What’s happening in …

News from 4C – Fun with Forces

In 4C, we have been having fun with forces this term. We started our Science unit playing games such as ten-pin bowling, badminton, dominos, marbles and rolling on the scooter boards to get us thinking about different sized forces and their effect on objects. We learnt about friction the hard way when we split into two teams and played tug-of-war; one team had quite an advantage when they were provided with gloves that gave them more grip on the rope! Gravity is still causing us some grief - “How come it feels like the Earth is flat but it’s actually round?”

Coen, Clayton and Dan testing the effect of different sized forces on a matchbox.

Georgia and Ahlia measuring the distance the matchbox moved.

Dan and Dylan recording the results of their investigation.
Principal’s Piece

Last Friday we were excited to be able to showcase the presentation of a Bravery Award to Jai Griffin. Jai was presented with his award and commended for his actions in getting his baby brother to safety during a fire in the family home. Through this presentation we were also provided with the timely reminder to ensure our smoke alarms are working and we have active fire evacuation plans in place in our family home. The fact that Jai and his family were able to all get out safely is testament to the importance of a clear evacuation plan. Congratulations Jai.

Also last Friday, our school leaders and year 5/6 Speech Choir were invited to recite poems at the Calliope RSL Remembrance Day Service. The students represented the school and themselves brilliantly with their respectful behaviour and well prepared recitation.

Over the last few weeks we have seen many parents making excellent decisions on the future of their children with prep enrolments for 2017 formally underway. Around 90 interviews have been held over this period as well as our orientation days and open days which have afforded our staff, new prep students and their families the opportunity to meet. What a wonderful experience and I’m sure there is a lot of excitement amongst all those fresh little faces for next year at ‘big school’. Once again, if you know of anyone with prep eligible students who is still yet to touch base with the school please encourage them to do so ASAP. Early indications of numbers allows us to make clearer decision regarding class composition and will result in a lower chance of changes being required between now and the start of the year.

Thank you to all those parents who have advised of your intention to return to Calliope State School in 2017. Over the next few weeks, the Leadership Team and teaching staff will be planning class structures for 2017. At this stage, there will be very few changes in staffing in 2017 and I am still working with our Human Resources Department to finalise our workforce plan. Could I please give a gentle reminder not to request a specific teacher for your child? The teacher you seek may be on another year level – or not at the school – creating a sense of disappointment and/or frustration for you or your child. I would also like to remind parents that careful planning and consideration of individual student needs goes in to our class placements. Teachers have begun this process and the Leadership Team will be reviewing classes to ensure an optimum learning environment. For some students, we will begin the transition process this year in consultation with case managers, parents and teachers. Parents are also reminded that friendships are an important part of everyone’s life – particularly at school. Children realise after a while that a good play-friend may not be a good learning-friend.
The most important consideration as we come to the end of the 2016 school year is that our children are still engaged and enjoying coming to school to learn. While the end of year becomes very busy, it is vital that we maintain routines, as best we can, and a focus on learning.

Jeremy Godden
Principal
Making happy times

The happy times you have with children are the building of their self-esteem and good mental health. It can be a good idea to think about all the happy interactions you have had with children in a day, and all the ones where you have been angry and had to say ‘no’, or have not had time to answer them. If there are more negative interactions than positive ones, it is important to think about what is happening in your life and how you could make it less stressful. Often the reason children miss out on good times is because their parents or carers are stressed. It is important to make time to have fun and take care of yourself.

For some parents and carers, making a conscious decision to do one fun thing every day with their children helps them build this into their busy lifestyle. It’s great if this is something you know your child loves to do: an outing in the park, fun with bubbles or a ball in the backyard, cooking or visiting a friend. Even if it is for 15 minutes, the main thing is that they are having fun with you.

Good feelings arise when a child gets a special smile or a word of encouragement for what they are doing, for example, singing something together as you go somewhere in your car, a gentle touch or a hug. Little things like this, done often, are important to children’s self-esteem and confidence.

Let your child help you sometimes with what you are doing. It may take longer but children love to help you and do things with you.

Think back on your own childhood and what your happiest memories were. Things may be different now but all children need happy times with their parents.

"... a child requires progressively more complex joint activity (interactions) with one or more adults who have an emotional relationship with the child. Somebody’s got to be crazy about the kid. That’s number one. First, last and always.’

For more information about Mental Health Matters

You are invited to attend Calliope State School’s cake and conversation Coping Café!

Parents come along and chat with support staff and other invited guests over a cuppa and cake. This is a great opportunity to get to know your children's support network and school community.

We would like to meet you, and as an integral part of your child’s growth and support, encourage parents and caregivers to be part of our positive school community.

**Guess Speaker:**

Robyn Hamilton will share her experience

“When to manage children with Anxiety”

**What do I bring?** Conversation, concerns, congratulations and children you may have at home!

Do I need to RSVP? No! Coffee, tea and cake is provided we just need YOU there to share it with.

**Wednesday 16th November**

9.00 am in the Library Square

Calliope State School

Support personnel

Kayleen Bishop (Head of Special Education)

Sonia Hain (School Chaplain)
Prep B would like to thank Gladstone Bunnings for their recent donation of equipment to help our garden continue to succeed. This included:

- Retractable hose reel with spray gun
- Watering cans
- Plant trainers/ trellises for beans, peas and tomatoes
Chappy News

Dare 9
To start the new term, think of a specific way you’d like to greet your spouse/partner this week. Do it with a smile and enthusiasm. Then determine to change your greeting from now on to reflect you love for them.

‘The Love Dare’ by Stephen & Alex Kendrick(Summarised)

McHappy Day Strings Performance

On Saturday November 12th, our Strings Ensemble performed as part of the McHappy Day celebrations at Boyne Island. Our group, lead by Miss Ruge, were wonderful. Thank you to all the parents and staff who were able to attend.

Booklist 2017

The booklist for 2017 is attached to this week’s newsletter.

Student Banking 16th November – Final Week

This is the final week for students to deposit funds for student banking at school. Due to our office moving on the 18th of November, the school will be unable to process anymore banking for 2016. School banking will resume in term 1 2017.
School Office Moves on Friday 18th

The office is moving on Friday the 18th November to temporary premises whilst the new administration building is being completed. It would be appreciated if contact with the office is kept to a minimum. There may be disruptions to phone and internet facilities, therefore ensure your children are aware of their after school routine.

Year 6 Transition to GSHS

On the 29th and 30th of November, Gladstone State High School are holding their transition days for the Year 6 students who will be attending Year 7 at Gladstone State High School in 2017. More information will be given to students in the future.

Year 6 Transition to Toolooa SHS

On Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th of November, Toolooa SHS are holding a two day orientation program for current Year 6 students moving into Year 7 in 2017. Please see attached sheet with more details.

Calliope’s Wide World of Sport

Junior Swimming Carnivals
Years 1-3 will be competing in mini swimming carnivals during week 9. Parents are welcome to attend and help out on the days – younger children are not permitted to be at the pool due to safety and supervision reasons. The students will be participating in a range of races and fun events.
* Prep – usual swimming times
* Year 1 – 28th of November - Monday 9:30am-11am
* Year 2 – 28th of November - Monday 11.45am-1.15pm
* Year 3 – 29th of November - Tuesday 1.15pm-3pm

Senior Swimming Carnival
The Senior Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday the 2nd of December starting at 12.30pm. Students are asked to nominate in at least one event. Parents, guardians and spectators are welcome to attend. The pool gates will be open from 12.15pm.