Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community Members,

Welcome
Welcome to all of our new families. With the Year 7’s at high school it has not really had a significant impact on our student numbers as we have had over 110 new enrolments this year which includes our 68 Kindergarten children. I believe on all accounts the Year 7’s have now settled well into the high school routine and I congratulate them on their efforts. We currently have 408 students enrolled at Cassia whom have made an excellent start to 2015 and we have enjoyed seeing the fantastic work that is happening in the classrooms. Well done.

Attendance
For the first two weeks of school our whole school attendance rate was 89%. I would like to see an improvement in this as our target is 90% and beyond. A big congratulations to Kindergarten 1A whom had 100% attendance for the first two weeks of school. This is outstanding. You will find further information in relation to attendance on the back page.

Contact with Students
Recently we have had an excessive number of phone calls from parents and caregivers wanting to speak to the classroom teacher or their child during the day. At Cassia Primary School we consider Teaching and Learning time essential and seek to minimise interruptions that impact on this time. Ensure any afternoon arrangements are made prior to school with your child. If you wish to speak to a classroom teacher or get a message to your child the School Officer will take a message and forward this to the relevant person.

Congratulations to our new Councillors
I would like to extend a huge welcome to our new student council who were announced at our last school assembly. I look forward to working closely with you in the coming year.

Head Boy—Kelson Charles
Head Girl—Kelli Hill
Councillors:
Sencia Chapotoka
Tenessee Bin saad
Ethan Mahon
Samsulefandi Thomas

Road Safety
We have noticed a number of parents parking in the staff carpark in the afternoons, please use the spaces allotted outside the school grounds. I would like to discourage parents and children from walking in the staff carpark space prior to and after school—it is a matter of safety. Outside the school grounds, Boronia Close is a 40Km/hr school zone.

P & C AGM
I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at 7pm on Tuesday 24th in the staffroom.

Kindest Regards
Narelle Ward
Principal
CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who each received Merit Certificates this fortnight!

Room 3  CJ Knight & Lillith Vaughan
Room 4  Israel Marou & Patrick Murphy
Room 5  Olivia Cartwright & Oliver Wojciechowski
Room 6  Aaliyah Djiagween & Jessica Marrich
Room 7  Abigail Mario & Ryan Keuenhoff
Room 8  Tia’anna Tucker-Love & NgaireSimmons
Room 9  William Wight & Brodie Hackett
Room 10 Lochlan Thomas
Room 11 Zaliya Edgar & Rhys Pocock
Room 12 Kayne McGrath & Charlotte Wight
Room 13 Keli Hill & Joey Hollandrose
Room 14 Layne Dhu-Dickie & Sala Koroi
Room 15 Kade Olsen & Dakota McAlear-Capewell
Room 16 Tyrell Edgar & Taj Derschow

SAKGF  Taj Derschow  PE Award  Rhys Pocock

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were nominated as CPS’s 2015 Student Councillors!

Head Boy - Kelson Charles
Head Girl - Keli Hill
Samsulefandi Thomas
Sencia Chapotoka
Ethan Mahon
Tenessee Binsaad

Congratulations from Mrs Ward, Mr Ross and Mrs Edwards!

A happy snap with the 2015 student councillors proud parents!
A message from the School Dental Therapy Team

Welcome everyone to 2015, we hope the year is off to a good start!

We wish to advise changes to the opening hours of our dental therapy centres this year.

South Hedland Dental Therapy Centre
Located at South Hedland Primary School
Open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 7:30am-3:30pm
Ph: 9172 1912

Port Hedland Dental Therapy Centre
Located at Port Hedland Primary School
Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30am-3:30pm
Ph: 9173 2529

The School Dental Service provides treatment to school children aged 5 – 16 years.
If your child is new to any of the primary schools in town, or starting pre-primary this year, you can expect to receive enrolment forms for the dental service early in term 2.

When due, your child will receive a recall dental appointment. Please keep us updated with any address changes to ensure you receive your appointment.

In the case that your child has a toothache / concern / emergency, please do feel free to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you!

Student2Student Reading Program - Seeking Volunteers

The Smith Family are looking for two volunteers to supervise their Student2Student reading program at Cassia Primary School. The program runs before school twice a week for 30 minutes every week during Terms 2 and 3. It is the volunteer’s role to supervise the group of children as they read in pairs to each other, ensuring they have the correct books, ordering and returning books as required and ensuring each session runs smoothly. Training will be provided. Volunteers will be required to undergo screening and clearances. For more information contact Jessica on 9144 1854 or tsfhedland@thesmithfamily.com.au

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Progress

A big THANK YOU to all of our generous parents, staff and community members for their donations towards the Kitchen Garden program. Special thanks to the parents and grandparent who have volunteered to assist groups of students with cooking and gardening. We have begun cooking lessons and students are very excited to be preparing and eating healthy dishes, using herbs from our garden. The recipes will be available on the Skoolbag app. Rio Tinto has donated and delivered folding chairs and tables ready for our outdoor kitchen area. They have also bought soil which we will use to fill the garden beds once they are prepared. Our vegetable seedlings are sprouting well in the Pilbara heat and thank you to George Cartwright for her kind donation of passionfruit plants, which will be grown over an archway in the garden. Watch out for Cassia in the next North West Telegraph.

Jenny Neale
Why is it important to ensure that my child attends school regularly?

Apart from the legal requirement to attend, it is vital that children attend every day for the sake of their future successes, academically and emotionally as well as in regards to employment options.

It is very important that parents help children to develop a good attendance career from the very beginning by ensuring that they attend kindergarten or school whenever possible.

Current research points to a strong link between regular and consistent attendance patterns established in the early years of schooling and those patterns continuing throughout a student's career.

The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research report, *Student Attendance and Educational Outcomes: Every Day Counts* on Western Australian students clearly shows that every day counts in terms of a student's achievement and that those students who miss any school have reduced academic outcomes compared with those who attend regularly.

The impact of absence on achievement is greatest for students who are already at educational disadvantage.

Unauthorised absences have a greater negative impact on student achievement than authorised absences.

Being half an hour late to school each day from Year 1 to Year 10 is approximately equivalent to missing one year of schooling.

A student who is absent 1 day a fortnight will, by Year 9, have missed 1 year of schooling.

*Department of Education Information for Parents—"Why is it important to ensure that my child attends school regularly"

How Cassia Primary School Addresses Attendance

1. Highlighting the importance of regular attendance through school newsletters, website and Skoolbag App
2. Through regular communication with the classroom teachers
3. Analysis of attendance data on a weekly basis
4. Administration meetings and School Based Attendance Officers
5. Attendance Target Bus
6. Home Visits
7. Celebratory letters to parents on positive attendance
8. Formal attendance meetings
9. Formal Processes
10. SMS notification to parents
11. Weekly attendance charts in classrooms
12. Attendance Committee

How can Cassia Primary School help me if my child is reluctant to come to school

1. Contact the school administration team to arrange a meeting or have a conversation
2. Discuss your concerns with the classroom teacher
3. Speak with our AIEO’s
4. Referrals to support agencies such as the Parent Support Program
5. Referrals to Regional Officers such as the Coordinator of Aboriginal Education East Pilbara, Coordinator of Attendance
6. Referrals to school psychologist.

*We look forward to working with you to support your child in their education, parents are a crucial part of this process in ensuring Every Child, Every Day. Please speak with us if your require further information.*