Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community Members,

WELCOME

Welcome to all of our families for the wonderful commencement to the year the children have had. Cassia Primary School has seen the addition of another classroom this year with increased student numbers.

This year we welcome new staff members, Mrs Janice Tilburn, Mr Levi Ellis, Mrs Amanda Keogh, Mrs Jodie Wilde and Mrs Belinda Musumeci.

COUNCILLORS

I would like to congratulate all of our Year 6 students for their exceptional speeches in the lead up to the Councillor elections. Congratulations to Head Boy Jalen Coppin, Head Girl Taya Tuffin and Councillors Taj Derschow, Billy Ryan, Freya Cameron-Webster and Victoria Pocock. I have already had positive feedback relating to the conduct of our councillors and the support they have been providing students in distress. Next assembly our Shadow Councillors will be announced.

CARPARK

I would like to thank all of our parents and community members for their patience in relation to the informal car park closure this week. As communicated to every family earlier this week we have had to temporarily close the car park due to pre-works drilling and digging for our new car park. This has ensured the safety of our students and community members at this time. The new car park is one which the school have been working tirelessly, for many years, to get for our school community. It will have new bays for parents, staff and a turning bay for the buses. When the new work commences this will create further closures. However, please note that Cassia Primary School is now serviced by Trans Hedland and all students have received their Smart Rider cards to assist families in school transport. Please remember that in the interest of safety, parking on footpaths should never be an option.

CANTEEN & UNIFORM SHOP

The P&C has appointed a new Canteen Manager. It is with great pleasure the canteen will re open on Monday 22nd February. The Uniform Shop has changed it’s opening day to Monday’s.
Happy Birthday!

Addison Astwood  Ryley Attwood  Cooper Battle  Arriyana Eckersley  L’Brone Fitzgerald
Nate Hogan  Tsaphyra McKenzie  Edward Morrison  Harrison Phillips  Lachlan Potter
Rani Ramsay  Jeniah Richards  Raphael Ryder  Freddy Smith  Tristen Tavo
Alexander Wojciechowski  Rhianna Wright

Good Book

Lennox Kincaid  Sophie Billsborough  Koukla McCutcheon  Halo Kamid  Ixara Lockyer
Mitchell Gardner  Phoenix-Rose Hodder, Jamon  Reuben & Oliver Wojciechowski  Waylon Cassidy  Justina Newland
Marty Ugle  Richard Nundle  Raphael Ryder  Ngaire Simmons  Jon Heta
Scott Thomas, Jayda Woodley and Tyler Nunn

John Glen  Macayan
MAKING SENSE OF MATHS

Here are some ideas to help you bring maths to life for your child:

• Think out loud when you use numbers, time, position and measurement so your child sees how useful maths can be. For example: *I wonder if we have enough apples?* and *Let’s count to make sure.*

• Encourage your child to talk through what they are doing. Ask questions and let your child ask questions too. This helps them make sense of things and helps them understand what they are doing. It is a great way to learn.

• Use maths and number words when you describe things. Instead of saying: *The bucket,* you might say: *The 10 litre bucket.* This helps your child learn about the different words that are used to describe how to measure things.

• Praise your child for trying, even if they give the wrong answer. If they don’t know the answer, give them time to work it out. If you do give them the answer, talk about how you worked it out. This builds your child’s confidence in learning. Give them time to think and time to answer your questions. Be patient.

• Ask your child questions while you are doing everyday activities so they begin to think and talk about maths from an early age. Ask questions such as: *How many are there? Which way is it? Will it fit in there? Is there enough for all of us?* and *How big is it?*

• Get your child to help sort items at home according to size, length, colour and shape, for example buttons, socks, pegs and blocks.

• Praise your child for trying, even if they give the wrong answer. If they don’t know the answer, give them time to work it out. If you do give them the answer, talk about how you worked it out. This builds their confidence in learning. Give them time to think and time.

Attendance with Mr Ross

I thought I would take this opportunity to look at Cassia’s attendance rates over 2013-2015, and share our goals for 2016. Our overall attendance has dropped from 88% (2013) to 87% (2015). While 1% may not seem like a lot the fact that our attendance rate is decreasing is of concern. A further analysis of the data shows that the attendance rate of our Aboriginal students has increased from 80.1% (2013) to 80.7% (2015), while the attendance rate of our non-Aboriginal students has decreased from 91.6% (2013) to 90.9% (2015). Once again these changes may seem small however our aim is to have all of our attendance rates in all categories improving.

Our goals this year are to have an overall attendance rate over 90%, an Aboriginal attendance rate above the state average (81.2%) and a non-Aboriginal attendance rate above the state average (93.8%). These targets may seem ambitious however I believe that if, as a school community, we all make the effort to get our students to school every day we can reach them!
Science with Miss Erin Smith

“The science of today is the technology of tomorrow” – Edward Teller

This Term in Biological science students will be investigating living things. Students will make suggestions on how the environment affects them, and describe objects and events that they encounter in their everyday lives. We will identify a range of habitats and describe changes to things in their local environment and suggest how science helps people care for environments.

Students will use claims and evidence to explain how the adaptations of different species enable them to survive in the desert environments. They will provide detailed information about micro-organisms, how they are affected by the conditions of their environment, and the importance of the role they play in our lives.

I am looking forward to listening to student’s ideas and predictions.

Miss Smith - Science Teacher

Art with Mrs Renee Garnsey

Art is defined as the conscious use of the imagination in the production of objects intended to be contemplated or appreciated. I am excited to announce that we have added a Drama Program this year. In 2015 the students worked tremendously hard learning new skills and techniques to create Art and developed an understanding of how to respond to Art and acknowledge its place in society. As we are now in 2016 I am looking forward to extending and witnessing further development of these skills.

Here is something to get your minds working. List the items you can see in this picture.

Mrs Garnsey
Art Specialist
What an exciting start we’ve had to 2016, with the inclusion of Pre-primary students in our Kitchen Garden Program. Please fill out and return the tear-off note if your child is unable to eat certain foods due to medical, cultural or religious reasons, so that I can plan our healthy menus for all classes from Pre-primary to Year 6.

We are beginning the year by studying the plants that have or haven’t survived the holidays, those that have fruited, those that have gone to seed and whether any have developed diseases, so we can plan and establish new garden beds. Thank you to parents who have already volunteered to come and help during our cooking and gardening lessons, also to those who have donated seeds and pots, so that we can begin planting vegetables. We do not need any more jars at this time.

This term we will be cooking on even weeks and gardening on odd weeks. If any other parents would like to come and assist each week (either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday) please see me at school and I will add your name to our roster.

Jenny Neale - Kitchen Garden Coordinator

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**Exciting News for Ms Winters 2015 Students**

Year Five students from Room 16 in Term 4, 2015 sent care packages to troops serving overseas. As this was close to the end of the school year students had not received any reply. I received a letter this week from Warrant Officer S thanking the students who contributed as these gifts made it to serving troops in Baghdad and Iraq. Thank you to those students and families that supported this task.

Donna Winter - Teacher

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**Eagles Visit 9th February**

On Tuesday 9th February the West Coast Eagles came to Cassia to talk to all the years Four to Six. James, Elliot Yeo, and Lewis Jetta talked about how they became professional football players and the importance of also having an education. Both Elliot and Lewis spoke about their preparation before each game and how important it is to be healthy. We also got to ask them questions about who they looked up to, how many injuries they have had and how long did it take to heal. Overall it was a great experience and we all learnt a lot.

By Joel Guest, Nate Hogan and Harmony Tavo
CONGRATULATIONS to our newly elected student councillors!

HEAD BOY - Jalen Coppin
HEAD GIRL - Taya Tuffin
SC - Billy Ryan
SC - Victoria Pocock
SC - Taj Derschow
SC - Freya Cameron-Webster
**DENTAL SCREENING NOTIFICATION**

It’s approaching that time of year again where our Dental Therapy team will be visiting your child’s school to screen Pre-Primaries, Year 3’s, Year 6’s and any new or outstanding patients.

For those unfamiliar with the screening process – it is simply a growth and development check by our Dental Officer.

It is a legal requirement to screen new patients, (and every 3-4 years in between), prior to receiving any treatment through School Dental Services.

Please note that dental screening is a very quick non-intrusive process and is **not** a dental examination.

During the screen, children are lined up and simply need to bite together. The process takes approximately 5-10 seconds per child.

School Dental Services do not require parents to be present or consent to Dental Screening. However, **if you wish to opt your child out of dental screening, please contact the clinic immediately to advise.**

If you have any queries regarding dental screening, please contact the clinic on 9172 1912 (Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 7:30am-3:30pm).

Warmest regards, School Dental Therapy Staff.

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**2016 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thank you to the families who have already paid for their children’s 2016 Contributions. Statements have been sent out as a reminder to families that these are now due.

All contributions collected are used to supplement school expenditure in curriculum learning areas and also assist in the purchase of classroom resources.

Teaching and learning programs are maximised when each family makes it’s Contribution.

2016 Contributions are **$60.00** per student and a P&C Donation of **$20.00** per family.

Please visit us in the office if you wish to pay via EFTPOS.

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**P & C NEWS**

Following the P&C’s AGM held on Tuesday 9th February the 2016 Executive Committee Members are as follows: President - Josh Hallion, VP - Robyn Todd, Secretary - Jaqui Toyne, Treasurer - Lauren Shinners, Uniform Shop Co-ordinator - Jaqui Toyne.

**IMPORTANT - The Uniform Shop is now open on MONDAYS from 7.45—8.45am (Seeking volunteers)**
Below are the bus routes for the 2 morning buses and 2 afternoon buses for Cassia Primary School students. Please use this information to work out which bus your child needs to catch. The school is not responsible for working out which bus your child needs to catch; you can get more information about bus routes from the Public Transport Authority by calling 13 62 13. Afternoon duty staff will however be supervising your children while they are waiting for their buses to arrive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUS TO SCHOOL - 774 (am)</th>
<th>BUS TO SCHOOL - 779 (am)</th>
<th>BUS HOME - 774 (pm)</th>
<th>BUS HOME - 779 (pm)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:16am Departs Greenfield St after Yarrab Rd, L Greenfield St, L Councillor Rd, L Greenfield St, R Yarrab Rd, R Collier Dr, L Australind Ave, L Steamer Ave, R Deyesford Cl, R Koombana Ave, R Captains Way, L Masters Wy, R Kookaburra Wy, R Brolga Wy, L Osprey Dr, R Masters Wy, R Murdoch Dr, L Bankist Street, L Acacia Wy, R Boronia Cl, Arrives at Cassia Primary School 7:45 am</td>
<td>7:47am Departs Hedland SHS R Roberts St, R Lawson St, L Hedgitch St, L Forrest Cl, L Murdoch Dr, R Captains Wy, R Koombana Av, L Deyesford Rd, L Steamer Ave, R Captains Wy, L Masters Wy, R Kookaburra Wy, R Brolga Wy, L Osprey Dr, L Masters Wy, R Murdoch Dr, R Murdoch Dr, L Bankis St, L Acacia Wy, R Boronia Cl, Arrives at Cassia Primary School 8:07 am</td>
<td>Departs Cassia PS 2:36pm L Boronia Ct, L Acacia Way, R Banksia St, R Murdoch Dr, L Masters Way, R Captains Way, L Koombana Ave, L Deyesford Rd, L Steamer Ave, R Australind Ave, R Collier Dr, L Yarrab Rd, R Greenfields St, L Greenfields St, L Councillor Rd, L Greenfields St, Greenfields St before Yarrab Rd Arrives 3:10pm</td>
<td>Departs Cassia Primary School 2:33pm L Boronia Ct, L Acacia Way, R Banksia St, R Murdoch Dr, L Masters Way, R Captains Way, L Koombana Ave, L Deyesford Rd, L Steamer Ave, R Australind Ave, R Collier Dr, L Yarrab Rd, R Greenfields St, L Greenfields St, L Councillor Rd, L Greenfields St, Greenfields St before Yarrab Rd Arrives 3:01pm</td>
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Notices

Does someone you love have:
Difficulties Reading?
Problems with spelling?
Worries with writing?
Find out exactly where learning has stalled and what can be done to help.

Dyslexia and Irlen Clinic
will be in your area in March 2016
Visit worldwidelearningacademy.com.au
for ‘Appointment Calendar’ for your area, assessment information
and download the free eBook – ‘Read, Spell, Write’

for more information ph: 1300 732 998 or email
beartrace@worldwidelearningacademy.com.au