We have had news that Ms Williams-Carey is still unwell and will be continuing on sick leave until further notice. During this time Ms Sandra will be acting principal and Ms Holley will be the teacher in the senior classroom until week 5. Ms Clarke will then continue as the senior class teacher. Please be assured that your child’s education and their wellbeing remains at the forefront of all decisions being made at McDonnell Creek State School. We send Ms Williams-Carey our good wishes and hope she will be feeling better very soon.

Whole school history excursion

Ms Reece and Ms Sandra are planning an excursion to the Mulgrave Settlers Museum in Gordonvale on Friday the 12th August. This museum visit will provide a great educational focus to the history curriculum for both classes. In prep, year 1 and 2 the main concept that we are learning about relates to – what is history and how do we know; how has family life changed over time and encouraging children to identify differences as well as similarities between their daily lives and that of their parents, grandparents and significant older people.

The senior classes curriculum focus will also be enhanced through this excursion as they are investigating the first fleets arrival to Australia and how the pioneer settlers established themselves in this new environment.

An excursion form with further details as well as a permission slip will be sent home at a later date. We will require parent transport for this event and there will be a small cost involved for the museum entrance fee.

Indigenous inspired artworks

Our animals are now installed around the school. Thanks very much to Nicole and Warren for taking the time to secure these to our school’s walls.

“Every day, in every way, every child is learning and achieving....”
THE HAPPY WALK

Terra is walking around Australia. She will cover 16000 km's solo walking and pushing her barrow on dirt tracks, highways and spectacular country over a three year span. We were lucky to have Terra visit our school on Tuesday 12th July during our lunch break. On Tuesday Terra was commencing the final leg of her journey from Cairns to Canberra and was travelling from Gordonvale to Babinda. Terra spoke with the children about her personal reasons for this venture and her drive to support Lifeline which provides 24/7 crisis counselling to people 365 days of the year. Terra appreciates the role Lifeline has played in her life and this is her way of giving back to an organisation which helps so many. Terra is also passionate about the benefits of walking and exercise for a happy and fulfilling life that also assists with creating a positive mental outlook. You can follow Terra or find out more about her life and travels on this website.

https://thehappywalkblog.wordpress.com/

Terra says, “Lifeline have taken calls from people in crisis for 54 years. They take calls from almost 1 million people a year and many more through their online chat support service. Fundraisers like The Happy Walk help keep the crisis hotline and online support service running. Fundraisers are an essential part of Lifeline as our government has cut funding to this life saving non-profit charity. Each time you donate to a fundraiser, shop in a Lifeline store, visit a Lifeline Book Fair or participate in a Lifeline event you are helping save lives, you are helping to train phone counsellors and keep phone lines open.”

If you are experiencing a personal crisis help is available. Call 000 (Emergency Services) if life is in danger. Call us 13 11 14 (24hrs a day) No one needs to face their problems alone.
Bravehearts

The team from Bravehearts visited McDonnell Creek State school on Monday 11th of July.

Bravehearts’ key purpose is to educate, empower and protect Australian kids from sexual assault

Our Vision is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child by 2020. To achieve this we depend on business, government and community support. This will ensure continued delivery of our school-based prevention programs as well as training, counselling, support and advocacy for survivors.

It will also allow continued research and important legislative reform agenda.

Since its inception in 1997, Bravehearts has successfully moved this once taboo subject out of the shadows and into the light. As a result of its persistence, this distinction was acknowledged and supported by the Commonwealth Government and its COAG partners via the National Framework for the Protection of Australia’s Children (2009-2020).

The purpose of ‘Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show’ is to teach children personal safety in a non-confrontational, fun and engaging fashion. Bravehearts' Education Teams deliver the show's messages into schools, day care centres, shopping centres, sporting clubs and other facilities (relating to the care of children) to provide students, parents, teachers, carers and the general community with specialised child sexual assault awareness and

Fire and lockdown drill
All Education Queensland State Schools complete fire and lockdown drills on a regular basis in order to ensure the safety of all members of the school community. In the last couple of weeks your child’s classroom teacher has been discussing the need, relevance and procedures relating to these safety measures. All children were very alert to what was required of them and participated successfully in both drills.
Fire drill
The purpose of fire drills in schools is so that everyone in the building is aware of how to exit the building in the quickest, easiest and safest way possible. Fire drills at school are so extremely important. Students and teachers practice over and over again safe ways to exit the building. They practice leaving in single file and walking quietly so that safety instructions can be heard. Knowing how to safely exit the building makes it become second nature to exit in an orderly fashion and will in the end, save many lives if a real emergency arises.

Lockdown drill
The purpose of a school lockdown drill is to protect and keep as safe as possible the children and adults in the building from a potential emergency such as extreme weather, an intruder or aggressive person, dangerous animal, toxic chemical alert or other such threat. These drills should be conducted several times a year at different times of the day and without pre-announcement (during lunchtime or recess, during classes, or during drop-off or dismissal, for example), to give students and staff the opportunity to practice what to do in different scenarios.

School lockdown drills also usually include the following procedures:
- Doors to classrooms are closed and locked.
- Students are moved to the safest part of the room, away from windows and doors, to the interior walls.
- Everyone drops to the floor or out of the line of vision from the door.
- Window shades are pulled down.
- Any windows in doors are covered (to prevent an intruder from seeing into the room).
- Classroom lights are turned off.

Fire brigade visit to school
The Babinda fire station personnel will be visiting our school on the 2nd of August for a fire safety talk with all children. They will return for a second visit which will include a demonstration of the fire safety equipment and fire truck capabilities.

Friendship trees knitting project
As a community we are making knitted and crocheted tree wraps for some of our trees within the school grounds. The idea is that the students, teachers, visitors or parents might like to contribute to a joint community project which values diversity of creative expression and community connectedness. Please feel very welcome to pick up some needles, a crochet hook or simply stitch some of the knitted patches together to help us create something beautiful. The large basket of wool and completed squares of yarn will be on the lunch table before 9.00am and prior to children’s pick-up time of 3.00pm. This project is also a great way to pass onto younger generations.
Gotcha awards

Thursday 21st July

Thursday 28th July

Student of the week

Thursday 21st July

Thursday 28th July

Super spellers

Thursday 21st July

Thursday 28th July

Star gazing opportunity

The mobile planetarium is conducting night sky presentations on the 1st Sunday of every month at the Pier in Cairns between 10.00am — 2.00pm. As we are discovering about space and the night sky in our galaxy in science at the moment in the prep, year 1 and 2 classroom, you might like to consider visiting this venue if it interests your family. Costs: Adults - $10, children - $8, family – 2 adults and 2 children - $30.

Tick awareness

There has recently been a tick found on one of our students. Please regularly check your child for ticks as they can be very small but create quite a bit of discomfort and irritation. More information regarding ticks, removal and prevention can be found at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-tick-bite-prevention.htm

Upcoming events

Fire brigade – Tuesday 2nd August 2.00pm student talk

Babinda High School – Deputy Principal and senior students visiting senior class for short discussion relating to high school and in particular Babinda High.

Starwatch – Wednesday 10th August, 6-7.30 pm. Hopefully we will have clear night skies. Please come with folding chairs or blankets so we can sit outside and observe the constellations, look for shooting stars, search for satellites and be in comfort while we watch.

Gordonvale Settlers Museum – Friday 12th August, whole school excursion. Letter coming home for permissions shortly.

What’s happening in the junior classroom

The preps have been learning all about the number 12 and 13 in the last two weeks. They are counting forwards and backwards to thirteen as well as learning that groups of numbers can add to make another number. For example 10 + 3 = 13 or 7 + 3 = 10.

The year 1 and 2 students are practicing recreating geometric shapes as well as mirroring geometric shapes. We are having a lot of fun learning.
What's happening in the senior classroom.

The senior class are investigating force and motion as part of their science curriculum learning for term 3.