From the Principal
It’s week 6 of the school year and the term is certainly starting to disappear quickly. Our parent-teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 17th March from 3:30pm and run until 6:30pm. All interviews will be held in the Prep/Year 1 room with each teacher set up at different locations around the room. Interviews are booked through the office and are 10 minutes in length. If you would like a longer session please let us know. Please call Mrs Conway on 07 4785 2193. We look forward to seeing you there.

Welcome New Staff
This Tuesday our new music teacher Amanda Parter will be starting at our school. Amanda is currently based at Bowen State School, plays many instruments and will be a great musical inspiration for many of our students. We are very pleased to have Amanda at our school.

Sports News
We are down to three swimming lessons left for the term before our swimming carnival on Thursday 24th March and the children are definitely starting to make some improvements. It’s always great to see smiling faces and plenty of enthusiasm, plus the cool water has been fantastic on these warm days.

Cross country has snuck up on us literally. It will be held on Tuesday 22nd March starting at 9am with our Prep and Year 1’s getting us underway. We will be starting to set the course up early this week and all students will be given a walkthrough of the course by Tuesday 8th March. The interschool cross country will be held at Bowen State School on Friday April 15th.

Quote of the Week
“Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each” – Pluto. Children learn in environments that feel safe and exciting. What makes your child’s eyes light up with imagination and wonder?

“Buck of Melanoma” – Walk for a Cure
The “Buck of Melanoma” – Walk for a Cure will be held on the 20th of March 2016 at Hansen Park, where we will also be taking the chance to launch our new sunscreen sponsored by Ultra Protect. We welcome everyone to attend a meet and greet at the Grand View Hotel on the 19th of March 2016 from 5pm. Attending will be –

- Ultra Protect – Sunscreen Sponsor
- Jane Palmer – QIMR Berghofer’s P1514 Projects Research Nurse
- Antonia Prichard – Research Scientist
- Dale Last – Member for Burdekin

All funds raised by “Buck of Melanoma” go directly to Professor Nicolas Haywood’s Project P1514 for developing personalized cancer vaccines for patients. Flyer for event is in this newsletter. If you would like to get a team together for the Walk please contact your schools administration for more information. Warm Regards Jan.
Attendance
Here is the class attendance data for Week 5 of Term 1. Our goal as a school is to have all classes averaging above the 95% mark. Congratulations to our Year 3/4 class who averaged 98.94% for the week. They are truly out of this world.

P/1 Super Stars News
We have been working really busy this week in class! Our year 1 students have been completing Duck Level Testing and doing really well! In mathematics, we are adding numbers and even the preps can add too! We would like to thank the parents who came to the SSP information night last week. Miss Pawson really appreciated your support and commitment to SSP! As the visual arts diary wasn’t on the book list, would it be possible to bring one into school? We’d love to keep all our art work safe!

News from 2/3 Smarty Pants Owls
We are half way through the term and I want to congratulate everyone on their wonderful poems that were constructed last week. If you haven’t had a chance, you should check out the display of these SUPER poems in the office foyer! A BIG thank you to my two mums that provided tea, coffee and nibbles for the parent SSP workshop. It is so wonderful to see such enthusiasm for our SSP approach within the school! Attendance is very important at this stage of the term as we are beginning to conduct assessments and are learning key concepts during class time. Could everyone please bring in an art folder please. A big thank you to parents as well for reading with your children every day to ensure reading success! Remember today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders! Mrs H
A Blast from 3/4 Class!
Our class garden has had some failures, mainly the lettuce. The curry plant and the other herbs seem to be doing ok; we even have flowers on our marigolds! This past week we have started our worm farm. We are hoping the worm tea will help our garden grow even better. Hopefully we will have extra and we can provide the keen gardeners in our school with some! In class we have started learning about fractions and very soon we will start looking at chance and data. Every week the children are improving their ability to write persuasive texts, we even had some children trying to persuade us to eat tripe and liver trifle!! Any year 3 or 4 parents who want to find out more can join us on our dojo page. There are many more exciting activities to come in the near future, so stay tuned. From the intrepid Year 3/4 class.

What’s Happening in 5/6?
The last few weeks 5/6 have been learning about fair tests. We are all enjoying investigation and experimenting to analyse what makes a test fair. In the next few weeks we will be conducting investigations to prove what environments best suit the growth of different plants.

Merinda Magic Skipping Team
Merinda Magic Skipping Team has started their practice again for the year on Mondays and Wednesdays. They are going to be super-skip-tastic!

Parenting Ideas
Teasing Versus Bullying
By Michael Grose

When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question- “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.
Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It's generally an attempt to get under a person's skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person's rights. But generally teasing doesn't have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can't escape bullies like they once could.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child's support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

**St Mary’s Catholic Church Notice**
In May we will begin preparation lessons for children wishing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. Dates set presently for commencement of lessons are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lessons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th May 2016</td>
<td>Lessons for Receiving of the Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th May 2016</td>
<td>Lessons for Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th August 2016</td>
<td>Lessons for First Communion</td>
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If your child or children wish to receive these Sacraments please contact Gloria Fisher on 07 4786 3165 or 0403 114 773 and she will be more than happy to answer any enquiries.

**Merinda Super Students**
YOUR DONATION WILL SAVE LIVES!!!
DON'T TALK THE TALK! WALK THE WALK!!!

"BUCK OFF MELANOMA"
WALK FOR A CURE!

20th MARCH - from 7am
HANSEN PARK

BUCK OFF MELANOMA COMMUNITY Fund raising for the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute for 'PERSONALIZED' IMMUNOTHERAPY and raising SKIN CANCER AWARENESS are holding a WALK FOR A CURE on the 20th March, 2016

Walk for those who have sadly lost their battle with cancer, battling cancer and to raise awareness and funds for a CURE. Without Funds, life saving research comes to a halt therefore we would like to extend an invitation to all Companies, Businesses, Clubs and friends to enter teams, to individuals, families and schools to join our WALK FOR A CURE!!

Meet at Hansen Park from 7am. 8am we kick off our scenic 5 klm. Walk along our walking track to Rose Bay and back to then enjoy the markets, music and the delicious sausage sizzle organized by our local Lions Club.

Entry Fees:
Minimum $10.00 per Adult.
$5.00 per High School Student.
Gold coin per Primary School Student

FUN FOR EVERYONE!!
SUN SAFE TEAM THEME / FANCY DRESS
AND REMEMBER TO SLIP SLOP SLAP!!

Donations Welcome!! Entries welcome on the day!!

Entry forms available from proud sponsors Bowen Independent, Bartec, Bowen Stationery and Computers, Coral City to Country, Mitre 10, Glenlizzy Uniforms, Power Quip, Denison Hotel and Celebrations.

Call Sara 0448196250 or Jan 0400666459 for more information