Numeracy a Focus for 2015

Last Friday, all principals across the region attended a conference in Cairns to discuss changes for 2015 and review our NAPLAN data. NAPLAN tests are given to all Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students throughout Australia over 3 days in May. Queensland has been behind most other states since NAPLAN began in 2008 but we have also been the biggest improver in almost all areas of NAPLAN of all Australian states.

Although a recent review of the Australian Curriculum indicated that it was too cluttered, a complaint that I have been hearing for many years from teachers, 2015 will still see the introduction of Civics & Citizenship for Years 3-10 and Business and Economics for Years 5-10.

Attendance Stars

We are now in the final 5 weeks of the 2014 school year so it is timely to look at the attendance rate so far this term. The Queensland average for attendance is 93% and each of our upper year levels sits above that benchmark. Outstandingly, there have been no absences in Year 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On any given day in Queensland 9% of students are absent. Students who miss 9% of their schooling from Prep to Year 10, have actually missed more than one year of school.

As with the rest of Australia, Feluga’s best attendance days are Tuesday to Thursday. Mondays and Fridays are the weakest.

FNQ’s regional office, my bosses, expect every child to be learning every day in our classrooms which is what children from Feluga will be doing right up until the P&C Big Day Out on Thursday in the final week of school. Breaking up day will be a chance to clean our classrooms and partake in some light entertainment.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival

On the initiative of El Arish State School teacher, Holly Livett, a small schools fun swimming carnival has been organised for Friday 28 November at the Tully swimming pool. Lower Tully, El Arish and Feluga State Schools will be present at a canival running from 9 till noon, and because the emphasis is on joining in and having a go, no ribbons will be handed out.

A sausage sizzle will also take place at the pool.

Hari Raya Indonesia

One of the upcoming changes next year will be the compulsory learning of languages other than English, from Years 5 to Year 8. With one eye on these changes, this year we began involving our Year 5s in LOTE i.e. Indonesian.

LOTE teacher, Sue Foley, will be conducting a whole school event on Friday of Week 9. Her Indonesian students, Years 5-7, will be conducting a variety of activities with all other students in the school. It is called Hari Raya Indonesian.

With research into learning another language, heavily favouring early teaching, the Dept of Education is strongly encouraging schools to begin teaching a language from Prep. Honestly, although I can see the value, I have no idea how that would fit into either our timetable or our budget.

Years 1 & 2’s Apostrophes

Chase proudly shows off his understanding of the use of apostrophes in contractions and possession after an explicit lesson with Ms Little. All Year 1 and 2 were able to correctly write a sentence using apostrophes correctly.

Upper School Nonsense

When Mr Morrison worked with children to write a nonsense poem that contained spoonerisms, this was the end result. It’s part of a unit on humour in poetry in which children have to identify the structures of poems and create some themselves.

Sometimes when I’m at my friends, I get all tongue-tied as I speak. Instead of saying what I want, I sound like I’ve spoken through a parrot’s beak. I’ve a dolls’ house becomes I’ve dot a a golls’ house, And my Darbie bolls are flying on the loor, My Bego locks are fost and lound With beddy tears that Mum stought from the bore.
What’s on in the Big Flu?

Two Thursdays ago, Kevin Stonehouse, Reef and Shiloh’s granddad, bought a 3.9m Amerthystine python that he found on his property to school to show the students. Amerthystine pythons can reach 5 metres but this one, as big as I’ve ever seen, is about average… and he/she smelt like the undergrowth he/she spends all day in. Two other dads were on hand to assist with the handling. The kids were invited to touch the snake and many opted to feel the weight of the reptile around their shoulders. It was a terrific impromptu learning experience. Thanks to Kevin, Clint and Daniel (Keelan’s dad) for their assistance in making the morning so exciting.

Next P&C Meeting
Monday 10th November,
Mr Mac’s Room
Everybody is welcome!

Calendar of Events:
Mon 10 Nov: Feluga SS P&C Meeting
Mon 17 Nov: Tully High School Speech Night
Fri 28 Nov: Small Schools Swimming Carnival
Mon 8 Dec: Final P&C Meeting of the year.
Tue 2 Dec: Daradgee Camp for school leaders

Thu 4 Dec: Final swimming lesson for year
Fri 5 Dec: Hari Raya Indonesian experience
Tue 9 Dec: Year 6/7 Graduation Dinner – On Butler
Wed 10 Dec: Feluga SS Presentation Evening
Thu 11 Dec: P&C Big Day Out at Kurrimine Beach

FREE Well Women’s Clinics
Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women’s Health Nurse.

Tully Hospital: Thurs 13th & 27th Nov Ph 4068 4144
Mission Beach Comm Hlth: Thurs 20th Nov Ph 4226 4812 / 0428 781 421
Cardwell: Wednesday 26th Nov Ph 4063 6600