



# Pialba

## STATE SCHOOL

*our school, our students, our future*

**NEWSLETTER**  
**ISSUE 1 - 27th January 2016**

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*~ Striving for educational excellence for every child, in every classroom, every day ~*

### *from The Principal's Pen.....*

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome, my name is Judy Robinson and today I begin my new role as Principal of Pialba State School. Before I get into the sharing of information about our school, I would like to just share a little information about myself, so you have some knowledge of who I am.

From a personal perspective, I am married to Greg and we have 4 beautiful children. Emily is 30, Nicholas is 28, Sarah is 24 and Bethany is 15. Greg and I have been fortunate to have lived in many different and diverse communities as we have followed our passion of working with young learners to assist them to be the best that they can be – academically, socially and emotionally. Yes, Greg and I are both teachers, in fact we are at the moment both Principals – Pialba and Howard.

Professionally, this is not my first time as Principal in a Hervey Bay school. In 2002 I was transferred from Charters Towers into Urangan Point as Principal, a role I enjoyed for 5 years before undertaking an acting Principal role at Yarrilee. At the end of my time at Yarrilee, I accepted the Principal role at Granville SS in Maryborough, a role I held for the past 7 years.

I am very aware of the high quality education delivered by all state schools in the bay, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and school staff, to continue being a school of choice for young families in Hervey Bay: a school known for its high expectations, quality relationships with students and parents as well as our continual academic growth.

I'm very proud to be serving the Pialba community. I am excited about the many challenges and opportunities ahead of us in 2016. One of the first things you need to know about our school and myself is that I use the term 'us' very deliberately. Our vision statement is *Our School, Our Students, Our Future* and to deliver on this vision requires all of 'us' working together for the same goal; a brilliant future for our young people, and the school community we live, study and work in. Without you and your support, we can only accomplish so much. Please be sure to be a presence in our school – to work with the educators who want so much for your child. Partnerships are very important at Pialba.

This year we welcome to our Pialba school community many new families and staff members which I have acknowledged further in our newsletter, however, for 2016 joining the administration team in a work shadowing role is Ms Jo McCracken. Jo will be with us for a period of time and we value every day she is with us sharing her knowledge and skills with the staff and students. Please welcome Jo to our school community.

Working with the administration team last week, we began unpacking and developing our school's improvement agenda and strategic direction, lift data performance and promote the deep and rich curriculum programs offered in a large school like Pialba. As we further develop our plans for 2016, I will be sharing this with the community so you know first-hand how our school will operate and will strive with you to have happy, confident learners who strive to do their best every day.

Finally, we wish all students a productive 2016 and look forward to working with you to achieve even greater things ahead. Welcome to all of our new Pialba family members and particularly to our new prep students. You are now a 'Pialba kid'.

#### **New Staff to Pialba for 2016**

Could you please welcome to our school the following new staff.

Lyndsey Eastwood – Yr 5/6  
Samantha Dunster - 1D  
Adrienne Jensen - SEP/4-6J

Ruth Macartney - 3M  
Sue Drury - SEP/23TD  
Leah Bourke - 3B

Moira Calleja - 2T  
Anne Murray - SEP/4-6M  
Melinda Westerman - Music

I'm sure they will value their time at Pialba and will meet many exceptional staff, students and parents.

Best wishes

*Judy Robinson*  
*Principal*

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## MR BROSE'S BITS.....

### SCHOOL GROWING in 2016

Pialba has many new families joining our school community. I am sure our regulars will make you feel welcome and involve you as much as you are willing. Any volunteers are most welcome. Please let the office staff know of your interest and availability. There are many different areas in which you would be most welcome to assist our school community.

I have a really good feeling about 2016 and aim to make the tone and culture of Pialba State School the most positive ever. Working to help your child 'Becoming Better' is our key focus and we know you will support our friendly yet firm approach. Our aim is to help you produce good people who have independent personalities and the best opportunity to reach their potential. Thank you for your anticipated support.

### OUR SCHOOL RULES

Pialba State School has a short clear set of School Rules. They are 'Virtues' based and focus on how they apply to general life as well as school. The rules are:

**At Pialba State School we take pride in:**

**BECOMING BETTER**

**Every day, in every way, every person will**

**BE A LEARNER**

**BE CONSIDERATE**

**BE RESPECTFUL**

**BE RESPONSIBLE**

A number of virtues will be linked to each rule and some will be explicitly taught during our Virtues in Practice (VIP) program throughout the year.

### OUR SCHOOL IS ABOUT PEOPLE

At Pialba, we firmly believe that education is more than facts and figures. It is also about learning to become a good citizen. Learning about how to become a better involved person in our community is very important. On the first day all students were introduced to our Office Staff, Teacher Aides, Teachers and Support Staff. The children noted what their roles were and that each staff member tries hard to do the best job they can. Office staff are our first contact point and students and parents alike are expected to treat these people with manners and patience. We have the best teacher aides in the Bay and they have as much authority as do the teachers when it comes to duty of care of the children. The teachers and support staff bend over backwards to help each child become better than they were yesterday, last week or last year. This sometimes means they are firm and direct. Please support them when they say or do something that your child may not like. It will be done in their best interests. All of these people are 'Good People'. They display the positive values and efforts expected in our community. The same is taught to and expected of your children.



Mark Brose - Deputy Principal

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Hi all. I am the new Instrumental Music Teacher at Pialba State School. My name is Brianna Harper and I am looking forward to meeting you all!

I just wanted to remind everyone that lessons are starting week 2 (3/2/16) and band is starting week 3 (10/2/16). Beginners do not attend group sessions (band practice), until approximately Term 3. Thank you.

**Bree Harper**  
Instrumental Music Teacher

## Mrs Drury's Diary

Welcome to all for the 2016 school year. It has been exciting to see all the students so keen and engaged at school this morning. A special welcome to all new families to Pialba!

This week, students will be settling in to their year level classes, getting to know their teachers, peers, routines and expectations. SEP staff will be supporting them throughout this process. The SEP program will build up as the week progresses, dependent on what is happening in their year level classes.

### SEP Classes:

P-2M: Mrs Lisa Montgomery

1-3D: Mrs Sara Drew

2-3DT: Mrs Sue Drury (to be known as Mrs Dee) & Mrs Naomi Taylor

4-5W: Mr Mark Wilson

4-6M: Mrs Anne Murray

4-6J: Ms Adrienne Jensen

**Did You Know?** Pluto is only as big as Russia.

*Anne Drury*

*Deputy Principal Special Needs*

## Helping Hands Pialba Outside School Hours Care

Hi, my name is Maree Sawtell. I'm the new coordinator for Pialba O.S.H. Care. I am a fully qualified teacher from Maryborough and have been with the Pialba service as a Vacation Care Supervisor for the past 4 years. I'm excited to be taking on this new role and working together with children, staff and families to create an engaging and supportive environment.

I enjoy doing outdoor, science and art/craft activities and aim to provide these on a daily basis for the children to participate in. I welcome new families to join the service as we are currently taking new enrolments. I look forward to seeing you in Term 1.

### CONTACTING THE SERVICE DIRECT

You are able to **contact** the team at the service on 0488330261 or email them on [pialba@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au](mailto:pialba@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au).

### SERVICE OPEN DAY AND ENROLMENT BOOTH

We will also be having an **Open day** at the service on Friday 29th January at 12:00am - 2:00pm, for families to visit the service. We will also have a **quoting booth** open if you require any assistance on the day as well. If you can't make this session don't hesitate to contact either the service or our central office for any assistance.

