Can I congratulate all parents on the manner in which they were able to present their children ready to learn on the first day of school? We’ve had a very smooth start to the year with the only noticeable adjustment having to be made being the staff members who were used to an afternoon vacation nap!! Validation of this came separately from two educational professionals who visited the school on different days and times but sung from the same hymn book. They were enthusiastically effusive in their praise of our students and the school. Nice start.

The Education Department’s Day 8 was yesterday and we were able to submit a total enrolment of 60 students. This day is used by the Department to resource schools in all areas including staffing of teachers, aides and admin personnel as well as finance to fuel our budget. We anticipate over the coming days an additional 5 students as two new families move to our area. Our break down is P-1 16 students, Yr 2-4 21 students and Yrs 5 -6 23 students. We were also able to welcome new staff members Mr Morrison replacing Mrs Crema (Science), and Ms Hall replacing Mrs Stewart (Instrumental Music). Both teachers are on contract for 12 months.

The results from last Saturday’s State election are still very much unclear but with time this picture will indeed bring changes to Education. Impacts for our school will always be ‘cushioned’ as far as possible but always difficult to predict. What is very clear however is the wonderful effort by our P&C Association in record time to engineer a marvellous cake stall which generated significant funds for our students’ benefit. Many thanks. It has however delayed our Smart Schools Subsidy Scheme application. Subsequently we have been advised that no announcement on our proposed to improve the weather proofing of the tennis court area won’t be known for some time.

With the arduous task of Instrumental Music allocation now commenced, where screening processes are followed, can I remind parents of responsibilities undertaken? Initially regular practice needs to be undertaken in a managed way. Secondly care of the instrument needs to be paramount with regular maintenance and cleaning undertaken and lastly when competency levels are appropriate, participation in wider group membership with Cluster initiatives needs to be accepted. What also needs to be accepted is that chopping and changing can’t be accommodated within the program. Changes from one instrument to another may be able to be made on a yearly basis but not in between unless special circumstances exist. Additionally what needs to be recognised is that the instrument isn’t the most important element of the journey – it’s the knowledge and skills of the music. Experience with a range of instruments can be most beneficial with the understanding, that once competency, deep knowledge and skills are achieved, real musicianship can be realised.

This scenario is not a standalone one as there are close and direct associations with classroom and indeed sporting learnings. Students often readily adopt a negative perception of preference for reading, maths or sports and equally a positive disposition to these of specifically playing centre or goal shooter in netball, halfback or hooker in rugby or striker or centre mid in real football. These selections are too important to be left to student immature preference and need perseverance, commitment and dedication before very positive outcomes are realised. A proven past formula.
Welcome to our 2015 Prep Students and new families who have chosen to commence their learning journey with LTSS!

**PREPPERS:**
- Izzabella Con Goo
- Paul Con Goo
- Seth Domara
- Daniel Murphy
- Charlie Smith
- Abbey Wells

**OTHER NEW STUDENTS**
- Taylor Edwards—Yr 2
- Arianna Hyytinen—Yr 4
- Isabella Slater—Yr 5
- Selena Jenkins—Yr 6

"Lower Tully State School ~ providing an educational environment in which students develop confidence to learn, and achieve success as individuals”.

**LET THE FUN BEGIN!**

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**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM**

As mentioned last year, there has been a change in the way this program has been delivered to the schools. As yet no firm application process or funding arrangements have been put in place. The new program is named “Sporting Schools” and we are very hopeful with the support of our P&C Association to positively pursue this initiative. We will keep you posted.

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**AUDIT REQUIREMENTS!** Towards the end of last school year, this school went through a Financial and Workplace, Health & Safety Audit. Although we received a favourable report, several issues were brought up to be addressed. Firstly a MEDIA CONSENT FORM, has to be completed for each student. The purpose of this to allow your child’s name, image, recording or any other identifying information to be used in any media format.

Secondly if your child is to be given any form of medication whilst at school, a REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION form will need to be completed. This can be done at the school office.

Also attached to this newsletter is a request to update all personal details, particularly mobile and email. This is really necessary during our ‘wet season’ time if contact has to be made for an early departure from school.

Please return your forms ASAP to the school office.

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**P & C AGM**

**WEDNESDAY**

11 FEB

@ 3:30PM

**SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**KETTLE WILL BE ON THE BOIL!**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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**DIARY DATES:**

- **SATURDAY 14 FEB ~** ❤ **HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY**
- **FRIDAY 20 FEB ~** Inter School Swimming Carnival (10-12yrs) 5:30-8:30pm
- **FRIDAY 27 FEB ~** Netball & Rugby League Carnival (mostly Yrs 5 & 6 students)
News from the 2,3 & 4 Classroom

Holidays…What holidays? Everyone here in 2/3/4 is back in full swing and the school holidays are a mere distant memory. The students have adapted seamlessly to their new routines, and surroundings (2/3), and have made a fantastic start to the academic year with 5 students receiving special awards already. These certificates are awarded on a Friday afternoon to students who demonstrate an outstanding dedication to the school values: Be a Learner, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. Also, most students now have personalised goals for their individual development. Ask your child what they are working towards in class.

Well done everyone, Keep up the good work.

Nicky Smith

Just a few reminders:

As the temperature continues to soar outside the classroom the air-conditioner is working hard to keep the classroom cool. However, the temperature in our room is inconsistent and some students sit under a vent. Please encourage your child to bring a long sleeve shirt if they are prone to coldness in aircon.

I have noticed some year 2 students do not have a display folder and some are even missing an adequate number of lined books. Could you please discuss this with your child and send in these items if they are missing.

Please remember to sign your child’s reading log and sight word log (Yr. 2 only) every evening. Also, Year 3/4 students will greatly benefit from an adult testing their spelling words on a Thursday evening in preparation for the spelling test on Friday morning.

Thank you.

Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning over the next few weeks:

English: Analysing and creating persuasive texts. In this unit, students read and analyse persuasive texts and will be required to write a series of short texts to persuade an audience. You can help by discussing advertisements with your child i.e. Are they effective? What techniques do they use to convince us to buy the product they are selling?

Maths: Place value, addition and subtraction strategies, length and 2D shapes.

Geography: Exploring similarities and differences in places near and far. In this unit students will investigate the following inquiry questions: How and why are places similar and different? What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?

History: Investigating celebrations, commemorations and community diversity. In this unit students will investigate the following questions: How and why do people choose to remember significant events of the past? What is the nature of the contribution made by different groups and individuals in the community?

Reading: I’ve attached an information sheet that you can use when reading with your child. They include questions that would help with their language and comprehension skills.
PO Timetable:

**Monday:** New homework day, Tuckshop day.
**Tuesday:** P.E and Music day
**Wednesday:** Science day
**Thursday:** Library day (Please remember to bring back Library books and bags)
**Friday:** Art day

Everyday we get to enjoy a piece of fruit between 9:30 and 10:00am. Because this is before lunch, if tuckshop is ordered I don’t get to eat my fruit at Fruito. Please may I have some fruit packed in my lunchbox everyday for Fruito?

Homework is to be returned to school everyday for marking and changing of home readers. Friday is the only day that homework does not go home.

Due to the hot weather still being with us we ask that you bring a bottle of water for you to sit on the sink so that you may have a drink through the day without needing to go out of the classroom.

Thank you and WELCOME to PO.

Miss Brien

Meet our new Prep: Abbey Wells, Charlie Smith, Daniel Murphy, Selah Domara, Bella Congroo, Paully Congroo.

Year One: Alyssa Williamson, Beau Carman, Hollie Andersen, Ryan Milini, Haylee Mills.

Preppies hard at it learning to write their numbers. Straight into the tough stuff!