Good afternoon parents and families,

Welcome back to fourth term. In the classroom we have been writing stories about what your families have been doing over the holidays and it certainly seems that lots of families have made the most of the break. It’s lovely to see everyone again and I am very happy to tell you that everyone has got on with our learning with enthusiasm and commitment.

Our recent trip to Fitzroy Island and the turtle Rehabilitation Hospital is being written about by the students at present and we will follow up with this fantastic event through lots of environmental protection and sustainable solutions to waste management throughout the following months.

“Every day, in every way, every child is learning and achieving….”
**DATE CLAIMERS**

**Thursday October 5th**– Swimming commences and continues until week 8

**Saturday October 7th**– Babinda Harvest Festival– Musical Mayhem

**Thursday October 5th/9th/11th/12th/13th**– Gondwana Choirs Songfest rehearsals

**Friday October 13th**– Gondwana Choirs Songfest public performance all welcome

**Wednesday October 11th**– Surfing Scientist whole school

**Monday October 16th**– PUPIL FREE DAY– Staff CPR first aide training

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**Reef Magic—By Hein Ronlund**

On Wednesday the 4th of October, McDonnell creek state school had an excursion to Fitzroy Island. 17 of the 19 students at our school went.

We went on the Raging Thunder boat called the “Millennium Spirit”. As soon as we were out of the dock, the driver of the boat started to go at top speed and I could feel my hair whipping around in the wind. It took 45 minutes to get to the dock at the island.

Once we had gotten off the boat we put our bags under a tree and went to the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre. At the rehabilitation centre, they had 6 green sea turtles, 1 Olive Ridley turtle and 2 Hawksbill turtles. Some of the turtles were there because they ate plastic, some got caught in ghost nets, and some from old age or sicknesses like emphysema. Of all of those turtles only 1 of them won’t be able to be released back into the wild.

After that we went on the secret garden walk with Larissa Mundraby, an Indigenous Park Ranger, who told us all about the rainforest and the different trees there were and what the Aboriginal people used them for.

We then went snorkelling. We were separated into three groups, an older group, a middle group and a younger group. The older group went with Justin, a Marine Biologist, the middle group and younger group took turns to be with Marie Taylor, who is also a Marine Biologist. In the older group, we saw lots of fish, coral and two green sea turtles.

Once we had finished snorkelling we got changed and got ready to board the boat to go back home. I thought the trip was absolutely awesome.
Thursday 14th September
Students of the week

Thursday 05th October
Student of the week

Thursday 14th September
Gotcha awards

Thursday 05th October
Gotcha awards

Thursday 14th September
Super spellers
FRANKLIN ISLAND REEF EXCURSION