensured it will be something they will speak about for some time.

(Continued on page 2)



### Looking forward.....

This week the adventure continues with our **Book Week Parade** on Thursday. Families are encouraged to attend and join in the fun! Who knows what characters will show up on Thursday....

Our **2026 Prep Transition 10 Week Program** starts this Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:00am in the P/1C classroom and outdoor learning space. All our 2026 Preps are encouraged to attend as many sessions as they can. Links to register have been emailed to families who have enrolled for 2026. Numbers are building so do not miss an opportunity to join our great school for 2026. Prep Interviews to start in Week 7.

Our **School Musical on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August (Week 7)** is fast approaching. Don't miss out on your tickets! Our talented musical cast lead by their amazing director are busy rehearsing and putting on final touches to what looks to be a fairytale performance! Thank you to the P&C for once again supporting the musical and ensuring it is catered on the night! Come for dinner and a show...

### Regulation Update

We are now up to **Concept 6** in our whole school journey of developing emotional regulation. Please see activities below that can be engaged with at home to further support your child with their emotional regulation.

In Concept 6 (C6), learners will gain awareness of situations that impact their regulation, categorizing them into "triggers" and "sparks." Triggers include unwelcome events and sensations that cause us to have less comfortable feelings, such as worried, angry, embarrassed, or annoyed. Understanding our triggers helps us to attend to our regulation when we encounter them. We also explore sparks, which are welcome events or sensations that provoke strong feelings of joy, such as giddiness, excitement, elation, etc. Although our sparks are enjoyable, they also can cause us to feel less regulated, such as when we are excited to partner with a friend on a project but can't focus to be successful. By deepening this situational awareness, learners can better predict and prepare for triggers and sparks, develop a plan for regulating in these situations, and become more adept and confident at advocating for themselves.

As adult co-regulators, we have a responsibility to help our learners and children prepare for triggers and sparks as well as provide access to regulation tools, modifications, and accommodations. For example, if a learner is triggered by loud noises, such as a fire alarm, we might provide them advance notice plus offer noise-cancelling headphones. Within a strong and supportive Zones Climate, knowing and understanding each other's triggers and sparks can help learners build empathy and strengthen perspective-taking skills. It would be interesting as a family to discuss each other's triggers and sparks this week! I'm sure there is a few.

It was once again pleasing to see the response to **Parent Teacher Interviews** this term. As educators we are committed to every student reaching their full potential and we look forward to working together with families this semester to ensure this happens for all students. We are also seeking feedback to make our school greater through our **school opinion survey**. Families should have received a link through their emails. Deadline to give feedback is this Friday.

Finally last week we acknowledged our **School Support Staff**. We would be lost without them. From our office ladies, grounds officer, psychologist, speech therapist, IT officer and Mr Reynolds and Mrs Acutt in our leadership team. I want to thank them for their dedication to our school, staff, and students. We are blessed with the best here at WSS and I am extremely grateful to them for their support.

A reminder if you have any concerns or questions to reach out. We are there to support our students and families.

Have a great fortnight.

Take care,

Jacinta


### Concept 6 - Situations that Trigger and Spark

**WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?**

We are learning to identify our triggers and sparks. Triggers and sparks are situations that cause us to feel less regulated.

A **trigger** is an unwelcome event or sensation that causes uncomfortable feelings, such as anger, worry, sadness, or panic. This may cause us to change Zones.

A **spark** is a welcome event or sensation that causes stronger feelings of joy, such as excitement, elation, or silliness. Even positive events can change our Zones.



**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

- When we're aware of our triggers and sparks, we're less surprised when our feelings change and more ready to regulate them.
- Sharing our triggers and sparks with others help us understand and support each other.

**ASK AND SHARE**

To help with learning, discuss these questions together.

- What is a trigger you've noticed this week? How did it change your Zone?
- What is a spark you've noticed this week? How did it change your Zone?
- Find some triggers and sparks you have in common.

**BRIDGE ACTIVITY: TRIGGERS AND SPARKS FISHBOWL GAME**

- Everyone writes or draws a personal trigger and spark on separate squares of paper and places it in the bowl. Players can add more than one of each.
- Take turns picking one from the bowl. Act out what you picked. Provide clues without revealing the answer.
- Everyone else tries to guess the trigger or spark and who added it.

Challenge: Play additional rounds, only giving one-word clues and/or acting it out silently.





© 2024 The Zones of Regulation, Inc.



## Sports News

### FUTSAL CUP Written By Toby M

China was definitely an experience. Toby was very excited to know the senior toilets were opened and had flushing toilets with seats!!! Squatting toilets was not his thing..... nor mine. My translate was not the best, ended up dropped off at some random markets 40mins away but it's all in the adventure. We got to see Panda bears and walk up what seemed like a million stairs to temples, experienced some different food items (still not sure what we really ate) but it's a once in a lifetime moment that hopefully Toby will remember for a lifetime.

Toby played in the Australian Team A (there was 2 teams of U11 boys). Toby's team was undefeated in both tournaments, with the main tournament the Jiangmen International Futsal Cup, their team scored 39 goals and only 4 conceded goals against them, I believe they were the only Australian team not to draw or lose a game the entire 2 weeks. It was such a great experience for Toby playing at this level and having the Brisbane City junior lead coach as his coach for this tour. Learnt a lot, showed great resilience and I was super proud of all his efforts.

Thanks again for the school's support. It was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Toby for being selected to represent Australia to be a part of a wonderful experience and for his great efforts.



### Walkerston Sport: Wins, Gala Days & Big Opportunities

This term, our students are enjoying an amazing variety of extra-curricular sporting opportunities.

Our Year 5 & 6 students are currently participating in the Friday afternoon Interschool Sport competition against St John's, Marian SS, and Mirani SS, playing touch football and soccer.

We also have two teams competing in the Mackay District Schools Cricket competition — the *Walkerston Bilbys* (Year 3 & 4) and the *Walkerston Roos* (Year 5 & 6). Both teams recorded great wins on Wednesday, with outstanding sportsmanship shown by all. A big thank you to Mrs Holdsworth and Mr Maxwell for coaching and supervising our cricket teams.



Looking ahead, the school is organising teams for the upcoming Soccer Gala Day on **Friday 12th September** (Week 9). Mr Reynolds has sent home an expression of interest form for students in Years 3–6, with teams to be nominated in both the Year 3–4 and Year 5–6 divisions. A skills session will be held to select players for the day.

In Week 10, our students will take part in two separate gala days:

- **Tuesday 16th September** – Pioneer Valley Year 3–6 Netball Gala Day and Year 3–4 Rugby League Gala Day, to be held at the Mirani SHS oval and hall. Expressions of interest will be sent home shortly.
- **Friday 19th September** – U11 Steve Jackson Rugby League Gala Day at the Junior Rugby League Grounds for our 10 & 11-year-old boys and girls.

We also wish **Isabella W** the very best for next week's Capricornia Athletics trials at the MARC on Monday and Tuesday, where she will compete in discus and shot put.

Congratulations also to **Hudson B** and **Thomas W** for their recent participation in the Rugby League Quad Series against Rockhampton.

It's wonderful to see our Walkerston students embracing so many sporting opportunities this term!

## Student of the Week Awards for **Week 2** & **Week 3**

- Class PA** **Kiana**—For your amazing start at WSS. You are always for learning and give everything a go!  
**Tate**—For taking action to ensure you are able to learn to the best of your ability. Keep it up Tate!
- Class P1C** **Gracelin**—For being a kind class member who is helpful and organised! You are a champion!  
**Gabriel**—For great listening and participation in our PE lesson. Terrific Gabe!
- Class 1A** **Milly**—For showing improved effort in the classroom and making positive choices. keep up the good work!
- Class 23C** **Franklin**—For being an enthusiastic and responsible learner; putting in his best effort. Great work Franklin!  
**Ashford**—For being a respectful listener and making a great start at Walkerston SS.  
**Maihkia**—For joining in and making friends in her new class. What a wonderful first week you've had Kia!
- Class 3A** **Kieran**—For writing detailed compound sentences using conjunctions, adjectives and nouns. Great effort!  
**Zeke**—For improving your daily quick writes by listening to feedback to bump up your creative writing.
- Class 34C** **Vin**—For working conscientiously on all class activities this week. Keep this up Vin!
- Class 45A** **Sienna**—For always trying your best, setting achievable goals and striving to succeed.  
**Shelbi**—For consistently following classroom expectations, always putting in your best effort, and completing your work.
- Class 56C** **Dylan**—For displaying improved behaviour and engagement in class. Keep it up, Dylan!  
**Belle**—For settling in well at Walkerston State School and in her learning.
- Class 56D** **Ruby**—Keeping up with the curriculum workload and completing all tasks in addition to extra-curricular activities. Ruby you are a CHAMPION!  
**Jaxn**—Being an engaged and active learner by looking for how to improve. Jaxn put this week on repeat. Well done!



## Year 23C, 34C and 3A Oh Deere Farm Stay Excursion





## Year 4 Kinchant Dam Camp



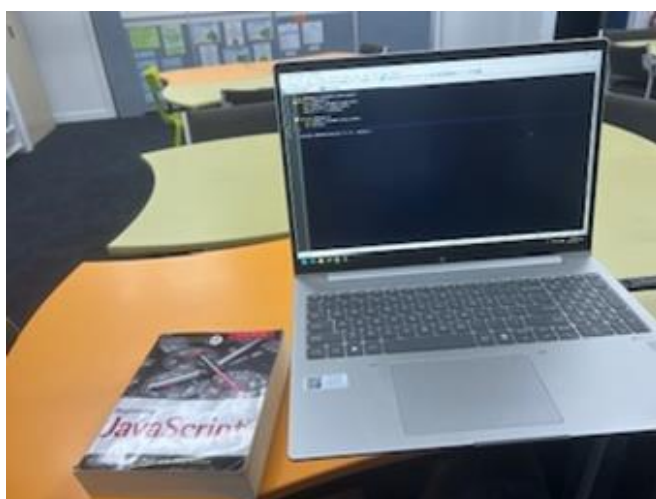


## Expanding our knowledge on computing

On the 24/7/25, a guest we greatly appreciate, Mr Stephen Vassallo, came to our school to further educate Charlie B of 56C, an extremely gifted and talented child in the area of science and digital technology, about coding. This half-hour session was filled with explanation, examples and problem solving, with consideration of real-world problems able to be solved by websites, apps, or just coding in general.

Mr Stephen Vassallo and Charlie B traded topics of computer sciences, including web scripting (HTML, CSS and JavaScript), PowerShell scripting, Windows Batch and Command prompt scripting, Python programming, data formats (CSV files (.csv) and JSON data files (.json)) and databases (MySQL, NoSQL, SQL, Oracle, and Access). During this period, the main subject focused on was web development, and programs that Mr Vassallo and Charlie Brennan built on the web include data forms (the user inputting information), text/image command display (where text or images get displayed on command) and solutions to common annoying bugs in web pages by refactoring and debugging code in development. Speaking of this, Mr Vassallo and Charlie B discussed common bugs and errors, and ways to fix them in web development situations, including missing syntax in JavaScript (missing curly braces ({ or })), missing semicolons (;), missing parentheses (()) or missing square brackets ([]), misspelling of keywords, missing function parameters (items of data that a function needs to work with) or missing capitalization. Not only was there web development, as Mr Vassallo and Charlie B also discussed Powershell and Windows command prompt scripting. Although this topic was shorter, discussions of basic syntax and keywords/functions were covered, with commands included the echo function to output ASCII (Alphabet Standard of Characters and Indian Integers).

Overall, the pair did a great job at uncovering programming concepts, and helping to expand knowledge for programming, a useful skill in today's modern world.



# Book Week Parade 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025



Book week 2025 will be celebrated in week 6 from 18th August - 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Walkerston State School BOOK WEEK PARADE will be held on the **Thursday 21st August** on the basketball court from **9.00am - 10.30am**.

Theme for Book week this year is Book an Adventure. All students are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Dressing in costume is however optional. Students who come to school in costume will be required to bring their normal school uniform to change into after the parade.

Mrs Mackay, Librarian



## WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL 2026 PREP TRANSITION PROGRAM STARTING 20TH AUGUST

All kindly aged children and their families are invited to attend the Walkerston State School 2026 Prep Transition Program. Our Prep Transition Program is a great opportunity for your child to come and join us for some stories, songs, games, crafts and other fun activities.

### Program Features:

- ✓ 10 sessions held either in the prep classrooms, outdoor learning space or specialist areas
- ✓ Staff available for parents to speak with regarding any questions or concerns
- ✓ Fantastic opportunity to build confidence in children and parents entering a new environment for the first time to assist with a smooth transition into Prep



Wednesday's  
10.00AM - 11.00AM  
no sessions during  
school break

Running from  
20th August (week 6) to  
5th November (week 5,  
Term 4)

Come to as many sessions as you like  
Younger siblings welcome to attend



RSVP TO  
ATTEND  
TRANSITION  
SESSIONS

REGISTER  
YOUR EMAIL  
TO RECEIVE  
FURTHER  
INFORMATION



### CALLING ALL BACKYARD CRICKET FANATICS!

Walkerston Cricket Club are looking for the next generation of junior players to become part of our cricketing family. If you are looking for a development focused, inclusive and family-oriented cricket club with options for all abilities for children from age 5 through to age 18 then we are the club for you!

Registrations are **NOW OPEN** for several exciting formats:

#### Junior Blasters (Ages 5-7)

Dates TBA

Over in a flash – 60 minutes of fun each session in a safe and inclusive environment

Make pals, catch skills, throw like a boss, and teamwork like a pro!

Kids will be able to rock the colours of their favourite Big Bash heroes with their own Cricket Blast pack

All equipment supplied

#### Master Blasters (Ages 7-10)

Starting 24<sup>th</sup> of September - running for 8 weeks!

90 Minutes of fast-paced modified cricket games

Recommended for kids aged 7-10 · For kids with basic cricket skills

Every kid gets a chance to bat, bowl and field.

Club shirt provided – starting kids on their club journey

All equipment supplied

### Junior Club Cricket (ages 9-18)

Season starting from 7<sup>th</sup> of September!

Play real games of cricket

Different game styles & formats to allow kids to progress based on their ability

Fun, active & plenty of opportunities to learn through play

Make new friends & learn crucial teamwork skills

Some equipment provided

Walkerston Cricket Club is a **Play On Sports Voucher** affiliated activity provider!

Please use the following link to register:

Enter PLAY ON Voucher Code at Check Out

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/walkerston-cricket-club/eab37757>

For more information please contact -  
juniors@walkerstoncricket.org.au





# YEAR SIX Father's Day Raffle

## FIRST PRIZE

\$50 Bunnings Voucher, Walkerston Country Meats Meat Tray, \$50 Poppys Pizza Voucher, \$25 Siding Cafe Voucher & Gift Pack, Fleetpath Waterbottle & Gift Pack, DeGoey Contractors Fishing Shirt & Esky Gift Pack, Salon Rio Mens Cut & Gift Pack, Containers for Change Wheelie Bin.

## SECOND PRIZE

Walkerston Country Meats Brekky Tray, \$50 Poppys Pizza Voucher, Wests Leagues Club Voucher, Core Defined Pilates Gift Vouchers & Gift Pack.

## THIRD PRIZE

\$25 Poppys Pizza Voucher, Barber Jo's Gift Voucher.

## FOURTH PRIZE

\$25 Poppys Pizza Voucher, DeGoey Contractors Football Pack.

## TICKETS \$1

Available for purchase before school, at the Book Week Parade and School Musical.



Made with PosterMyWall.com

# MACKAY DISTRICT SPECIAL SCHOOL DISABILITY EXPO



ALL  
WELCOME



## AND MANY MORE ....

WEDNESDAY  
20TH  
AUGUST

MACKAY DISTRICT  
SPECIAL SCHOOL - 63  
MANSFIELD DR  
BEAconsfield

3:30PM - 5:30PM

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE  
PROVIDED BY MDSS P&C

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Test drive an ebike

SERVICE PROVIDER  
INFORMATION  
AGENCIES TO SUPPORT YOU

TRANSITION OPTIONS  
WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS  
AFTER SCHOOL?



MACKAY

# READY-SET-CONNECT

Make connections that **matter**.

## FREE TO ATTEND!

Ready-Set-Connect is a fun and engaging speed-networking event connecting disability service providers with the people who need them.

In this interactive format, service providers will showcase their products and services, while attendees discover local service options and make valuable connections, opening the door to greater choice and control.

## WHO?

- ✓ Support Coordinators / Navigators
- ✓ People with Disability
- ✓ Parents and Carers
- ✓ LACs
- ✓ Support Workers
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Case Managers
- ✓ Teachers

Register at: [onecommunity.net.au/Ready-Set-Connect](https://onecommunity.net.au/Ready-Set-Connect)

## WHEN?

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Tue 02 Sep 2025

## WHERE?

Souths Leagues Club  
181 Milton St South Mackay QLD

If you are a provider and would like to host a table to promote your services, please visit our website!

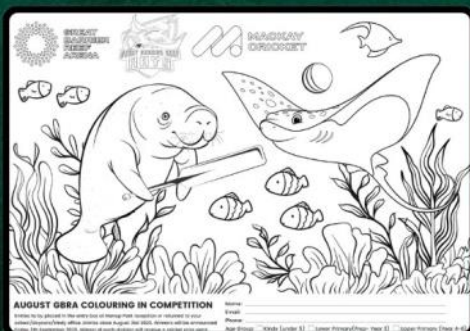
Get in touch with us

02 4003 4875

[info@onecommunity.net.au](mailto:info@onecommunity.net.au)

# COLOURING COMPETITION

Print now and show your best work.



HARRUP PARK





Walkerston State School presents

# What's The **CRIME** Mr Wolf?

Where

Walkerston State School Hall

When

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August  
and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August  
7.00 pm

Dinner available from 6pm  
from the P and C

Cost

\$10.00 per adult; \$5.00 per  
student or \$25 family (2  
Adults, 2 Children)

Tickets on sale now from  
the school office or availa-  
ble on the night.

