Absenteism is the Big Enemy in Education

Many research studies have shown a clear link between attendance at school and achievement data of students. Quite simply, we cannot make a difference if students are not at school to be part of the teaching and learning process.

The curriculum is moving rapidly, and students who miss school can start to feel school reluctant and anxious.

At Pialba we aim for at least 95% attendance by all students. This means that students will fall into less than good attendance if they have more than 10 days off from school each year. There are 365 days in a calendar year and it might impress you to know that 170 of those days are non-school days, so there are lots of opportunities for shopping, family holidays and appointments which will not impact on your child’s learning.

It is expected that when your child is absent, you provide a reason for the non-attendance. Most absences are the result of student illness. Unexplained absences should be ‘tidied up’ as soon as possible as there are consequences for parents who do not send their child to school. This can include involvement by child safety authorities. Every day, every minute counts.

Absences are recorded and reported to the government on compulsory returns. Some absences are recorded as ‘unauthorised’ – this code is used when absences are not deemed as acceptable reasons for being absent. This might include family holidays, parent or student birthdays, moving house etc.

Your child’s future study and employment pathways are strongly linked to what he/she does now. In the past we have watched as students who have been allowed to develop poor attendance at school, from an early age, fall behind and eventually become anxious and school reluctant. Do not fall into this trap. If you have concerns your child is becoming school reluctant please call to speak to an admin member or our guidance officer Mr Mike Bennion.

Pialba’s current student attendance rate for the first two weeks of the year is 94.8%, an outstanding result!

Regards

Judy Robinson Principal
MR BROSE'S BITS......

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU
This coming Monday is our first Parents & Citizens' meeting for the year. It usually last about an hour starting at 5:15pm at our Administration Block (office). We would love to see new faces there and believe that if you show interest in your child's school, your child improves their attitude to schooling ten-fold. It takes a village to raise a child and just needs you to get involved.

SCHOOL LEADERS RECEIVE BADGES
This Friday our School Captains, Student Councillors, Sports Captains and House Captains will be presented with their badges. The leadership group is a little larger than usual due to the high quality of the candidates. Our whole Year 6 cohort are the leaders of our school and those with badges have even further responsibilities which I know they will fulfill diligently. Parents of those students receiving badges are invited to the presentation at 9:00 this Friday and we hope you can remain to have a morning tea with their children and the principal. Congratulations to all those badge recipients.

FABULOUS RESPONSE TO SURVEY OF NEW FAMILIES
I was delighted to receive the returned surveys that were handed out to families of new students in Years 1 to 6. Nearly every survey indicated an excellent first impression was gained from all aspects of our school. The responses also showed they are happy with the enrolment process and overall welcome. We still have areas to become better at however, we are making every effort to improve. If you have any suggestions which will improve the process further, please feel free to inform us through the appropriate manner.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS DUE
At Pialba State School we try to keep costs to a minimum, hence our cost effective uniforms. There are however times where an extra contribution may be required. Clearly we can do so much more for your student with added finance. Currently our voluntary contributions are:
1. P&C Family Contribution $50 (per family) – make cheques out to Pialba State School P&C
2. Religious Education $6 – this partially covers the RE publications used by the students this year.

I would ask all families to support the school by making these payments as soon as possible.

Mark Brose - Deputy Principal

P&C MEETING
PLEASE NOTE: The next P & C meeting will take place on Monday, 15th February 2016, 5:15pm in the staffroom. Please consider attending and being part of our P & C.
All welcome!

Mrs Drury's Diary

Support timetables have now been established and all students are working well with a good mix of SEP programming and accessing classes with their mainstream peers.

Year 5 and 6 students have each selected a sport to participate in for the Hervey Bay District Gala Day which will be held on Friday March 11th. Students will be developing skills in their chosen sport on Wednesday lunch breaks and Friday afternoons. This is a great opportunity to develop skills involved in a team sport and have a lot of fun participating.

Parent/Teacher meetings continue to be held this week. Meetings so far have been very positive as teachers communicate their goals and expectations to parents, and parents have the opportunities to discuss specific details relevant to their child. I wish to thank parents for their commitment to these meetings.

Student of the Week (08/02/16): Curtis Mulder - For showing independence and participating well in class activities

Did You Know? McDonald's daily customer traffic is 62 million - that's almost 3 times the population of Australia.

Anne Drury
Deputy Principal Special Needs

NEWS FROM 6B

As part of our classroom numeracy program, 6B are learning different Maths Games to practice our skills. Our first game of the term is '101 and out'. This helps practice our addition facts, place value and number sense.

101 and Out

Big Idea: Number and Place Value
Suites: Years 3-7
Materials:
A regular 8-sided dice

Instructions:
- Students draw up an empty table for recording, as shown
- Explain that the two columns are for showing TENS and ONES

Whole class game:
- The teacher rolls the dice, eg. 3
- Students write the digit into one of the cells of the top row of the grid
- The dice is rolled a second time and students add this digit into one of the cells of the second row.
- Continues until six rolls have been made and students have one digit in each row.
- Players now add a zero place holder in each of the empty ONES cells.
- Players add the 2-digit numbers

The player whose total is nearest to 100 without going under 100 wins the game. (Scores of 101 and more are OUT)

Shane Brogden - Class Teacher
ATTENDANCE

Once again attendance is one of our School's main agenda items this year. Our target is 95%. A special mention to Prep for the highest percentage of attendance this week, keep it up! Which year level will be the champion next week?

# Everydaycounts #Everystudentlearningeveryday

As a parent you want the best for your children. Having a good education is one of the most important factors in providing opportunities in adult life.

Did you know that; a child who is absent from school a day per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life. This can affect them in adverse ways such as:

- they miss the opportunity to learn fundamental elements
- they fall behind in work
- their motivation
- their enjoyment of learning
- leading to poor behaviour
- their desire to attend school regularly
- their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra curricular opportunities and experiences
- their ability to have or keep friendships

T R E M 1 , W E E K 3

Prep
96.97%

Year 1
96.58%

Year 2
93.51%

Year 3
93.83%

Year 4
96.58%

Year 5
95.2%

Year 6
95.33%

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Thursday 18th February 2016

Individual and Sibling Portraits will be on offer as well as class photos.

Order forms are accompanying today's newsletter. Forms and photo money are to be brought to school ON THE DAY (Thursday 18th). Please do not send it in earlier, as we do not accept photo money at the office.

Please ensure that children are in the correct school uniform on the day.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

| PH | Blake Henry | William Amphlett |
| PK | Charlie Hutchinson | Jacey Vogler |
| PM | Tegern Eldridge | Jarrah Johnston |
| PM | Nikita Dervanvianik | Angus Tantinni |
| T | Claire Turner | Layla Campbell-Cook |
| S | Mahlie Price | Tyler Nutten |
| 1S | Tomas Miller | Caleb Robe |
| 1ZS | Michael Glynn | Phoenix Richardson |
| 1ZS | Connor Jones | Amrali Murray |
| 1ZS | Nathan Gabriel | Dylan Seath |
| 2B | Sophie Pozze | Irene Dowdy |
| 2B | Bailey Jones | Reuben Leslie |
| 2T | Lachlan Hanse | Lachlan Hanse |
| 6B | Telisha Winterton | Alexander Pacific |
| 6J | Lily Davis | Mitchell Sullivan |
COMMUNITY NOTICES

NETBALL CLUB

NETBALL SIGN-ON 2016

- Come and play netball for a great club - Comets Netball Club
- Sign on will take place on February 13, 2016
- We are looking for girls of all ages from 8 years to 17 years old to play in our junior competition and ladies from 18 years and above for our senior competition
- If anyone is interested in joining our friendly and growing club please contact our Secretary Aileen McKay on cometsnetballclub.secretary@outlook.com

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