



NEWSLETTER

East Palmerston State School

2068 Pullom Road, East Palmerston 4860. PO Box 2489 Innisfail Q 4860

Phone: (07) 40 645138 Fax: (07) 40 645101 www.palmeastss.eq.edu.au

2nd February 2009

Welcome Back & Welcome to..

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. The children have shared many stories about their breaks and after a week at school, who feels like they've had a holiday? It was back to the grindstone and straight into the curriculum. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Brodie family to our school, Bailey and Ethan seemed to fit right in and the children have done a fantastic job at welcoming them. We hope the boys enjoy our school and remain with us for a long time.

Farewell to ..

As you know many families make changes over the holidays and we have lost two of our families. The Crossing Family has moved into town and Kyle and Caitlin have moved to Goondi.

The Thompson family had a lot of changes over the holidays with Kelli and Joe getting married. Congratulations! With the marriage came a move to Edmonton but Kellie assures me they will be back to visit with the friends they've made while attending our school. I would also like to thank Kellie for her hard work and dedication to the P&C, we will miss her and her bubbly personality.

We miss our senior girls and their dedication to our school. We wish them well at high school and hope that Madison and Matalena come to visit on a regular basis..

School books & tools All children have received their textbooks, exercise books and school tools for the year. If parents could pay the fees as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated, even if you opt to pay over the four terms, paying this terms balance would be appreciated. Remember when you choose the fee option, your child is given all materials throughout the year, you do not need to purchase any replacement materials.

Curriculum

Literacy The written genre studied this term will reflect both the science and SOSO units. The first five weeks will focus on research, note-taking and the writing of descriptions and information reports.

Numeracy We will continue to use the Go Maths units and add games and other resources to each unit.

SOSE This term we will look at the changes that man makes; to the environment, to themselves and at different events they celebrate throughout their lifetime. Mr Nash will soon have the assessment task ready for the children.

Science This term we will study different environments, the changes that occur in these environments and in particular natural changes that occur to the rocks with in each environment. The assessment task, a diorama, will be done at school. Children will need a fruit box to create a diorama.

HPE This unit, on being a healthy person, will last the entire semester.

Other curriculum areas will be integrated into the science and SOSE units.

Homework It is compulsory that children complete homework each week. I attempt to give the required amount and no more. The policy states the following: prep= nil homework, Yrs 1,2 & 3= no more than 1hr/wk, Yr 4 & 5= less than 2-3 hrs/wk, yr 6 & 7= no more that 3-4 hrs/wk. If your child is experiencing any difficulties let us know, so we can assist them at school during your child's individual intervention time each week.

Joke of the Week

"Waiter! This coffee tastes like mud."

"Yes sir, it's fresh ground"

Puzzler of the Week

A man is alone on an island with no food and no water, yet he does not fear for his life.

Why?

For puzzler answer visit www.getpositive.com.au

Regards

Karen Spannagle-Nelson

Principal



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Community News

Miss Murry has lost a puppy . He is a red cattle dog with a white dot on his head and half a tail. He is wearing a black collar and answers to the name "Larry". If you have any information about Larry could you please phone the school on 40645138.

INNISFAIL JUNIOR TOUCH 2009 SIGN ON

Where: Wangan Sports Complex
When: Monday 2nd February 2009
 Monday 9th February 2009
Time: 5pm to 6pm
Who to Contact: Kellie Cauchi 0429 644 175
 Make up your own team.
 Mixed Teams of Boys and Girls from ages:
 - Under 14s children born 1995 or later
 - Under 12s children born 1997 or later
 - Under 10s children born 1999 or later
 - Under 7s children born 2002 or later

All teams need to nominate a coach(es) for their team who will be available on the Monday nights to organise that team. All teams need in total a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10 players for a side. There must be a minimum of 3

P&C NEWS

- AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd February at 3:30pm. Having a P&C in our school allows us to take children to sporting, cultural and other events including excursions, outside of school grounds.
- Uniforms are for sale: shirts, shorts, skirts, hats and hair bands.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Protecting against the sun
 Queensland state school students are protected from our harsh sun by the Department's *Developing a Sun Safety Strategy* policy. This policy requires that all schools provide an SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-proof sunscreen to students for outdoor activities and ensure they are wearing protective clothing. It also requires schools to develop educational programs on sun safety.
 Schools develop sun safety strategies in consultation with their school community, and parents are encouraged to support the strategy by providing their children with appropriate protective clothing, including hats, sunglasses and swim shirts for water-based activities. Under the Department's policy, swim shirts must be worn by Prep to Year 7 students during all water-based activities except during races at school swimming carnivals.
 The Queensland Cancer Council's website has plenty of tips for parents on reducing the risk of over-exposure to the sun. Visit their site at: http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce_risk/prevention/prevent_sunProtection.asp

Protecting against dengue fever
 With recent outbreaks of dengue fever in Cairns and Townsville, parents in our northern regions are encouraged to apply insect repellent to their children on a daily basis. Dengue fever can be found in any tropical or subtropical area and is most prevalent during the warm and humid seasons.
 As there is no vaccine available to prevent dengue fever, people in high risk areas are advised to avoid getting bitten by wearing clothing which protects the skin and by using insect repellents on exposed skin. It is also recommended to remove all potential breeding sites for mosquitoes such as still water found in containers, pots, and old tyres. Mosquitoes carrying dengue fever typically bite during the day, especially at dawn and dusk.
 For more information visit the Queensland Health website: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/dengue/dengue_fever/disease.asp

	Dates and Reminders:
J A N	22&23 Pupil Free days 26 Australia Day 27 School starts
F E B	2 Sports Meeting Sth Johnstone 3rd P&C Annual General Meeting 6 Meeting in Malanda
M A R	1-3 Principals Meeting Cairns 9-11 Principal Mentor Meeting Brisbane 16 Start QCAT Literacy & Numeracy work
A P R	9 Brave Heart Visit 10 Good Friday 11-19 Easter Break 20 Pupil Free Day 21 School starts
M A Y	4 Public Holiday 11 QCAT- science 18 QCAT collection
J U N E	8 Public Holiday 26th last day semester 1





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Homework Helpers

How you can help your child with writing

Everyday tasks such as making a shopping list can help improve your child's writing skills.

Our school encourages all parents to help their children with their writing at home. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ask your child to make a greeting card for a special occasion
- talk about the different ways we use writing (making lists, writing messages or notes)
- make personalised scrap books with your child – glue a photo or picture your child chooses onto a page and ask them to write words or sentences about the picture
- create a special place for your child to write. Providing writing materials, such as an easel or blackboard with scrap paper and pencils, makes a great environment to experiment with writing

set up some plastic letter tiles or magnets for your child to play with or a keyboard to spell out or type words.

For more information and ideas on how you can support your child's writing visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

How you can help your child with reading

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and it is important to encourage your child to read outside of the classroom.

Our school is asking all parents to help their children to improve their reading skills. You can do this by:

- visiting the local library – this is an economical way to provide access to different kinds of books and learning materials and allows children to borrow from a wide range. Your library may also offer a reading program which makes reading an exciting experience and allows them to mix with other children
- asking 'why' questions as you read a book or story together to help your child understand and asking them to think about alternate endings to make much-loved books even more interesting
- reading to your child as often as you can and by trying to carry a book with you when away from home
- letting your child hold the book and turn the pages when you are reading together – this lets your child join in and allows you to talk about the pictures
- congratulating your child on their reading – this will encourage them to enjoy the reading experience
- pointing out words as you read them, especially long or interesting words – this will create a word bank or a spelling list which will help your child with their writing

making a message board or space at home and encouraging your child to read and leave messages for other family members – this will also give them an important job in the household.

For more tips and online resources about literacy and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Exploring numeracy with your child

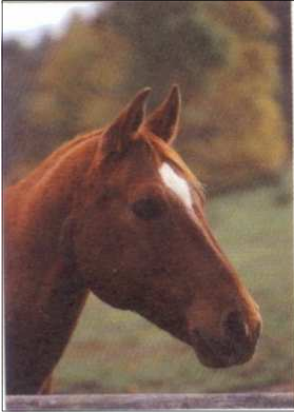
While board games and puzzles may appear to be just fun activities, they can also help to improve your child's numeracy skills and encourage them to think logically.

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Many opportunities to be numerate happen at home. Here are a few ways you can explore numeracy with your child:

- show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks
- talk about the numbers and patterns your child comes across each day while playing games or sports
- encourage your child to count and sort objects into groups. You could use books, clothing or shoes and discuss how they sorted them into those groups
- explore ways to use and count money through budgets and shopping. Let your child calculate the cost of items and help them add up how much change you will receive
- ask questions such as "does that make sense?" or "can this be done another way?" to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.

If you would like to know more about exploring numeracy contact your child's teacher or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/



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Horse Agistment

**Luke Nelson &
Karen Spannagle-Nelson**

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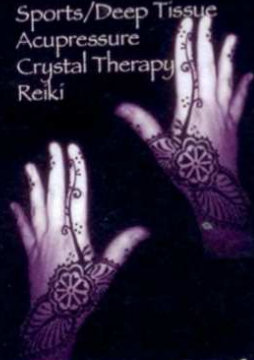
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