

**LOYALTY
TOLERANCE
STRENGTH
SUCCESS**

LOWER TULLY SS MATTERS

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**EVERYDAY
COUNTS**

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**A/PRINCIPAL: JULIE
MUSUMECI**



Ulysses Cluster of Schools
Delivering the Service Commitment

FAMILY NAME:

P&C President: Fiona Bonassi

PRINCIPAL PENS:

It's that time of the year again, and NAPLAN is upon us. This week, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will be given an opportunity to demonstrate all of the knowledge and skills they have acquired to this point of their educational journey. As always, the approach that we take with preparing our students for these tests, is minimal... and for very good reasons. NAPLAN assessment papers cover such a vast scope of knowledge and understandings, that they are impossible to study or 'cram' for, and so any preparation beyond looking over past test papers and explaining to students what will happen, is futile. The best way for schools to prepare students is to simply go about their daily teaching and learning and take little notice of point-in-time assessments such as this. The best way for parents to prepare their children is to ensure a good nights' sleep prior to test days, provide a healthy breakfast, remove all pressure and expectation and deliver the message that doing their best is all that is required of them, and nothing is going to happen if they aren't able to accurately answer every question. Your child's teacher knows what each child is capable of and it is the work the children complete in class that dictates their report card results. NAPLAN results do not come into the equation. NAPLAN results are used in many ways nationally: to inform teachers, to inform schools and to improve systems to better cater to the learning needs of specific cohorts of students so that we may adapt our practice accordingly. The very clear message that we have always and will always send to our students regarding assessments of this type, is quite simply:

“JUST DO YOUR BEST AND FORGET THE REST”

NAPLAN testing will occur nationally on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. If you have any further queries or concerns, please contact me at the school.

We made a staff decision at the beginning of the year to no longer schedule formal parent/teacher interviews to report on student progress, because we felt the format was no longer an effective model in helping to reach the parents we needed to. We also felt that scheduling them for specific times of the year would give parents and families the idea that this was the only time they would be welcome to meet with their child's teacher for progress updates and discussions about their learning. To replace this model, we decided that regular phone calls between teachers and parents as and when issues arose would be more time effective and more learner specific. This, however, does not mean that we would not welcome a parent/teacher interview at any time, as nothing could be further from the truth. If ever parents or carers have any queries about their child's learning and development, I urge you to call the school and schedule a meeting with your child's teacher **AT ANY TIME**. Perhaps you're just looking for an update on the concepts your child has covered this term so that you can provide assistance at home, and that is also enough to warrant a meeting. As always, our doors are always open and we love it when parents take a pro-active approach to discuss their concerns. We offer more informal 'check-ups' of student progress at our termly Family Night, which leads to me my next point...

Our Family Night for Term 2 is happening this Friday night – 12th May. If you haven't been to one before, please do yourselves and your kids a favour and join us for a super cheap and fun family night out. This one is a movie night where we'll all bring our blankets, pillows, deck chairs and bean bags along and set up under the stars to enjoy a movie together. Our wonderful P&C is putting on a sausage sizzle where for the teeny tiny cost of \$5 per family, you can have as many sausages on bread as you like. Drinks will be on sale and you'll be able to purchase bags of popcorn for \$1 throughout the movie. Your children take so much pride in bringing their families along and showing you all around our beautiful little school, and there aren't many places you can enjoy a night of family fun for only \$5. Please see the flyer attached for further details.

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE:

I'm sure many of you have received regular updates from your children about the status of our playground upgrade, as a number of new elements have been added in recent weeks. All children completed a playground survey, conducted by our Year 6 students, and had their say in what they'd like to see in their school grounds. At this Wednesday's P&C Meeting, a number of our Year 6 students will present the data and results from this survey and make suggestions to our P&C about the most popular items to spend the remainder of our grant money on. Exciting times ahead. I can't even begin to show my gratitude, appreciation and admiration for the way our little community has come forth to offer their assistance with different aspects of this project already, and I will share more about this in coming weeks. Our common cause of creating better opportunities for our children is what keeps us all so focused on forging forward. Stay tuned...

See you on Friday night,

Julie Musumeci

SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Recently we have celebrated student achievements in many different sporting arenas. Let's all congratulate the following students in gaining selection and representing Tully District:

TOUCH FOOTY: Chelsea Zonta

SOCCER: Ashlee Milini

SOFTBALL: Arianna Hyytinen, Chelsea Zonta

CROSS COUNTRY: Joe Strutt, Brianna Petersen

Reed Bonassi (1st) and Jaia Richtsfeld (2nd) 9yrs boys are not eligible for selection until next year.

Further to sporting successes we also congratulate following students who will be representing LTSS at the Innisfail Young Performers playing their selected instruments:

Zac Hall ~ Trombone, Arianna Hyytinen ~ Alto Sax, Alexis Milkini ~ Flute.

MOTHERS' DAY CAKE STALL & RAFFLE

This Friday 12 May

Outside Mackays Offices

Butler Street Tully

CAKES AND GOODIES CAN BE LEFT AT THE SCHOOL ANYTIME BEFORE THIS DATE.

If you are able to give a hand with setting up or selling please give Fiona Bonassi a call:

0408 735 139

A few more hands would make light work!

The Mothers' Day Raffle will be drawn at our Family Movie Night so please return all tickets asap.



LTSS PLAYGROUP

Commencing MONDAY

15 May in the Activities

Building 9:00am-11:00am

Facilitator: Carissa Clancy. Children from Birth to 5yrs and their Mums/Dads/Carers are more than welcome.

To assist with getting this off to a great start we are looking for any pre-loved, in good working order and clean toys/games which you would like to donate. All donations would be greatly appreciated and put to very good use.

Could you please pass this onto all interested persons.



Year 4/5/6: Term 2, Week 4

Here we are in Week four. The children and I are not quite sure how that happened? Beginning Term 2 with three short 4-day weeks has been a rollercoaster ride. We have packed so much into these last twelve school days, a soccer carnival, marching together to commemorate ANZAC Day, a face-to-face lesson with our Indonesian teacher Ms Tandy, cross country and a playground survey along with our usual learning, playing, coding and having fun.

I have been filled with pride and gratification at how well our seniors and leaders have represented our school at these events. The highest reward has been receiving positive feedback from visitors to our beautiful little school and too, when the children travel afar to represent Lower Tully. Good manners and good sportsmanship from our students have ensured that the long and esteemed reputation Lower Tully has earned is upheld.

This week our Year Five students (and Year Three) will be sitting the 2017 NAPLAN tests. Please help your kids be ready for the tests by ensuring that they sleep well, eat well and know that all that is expected is that they have a go and do their best on the day.



Helping Kids get Organised

Parent Pointers

Organisation is important for everyone. Talk with your child about how you organise things and how they can become more organised.

Provide materials – such as a calendar, notepad for a “To Do” list, sticker chart on the fridge and any other tools – that can help your child get organised.

When your child is presented with a large task, help them break it into small ones and establish a plan and deadlines for each task.

Repetitive tasks (such as packing their school bags every morning) will be easier if they establish a routine and have a check list. Lunch ... tick. Hat ... tick. Reading log ... tick.

ABCs of Student Success

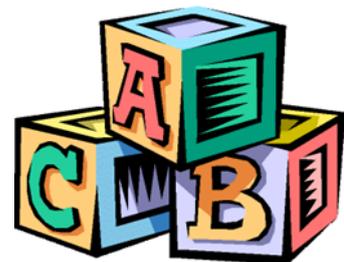
C is for CHOICES

According to Jim Fey, author of *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent*, giving children choices is more effective than making demands. He suggests:

Never give choices if it might cause problems for you or anyone else.

Give only two options for each choice, both equally okay with you. For example, would you like peas or carrots? or Do you want to do your reading now or in 15 minutes?

If the child doesn't decide within 10 seconds, make the choice for them.



PREP & YEAR 1 NEWS

I absolutely hate spending time away from this beautiful class of Prep and Year 1 children, but often the demands of my role mean that it cannot be avoided. One thing that I am very grateful for though, is the fantastic and admirable dedication of the teachers who come in to replace me. More often than not this year, this person has been Mrs Sharryn Westbrook, who the children adore. It gives me great pleasure to share with you the comments Sharryn made about the amazing progress that these little people have made in such a short time. They are forming some lovely friendships and working beautifully together as a cohesive group, using manners, developing their social skills and building confidence each and every day, and the progress noted in their learning has been exponential!

The Preps and Year 1s require your urgent assistance to send in as many empty cans (soup, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, etc) as you can before Wednesday of this week to help us with a top secret activity that we absolutely cannot tell you anything about until after this weekend. If you can help, please send in your empty, clean cans into the P/1 classroom at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Julie Musumeci

GOSS FROM YRS 2 ~ 3

Hi everyone, welcome back to term 2.

We have had a busy start to this term. But the year 2/3 are powering through their learning requirements.

Currently in English students are learning about narratives and characters within narratives. I must say our students have an amazing imagination. Over the last couple of weeks students have been developing their knowledge of nouns, verbs, antonyms and synonyms. In Maths the year 3 have been working hard at learning their multiplication facts, while the grade 2 are mastering their number facts.

Two weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending an Autism and Aspergers workshop, this was an amazing opportunity and I have learnt how to better support the learning needs of all my students.

Even that it is still early in the year I can already see growth and learning in the students. It is amazing to see the great developmental change from the beginning of the year to now. I am astonished to see how each student progresses and learns everyday.

I look forward to seeing you all at the family night on Friday.

Shaye Robson, Classroom teacher.