Welcome back to a normal, functioning Waraburra. I would like to thank all the Staff for their efforts over the last few weeks, the P & C for providing food for our students and staff and the great job of getting Waraburra back to the school it is.

Below are some photos taken just after the cyclone, our school was open for learning on the Tuesday with classes resuming in a creative manner.
From the Deputy's Desk

As always I am incredibly proud of Waraburra State School. The manner in which our students, staff, P and C and community came together over the past weeks has been nothing short of phenomenal. It is a joy and pleasure to be a part of such strong teams, working towards the best for our students.

It is great to see all things returning to ‘normal’. Learning for Life….The Waraburra Way!

There will be replacement of carpet in a teaching block and painting of toilet facilities over the Easter Vacation.

Student absences can be left on the student absence phone line – 4931 7860. A voice message is required for this pre-recorded phone number.

Invoices have been raised for all instrumental music students participating in the scheme. The annual levy for a student participating in the instrumental program is $25.00 for a school borrowed instrument and $15.00 if you have your own instrument. Prompt payment for this levy is appreciated.

The School has replaced four classroom sets of furniture this year and will continue to replace two sets each year. Our schools facilities are continually being assessed by Building and Asset Services for repair and replacement.

Library News

Last week we were fortunate enough to find a computer program that could print barcodes. It was even more fortunate that the program could produce these barcodes from enrolment data that already exists on our database.

Each child now has their own personal library borrower’s card on which is found their unique borrower’s barcode. Using our new wireless barcode reader we can ‘zap’ the borrower’s card then ‘zap’ the barcode on the front of the child’s book and have students walking happily away from the computer with their new book in seconds.

This new system also increases the accuracy of the borrowing process. Before, children had to tell us their last name and this had to be typed into the computer. From there we had to choose who they were from a list provided on screen. There was a microscopic opportunity for error.

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Master Teacher

WELCOME. How fortunate was Waraburra State School to have been selected to have a Master Teacher placed at the school. The position of Master Teacher is a new position that has been created across the state with 270 teachers being appointed. I hold the position of Master Teacher across two schools: Waraburra and Gracemere. My role within the schools is to work with the leadership team on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students; to provide coaching and guidance to teachers and teacher aides in delivering quality teaching; to develop teacher capability with ongoing support through professional development and support staff in the analysis of and response to student data and to use this evidence to inform teaching and learning.

Recently I met several families through the Meet and Greet session that was held in the Special Education Unit as well as attending as many as I could of the Parent Information afternoons. From my brief outline above of my role, it is of great importance that strong relationships between families, the wider community and the school are created. I look forward to building a strong link and strengthening this over my three year tenure as Master Teacher.

Sue Thaw

Curriculum Chronicles

We use mental calculations everyday when we go shopping, split bills at a restaurant, play games or cook. The methods we use when we work things out in our heads are often not the same methods that we use when we write down a sum.

Children begin by counting things that they see and using objects to add and subtract. Through practice, children will begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects. One of the early ways in which children learn to add two numbers mentally is to start with the larger number and count on by ones to add the second number. This is an effective way when adding on small numbers. As children begin to deal with large numbers, they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones. One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that we do not all think the same way.

For example, to find the answers to 25 + 89, children could:

- Make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14 or
- Add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5, then add 100 and 14

At home you can foster the development of using mental strategies to solve a problem by asking your child to work out the following:

- Ask your child to mentally work out how much change he or she will get when paying for an item at the shops.
- If your child is saving to buy an item, ask how much more money he or she will need to save before being able to buy it.
- Encourage your child to estimate the cost of two items when shopping.

There are many opportunities for you to work with your children to help build mental calculations strategies.

Gauges for Growth

Mrs Noeline Trost
Data Coach

School Absences
High attendance and punctuality are two of the high expectations we have for our students at Waraburra State School. Parents are reminded to contact their child’s teacher or the office with a satisfactory reason for their absence as soon as possible.

Do you realize if your child arrives 15 minutes late every day he/she misses 1 hour and 15 minutes each week of school? Over a term that adds up to between 11 hours and 12.5 hours per term. This means he/she missed many lessons and there is a risk that he/she will fall behind in their class work.

Please be sure your child is on time to start instruction to give him/her every chance of achieving at the level he/she is capable of achieving. Education is a team effort and every day counts.

The school attendance target is to have 94% of students attending every day.

MSP Photography will be at the school MONDAY 16 MARCH for school photos. Please make sure all students are looking their best (clean uniforms, hair neat, big smiles) Envelopes to be bought in on the day. Sibling photos are available.

CQ Swimming Trial

Please see Mrs Worthington if you would like your child to participate in upcoming trials.
Class of the Week Recipients

Congratulations to 6B and 1C. Enjoy having Wara Bear and Burra Bear in your classroom.