**PRINCIPAL PENS:**

Apologies for lack of contact through this medium but whilst attempts were made this represents our first newsletter for this term.

In our data driven world I’m concerned with the picture that is often presented about the elements being reviewed. Our student reports are a typical point in question. I’ve had parents indicate to me upon enrolment that their child is a “C” student in response to my questioning around scholastics. I rail against pigeon-holing and stereotyping young people who have still a deal of development to undertake. Should they have a label on their forehead during this period, it’s often difficult to erase and they become entrenched in this mode.

Additionally whilst the majority of the report cards sent home indicated that a parent interview is “welcomed but not essential”, I’m concerned with the decrease in the number of parents seeking an interview following report card time. In some ways this maybe a validation that your understanding of “where your child is at” concurs with the indicators on the report. However there is always a story behind the data. There are always strategies can be discussed to either consolidate achievements or indeed advance them. If you were on the verge of contacting the school and to request an interview, but hesitated when your hand lifted the phone could I urge you to reconsider and make that contact. It is never too late.

Wholehearted thanks to all those who undertook activities to ensure this year’s Track & Field Carnival was the best that it could be. This refers to both on the day efforts as well as those in preparation prior to the day. Whilst our band always is an inspiration on the day I was thrilled with those who completed the assigned working-bee jobs. Thanks again.

Our athletes performances were equally meritorious. It was not too many years ago when I can recall witnessing finals being conducted without a white uniform evident. Very few events were ‘whiteless’ with many featuring our athlete in a prominent position. Again from a historical perspective we in the past could herald a district champion. But to have 3 Age Champions is unprecedented and could indeed make some predictions about our future. These however need to be guarded.

In our de-briefing discussions with the older students, I was elated with their collective perspective on the day. Most comments centred on the efforts of all our Track & Field team and not just those who obviously did very well. I challenged the group to investigate what form a celebration should take, with divided opinions most evident. Not so much in relation to the dilemma of ice-cream or cake but indeed should it take place at all!!! The efforts and achievements are not out of the ordinary. It’s what we do. It’s our standard. Our culture…it was very difficult to argue against.

**What do you think?**
HIP, HIP HORRAY!

Cheers rang out loudly Friday and particularly during the Presentation Ceremony at the end of a highly successful Carnival. Congratulations to all the following athletes and participants.

AGE CHAMPIONS

BRENDAN VERRI - 9yrs Boys
HUNTER RICHTSFELD - 9yrs Girls
JEREMIAH SECKINGTON - 12yrs Boys

RELAY WINNERS:

Jnr: 1st Brendan V Snr: 1st Sam D Kirrima: 1st Brendan V
Brock B Lawrence H Dayne M
Dayne M Ashlee W Lawrence H
Logan G Jeremiah S Jeremiah S

DISTRICT REPS FOR PENINSULA TRACK & FIELD

Grace Smith, Logan Giuffrida, Ethan Zonta, Harry Smith, Lawrence Hiscox and Jeremiah Seckington.

OVERALL SCHOOL POINTS—ANDREW Cripps TRACK & FIELD TROPHY

LOWER TULLY STATE SCHOOL

(For the 3rd consecutive year!)

CONGRATULATIONS SHOW COMPETITION

Each year our students are invited to participate in the Tully Canegrower’s Essay Writing and Colouring In competition held in conjunction with our show.

The Essay writing is aimed at Yrs 6-7 and the Colouring-In targets the Prep—Yr 5.

WOW! Lots of Free show ride tickets to LTSS kids!

ESSAY WRITING: 1st Ashlee Watson
2nd Valerie deZwaan
3rd Dylan Giaquinto

COLOURING-IN:
1ST: Haylee Mills, Torey Giaquinto, Grace Smith
2ND: Lachlan Milini, Mackenzie Campbell
3RD: Hunter Richtsfeld

HUGE THANKS to those parents who have assisted with the job list that was made up at the Working Bee meeting. Jobs that have been completed:

Chain-sawing, Long Jump pits, Interchangeable sign, taps, Snr playground and trees.

Several more are still on the list and will be completed by the year’s end.

HEAD LICE ALERT

Please, please, please keep checking and treating those heads. As the weather becomes warmer these little critters will be more prevalent, so your vigilance is paramount to keeping them under control.

Treatment available from the school FOC.

RELAY FOR LIFE—Don’t forget to come and have a sausage at the stall tomorrow morning. Would love to see you. We are also selling cakes and lucky number board-all for a good cause.

TEITZEL’S SUPA IGA ~ CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
I often tell the kids in Year 3 and 4 that I’m the luckiest teacher in the world to be their teacher every day, and over the last few weeks, I have felt this stronger than ever.

Recently, the kids created some inspirational and heartfelt show display items that provided a glimpse of the wonderful people they are all becoming on the inside. I can't stress enough to them how powerful words can be, and the fact that the words they chose can be so moving and emotive really showcases their blossoming awareness of the power of the written word. It also exemplifies something I have known for a long time... that they are such a fantastic bunch of kids. Every single one of them. I hope you were able to take the time to stop by the LTSS display at the Tully Show to see for yourself some very mature insights into the people behind the faces of our kids. If not, the display has now been transferred to our classroom, and you are always welcome to pop in for a look.

Our maths studies have focused on working with decimal numbers since the start of term, and I’m not sure what I’ve created, but we seem to have a class full of kids who LOVE decimals and can't get enough of them. Almost as much as they love fractions and algebra. Wow... I’m not even joking. As a result, the thinking and logic being demonstrated is very impressive and their bubbling enthusiasm keeps pushing these further and further. Alongside this, we have been working towards a big times tables test for some time now, and the kids have been in study/revision mode in preparation for this test, which took place yesterday. Results will be available soon...

If your child hasn't already bombarded you with the ins and outs of the book we just finished reading in class, then I'd be very surprised. 'Chasing Rainbows' by Lucinda Haslinger has had us all completely mesmerised for the past few weeks and the kids have been asking for 'just one more page!' on a daily (if not hourly!) basis. The themes within this book are many, varied and all extremely relevant to people of all ages and walks of life, with a surprise revealed with each new chapter. The discussions that this book has stimulated have been very powerful and thought-provoking and have touched on issues and themes that are very close to home. There is a waiting list of staff, students and families wanting to borrow this book and we have unfortunately been unsuccessful in finding any other copies of it, as it's gone out of print. (By all means, please keep your eye out for more copies!) Isn't it funny to think that this hidden gem has been hiding on the shelves of the LTSS library for years and years. Just imagine how many more like this there are on those shelves, waiting ever so patiently to be discovered...

Lastly, if I don’t get to touch base with you all personally before I embark on the next exciting phase of my life (parenthood), please accept this as my heartfelt thanks for all the support you have afforded to me in my quest to help educate your children, and for trusting me with their care. Leaving the sanctuary of LTSS next Friday, and the beautiful children, staff and families here is going to be extremely difficult.

Best regards,
The Luckiest Teacher in the World
Julie Musumeci
Year 3-4 Teacher
GOSS FROM PREP ~ YEAR 2 CLASS

Determination, joy, pride, teamwork, and school spirit are just a few words that come to mind after watching the district sports day which took place last Friday. The students ran and cheered their little hearts out.

It has been so long since a newsletter has come out that a few things have happened in the prep – 2 classroom. Romayne Weare graced us with her presence for 2 weeks as she is a second year uni prac student. Romayne is currently a teacher aide at Tully State School. After completing her prac here at Lower Tully she just couldn’t praise the students and school more saying it is such a caring, loving, friendly environment. I know I’m very biased when it comes to the school but when you hear it from an outsider who works at a different school it is always nice to hear.

Students this term are writing fiction and non-fiction stories in English. The Commonwealth Games and the participating countries are currently being studied in Geography whilst various mathematical problems like mass measurement, partitioning and place value are being learnt in maths.

Have a great weekend.

Rachelle Salleras

DIARY DATES

- Wed 13 Aug ~ P&C Meeting, 3:30pm
- Thurs 21 Aug ~ Musica Viva—Whole School Performance at Tully Primary
- Fri 29 Aug ~ Year 6 Transition Day to Tully High

ATTACHMENTS:

Competitions and entry forms for the upcoming St Clares fete on Sat 30 August.