



**BARCALDINE PREP-12 STATE SCHOOL**  
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Our Year 12 Meritorious Morning Tea students.

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 2, TERM 3 | AUGUST – 2023

## What's On & Date Claimers:

### Week 5, Term 3

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Aug - Secondary Parade  
- Miss Baartz, Prac Teacher commencing in Year 1/2

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Aug - Chappy with us  
- Mrs Wren in Jericho

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Aug - P&C Meeting 5:15pm

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Aug - Chappy with us  
- Brekky Club  
- Free Dress Day – Jeans for Genes Day, gold coin donation  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lunch Movie & Art

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Aug - Primary Parade  
- Guidance Officer visiting

### Week 6, Term 3

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Aug - Secondary Parade  
- National Science Week  
- Guidance Officer visiting  
- Miss Baartz in Year 1/2

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Aug - Chappy with us  
- Guidance Officer visiting  
- Mrs Wren in Blackall

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Aug - Speech Language Pathologist visiting

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Aug - Chappy with us  
- Brekky Club  
- CLAW working with staff  
- 1<sup>st</sup> lunch Mitchell vs Leichhardt – Bullrush  
- Noosa Film Academy working with Year 10

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Aug - Primary Parade  
- Playgroup  
- National Day Against Bullying  
- Variety Bash Car Show  
- Vietnam Veterans Day 10am

Sat/ Sun - NW Athletics Longreach

## Principal's Message:



A massive shout out to our P&C, staff, students and community members who volunteered their time at the Barcaldine Campdraft last weekend. This 3-day event saw breakfast, lunch and dinner being provided to both locals and visitors who by all accounts enjoyed every bite. While finances are still being finalised, I believe the P&C have raised a significant amount of money from this event which is greatly appreciated.

I am hearing a number of whispers at the moment about our school and would like to thank those of you who have sort valid answers from reliable sources. We know that communication is key in all we do. We also know

that we are all human and at times communication break downs occur and people's perceptions can cause communication to become manipulated. I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring you obtain information from the correct source and if it sounds like hear say then make the decision to listen to and/or repeat that information mindfully. Education today is significantly different to what we experienced and educating individual students in a group setting isn't always the easiest job. However, clear communication and clarification ensures successful student outcomes which is everyone's goal. If you have questions or concerns, please ring me.

### School Opinion Survey

A reminder that the School Opinion Survey (SOS) has been emailed directly to families for completion between **24 July to 18 August 2023**. If you haven't already, I strongly encourage every family to take the time to complete the SOS.

The SOS is designed to obtain the views of parents/caregivers, students and school staff on what our school does well and how we can improve. Opinions about the school on a range of topics are sought from a parent/caregiver in all families and from state school students in Years 5, 6, 8 and 11.

### Meritorious Awards & High Expectations:

At Barcaldine Prep-12 State School, we recognise high achievement in our schooling environment in a variety of ways. We believe that students can achieve their best through positive application to school expectations and this in turn will lead to positive academic outcomes. In streamlining the Meritorious award process, we have reviewed the current policy, our High Expectations policy and Effort and Behaviour Matrix. An email with specific details will be sent home as these changes become effective from Semester 2, 2023.

Key changes include:

- Meritorious awards are linked to reporting periods
- To receive a Meritorious award, the following criteria is followed:

Criteria for Nomination	
Effort	1. Achieve an Effort Excellent or Very Good for all subjects
Behaviour	1. Achieve a Behaviour Excellent or Very Good for all subjects 2. Have no more than 1 completion room detention per term. 3. Have no more than 1 uniform infringement per term. 4. No Suspensions.
Attendance	1. Attend >90% All School Days (Inc. representative commitments)
Year Level	Meritorious is awarded to students from Years 4 - 12.

Students achieving all criteria except 1 satisfactory for effort and behaviour, and with an attendance rate of no less than 85% may be eligible for an encouragement award at the discretion of the principal.

### Discipline by Dr Paul Teys:

Discipline is a complex issue influenced by various factors, including societal changes, parenting styles, student behaviour, and school culture. It requires a multi-faceted approach that involves collaboration between all stakeholders. While there has been abundant media and social media discussion about the topic of late, it would be inaccurate to make a blanket statement that schools have lost control of student behaviour in classrooms and that there is some sort of crisis in our schools.

Schools and teachers play a crucial role in maintaining and creating a conducive learning environment. They typically have policies and behaviour management measures in place to address disruptive behaviour and ensure the smooth functioning of classrooms. However, it's important to recognise that various factors can influence classrooms, such as changes in societal dynamics, technological advancements, and individual student circumstances, which can present new challenges. This is what we are seeing.

In recent months, and it isn't new, concerns have been raised about issues like bullying, student disengagement, mental health, technology's impact on classroom dynamics, and the rampant use of social media in the playground. It's worth noting that schools and school systems continuously adapt and evolve to address these

challenges. They often implement strategies for classroom management, student support services, teacher training, and parental involvement to create a positive and structured learning environment. While individual incidents may occur, it would be inaccurate to generalise and claim that schools have universally lost control of classrooms.

The issue of control in the classroom is a complex and multifaceted one. All teachers have the same ideals: establish a supportive environment by focussing on creating a classroom culture that encourages mutual respect, open communication, and collaboration. Teachers want all students to feel safe and supported, which fosters a positive learning atmosphere. Implementing effective classroom management strategies can help teachers maintain a healthy learning environment while allowing students to actively engage in learning. When teachers and students work together as partners in the learning process, the classroom becomes a space where everyone can thrive.

It would seem, though, from the extensive coverage given to the well-being of teachers in the media and social media, that all is not well in classrooms across the country. Teachers are more stressed than ever trying to sustain healthy classrooms by enforcing reasonable expectations and standards of behaviour and learning. This is a complex issue.

### **Do Schools Need to be Stricter on Students?**

The question of whether schools need to be stricter on students is subjective and depends on various factors. More stringent rules and enforcement can be seen as a way to maintain order, discipline, and a focused learning environment. Proponents argue that stricter policies can promote a sense of responsibility, respect for authority, and adherence to rules. They believe that a structured environment helps students develop self-control, accountability, and good habits that are essential for success in academics and later in life.

However, it's important to consider the potential drawbacks of strictness. Overly strict policies may lead to a more oppressive and rigid environment, stifling creativity, individuality, and critical thinking. Some argue that rigorous discipline can have adverse psychological effects on students, leading to stress, anxiety, or a fear of making mistakes.

An alternative approach focuses on fostering a positive and supportive school culture, emphasising the importance of empathy, communication, and mutual respect. This approach aims to create a safe and inclusive learning environment where students are motivated intrinsically to behave responsibly and meet academic expectations.

Ultimately, finding the right balance between discipline and liberality in schools is crucial. When designing effective behaviour management strategies, it's important to consider individual students' needs, developmental stages, and cultural contexts. Collaborative efforts involving educators, parents, and students can help establish policies that promote learning, character development, and overall well-being.

Education Today – School Management by Dr Paul Teys

### **Senior Schooling:**

In coming weeks, students in Year 12 will begin preparing for their final pieces of assessments. For students who are ATAR eligible - study 5 General subjects, 4 General subjects and 1 Applied subject or 4 General subjects and a completed Certificate III or above - it is time for them to register to receive their ATAR. In preparing to complete their application with QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre), students will apply for the university they wish to attend and the courses required for their future pathways.

It is also the time for students to prepare for External Examinations. If students are studying QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) General subjects, they will sit external assessments at the end of Year 12 through a designated External Exam Period. In 2023, this period begins on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October and ends on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

External assessments are subject-based written exams that are:

- common to all schools
- developed and marked by the QCAA.

Students who study Applied Subjects will not sit External Exams, however will be required to complete exams and assignments in this time as set out in the Study Plans for these subjects approved by QCAA.

Information on how the External Exam period will look in our school will be distributed to all Year 12 students and families in coming weeks.

### Food Ladder Greenhouse:

Food Ladder is an organisation that's empowering and educating future generations to grow food in the community, to improve nutrition whilst protecting the environment and enhancing the local economy. Through funding obtained, Food Ladder will be working with our school to provide a 20m<sup>2</sup> polycarbonate greenhouse with internal growing system and evaporative cooler. A horticultural expert will work with staff and students to assist with the procurement, installation, commissioning and optimisation of the greenhouse and internal growing system.

As we further enhance rural pathways for interested students, a 10-week module that aligns with the Australian Curriculum and includes links to STEM curriculum will be developed collaboratively with Food Ladder and implemented in the school setting. The greenhouse and internal growing system will be used to grow vegetables each term which will then be consumed by the students.



Work on the greenhouse will commence in Term 4. Watch this space for updates.

### P&C:

Departmental funding is assigned to the various allocated areas within the school context. As a result, certain funds cannot always be used for particular purchases and as such savings, fundraising and grants are required. In making our school accessible and resourceful for everyone, wish list items are discussed and considered at budget reviews and P&C Meetings. In further supporting us, our P&C has contacted a grant writer who is going to assist with applying for some further funds. Some of our wish list items include:

- Re-flooring of the Multi-Purpose Area (big shed)
- Re-flooring of the outdoor netball courts
- Extension to the Multi-Purpose Area – stage, full kitchen, amenities, auditorium seating, air conditioning, key pad lock system, sound system, etc
- Electronic sign for the front of the school
- Softfall under the primary playgrounds
- Play equipment in the secondary school

A number of fundraising events are coming up this term. We know that many hands make light work and all money raised goes straight back into the school. Specific details will be shared on FaceBook however if you don't access FaceBook and would like to know more please contact Toni Austin or myself.

- 9<sup>th</sup> August – P&C Meeting 5:15pm Main Office
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Senior Rugby League Presentation Night
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> September – WESTECH
- 9<sup>th</sup> September – Local Wedding

Until next time,  
Nicole Landers  
Principal