Bush Whacked

Cairns School of Distance Education
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Term 1 2014

Calendar
18 & 21 Apr – Public Holidays
22 Apr – Term 2 commences
25 Apr – Anzac Day Public Holiday
28 Apr – P&C Meeting 7.30pm
Ph 1800 141 220 Rm 1149 273 350
05-09 May – Cert III Hospitality – Restaurant
07-08 May – Peninsula Study Days
13-15 May – NAPLAN Tests for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at all Queensland State Schools
13 May – ICPSA Meeting 8.00pm
Ph 1800 141 220 Rm 1149 273 350
20-22 May – NAPLAN Tests for CSDE GI and Medical enrolments
20 May – ICAS Computer Skills Comp
26-30 May - Annual School Camps, Home Tutor Inservice, Cultural & Wellbeing Day and Annual Sports Day (see Weekly Mailbag on School Website for more information)
26 May – School Biannual Forum
27 May – P&C Face to Face Meeting
04June – ICAS Science Comp
09 June – Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
16 June – ICAS Writing Comp
17 June – ICAS Spelling Comp
23-27 June – Year 11-12 Block Exams
24-25 June – Instrumental Music Camp

We are very proud to announce that the QSITE Annual Award for ‘Educator of the Year’ has been awarded to Leigh Howser. This award is made to Queensland educators who have made significant contributions to the use and promotion of Information and Communication Technology in the curriculum area.

Leigh has worked tirelessly over the past 6 years sharing her knowledge and skills through field programs with both students and home tutors, setting up training days in the region for all EQ teachers and implementing a range of programs like ‘Bee Bots for Bush Tots’ and ‘Boot Camp’ that have travelled as far as Normanton and Thursday Island. We wish her all the best as she moves to National Awards.

CSDE Art Camp 2014 19-23rd May

Workshops with professional artists - Painting Ceramics Graphic Design Sculpture Animation

Food Costs $100 - Material and Workshop fees- to be advised
For Year 10, 11 and 12 students only.
Welcome to the first edition of Bushwhacked for 2014. The school has had an extremely busy start to the year. Our enrolments have continued to grow. We have over 945 individual students enrolled at our school. This equates to a fulltime equivalent of 452.5. This growth is directly attributable to our core values of offering flexible, individualised learning programs in a nurturing environment.

This term’s news highlights the terrific achievements of our students, families and staff. A special mention is made to our e-Learn Mentor – Leigh Howser for winning the QSITE Qld Educator of the Year! You will also meet our diverse range of students and see a glimpse of what their wonderful world looks like. These students include our dance students in the south-east part of Queensland. We warmly welcome these students to our school and wish them all the best in their studies. We also have snapshots of our students who attended study days in various locations throughout our geographic region.

On the school operations front we have altered our method of delivery for the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics and Science. We are continually looking at ways to improve our direct delivery approach and a part of this is a review process. Specifically we will be looking at how we replace teachers who are on ‘Field’ so that the remaining students still have access to their lessons. The implementation of History will also be reviewed with the view to reduce the burden that is placed on home tutors. Embedding a consistent approach to service delivery is a high priority particularly in regards to ‘home tutor unpacking sessions’.

A number of new staff have been contracted to start in term two. These include:

- Mr Ken Newman returns to teach Maths
- Ms Manjit Khalsa: Year 12 Prevocational Maths, 11 Numeracy Short Course, Year 10 Maths, Literacy Short Course, Science
- Ms Amy Malsam: Yr 11 English, English Communication, Workplace Practices, Year 10 History
- Ms Veronika Michaels: Year 11 English, English Communication, Year 10 English, Year 9 English and Focused Literacy
- Ms Rahdika Wagh will join our Special Education team for term 2

I would like to thank Ms Valmai McCracken for taking over Mr Newman’s classes while he was on long service leave. Mr Jeremy Flynn is on leave for term two to travel.

Over the course of this holiday period a number of facility upgrades will occur. These include:

- Re-carpeting of the western side of F Block
- Upgrading of electrical switchboards
- Re-modelling of the Parent Lounge
- Alterations to the Library and Digital Resource Centre
- Cabling audit for our ICT network.

We hope that these works will be completed prior to the commencement of term two and will not have an impact on any student learning. We will inform you if there is an issue with work delays. I take this opportunity to thank Fiona Candlish (Business Services Manager) who has done an outstanding job in organising these projects.

I wish you all a safe and happy autumn vacation (and hope that the Easter Bunny comes to those who believe in her or him 😊) and I look forward to an amazing term two. School returns on Tuesday 22 April as Monday is the Easter Monday public holiday.

Kind regards
Andrew Oliver
Principal
CSDE Home Tutors at Study Days

The long break over ... a new year begun. Study Days came upon us mighty fast and home tutors were graced with an array of presenters covering a range of PD topics including Science, History and Explicit Instruction. They were also granted the opportunity to provide some feedback on the year to date.

The first to throw their hat in the ring was our Savannah Cluster and the weather for once was on our side. The Croydon SES Hall was filled with a vibrant mix of CSDE students, eKindy kids and RAFS Early Childhood youngsters and their families - many of whom had driven a fair distance to get there.

Cairns followed on its tail and mums had the added bonus of learning some interesting fire facts, from the avid Rural Fires volunteer Frances Pelgrave. Did you know that you cannot smell when you sleep? That’s why we need fire alarms to let us know when we’re in danger. Also, that you can purchase a Fire Blanket (to have on hand in your kitchen) for a mere sum of nine odd dollars, from the Post Office!

We were back to an old friend, the Merriland Hall in Atherton, for our Mareeba & Tablelands days this year. Not only were our families graced with Francis but her offside Mary the Koala. Hot on her heels followed Lesley, the giraffe ... oh no, the Early Years Science Teacher. Who is ever going to forget her endearing ears and tail now!
At the pointy end of 1st term – we blinked and it was over!

Thank you to all those active P&C members who have participated in meetings this year and contributed in many ways to our school – study days, bike ride activities, band camps, fundraising, feedback and spreading the word about how to be involved.

We have launched the Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride for 2014 and whilst I didn’t break any time records for riding 1 km, the enthusiasm and passion from all those involved was immeasurable. Thank you for your contribution to raising funds for ‘Kids in the Bush’. Remember there are many other ways to be involved – the volunteer job list, add a tag to your outgoing email directing people to our fundraising page, the art auction, support along the route, ride for the portion of the route near you and much more. If you would like more information please contact your P&C reps.

Our next meeting will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 28th</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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Teleconference  Dial in 1800 141 220
Conference Code 1149 273 350

As mentioned previously we are keeping time restrictions on our meetings now and this meant that the March meeting was closed just after 9.00pm and still a mountain of important issues covered.

Forum issues are being collated now by your District Reps. This is your chance to have a say in the direction of our school and help guide it into the future.

The beginning of the year has highlighted the successes and challenges in full delivery and we will continue to work with families, teachers and the school to differentiate for the best outcome for all. Please ensure you communicate with your contact teacher and feedback to the P&C where you require further support and need issues raised.

In 2014 we will again be focused on our students and school – namely delivery of the Pedals Program, new playground equipment, dormitory accommodation for remote students and their families, Airwaves 2014, as well as continued support for various student, tutor and school initiatives. This can only be achieved through the combined efforts of your voluntary P&C members and our fundraising and community initiatives for 2014.

It was once said:

‘Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.’

It’s your P&C – be involved!

Enjoy your well-earned break. Those that are still in need of rain, our thoughts are with you. Stay safe, stay well and I hope to hear many of you at our April meeting and seeing even more of you at May Camp.

Rachael Wynberg
President
Do You Know the Answers?

What do the Bendigo Bank Pig, the Qld Assistant Commissioner of Police and an Ironman all have in common? Simple – they all took part in the recent Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride Launch at Cairns Central.

This year we are about to embark on our 17th ride across the Cape, all with one goal in mind; raising funds for students in Far North Queensland. Over $850 000 has been raised by this event and 2014 is shaping up as a big year in terms of ride numbers and fundraising. Registrations are currently tracking even higher than the last two years, giving event organisers reason to be confident of hitting the fundraising target of 100K.

The launch was also well attended with 84 riders taking part in the 1km cycling challenge. The day kicked off with a bang as kids lined up to watch the Bendigo Bank Pig take its position on the bike and set an impressive opening time of 2 minutes and 38 seconds. Throughout the day riders kept the wheels in motion with CSDE teachers, parents, kids, event sponsors and members of the general public all taking part in this exciting promotion of Queensland’s premier multi-day cycling event.

None however were faster than Ironman, Michael Denman, who rode at just under 60km per hour to post an impressive time of 1 minute and 12 seconds.

Registrations for the 2014 Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride close on May 31. All CSDE families are encouraged to be a part of this event in any manner that suits best; rider, volunteer, collector of prizes or via donations towards our one and only fundraiser for the year.

For further details simply go to www.ridefnq.com or contact Ride Director, Steve Corrie at steve.corrie@active8change.com.au.
Hi!

We are the Cossa's - Tom, Laura, Sarah, Sandro and Lisa.

All of us are heavily involved in and kindly share ourselves across 3 different Cairns schools with Tom and I being the CSDE contingent! Sandro teaches at a local high school and Laura and Sarah attend another. There are times that I think it would be nice to have just one of us who wasn't fully immersed in schooling in order to bring a little balance, but on the other hand, it's good for promoting empathy for one another and means that school holidays are a very special time for all of us!

When we're not 'at school' we enjoy spending time with friends and family - food usually features highly! We love our local church and Tom and the girls are involved as participants and leaders of our kids and youth programs. Sandro is a project man so there is usually something on the go - currently gearing up for a kitchen reno! Laura and Sarah are into music and school choir and bands keep them hopping. We all enjoy good movies and great reads (although we're still trying to convince Sandro about the reading thing!) and love a good camping trip with friends.

Tom and I began our CSDE journey in July 2012 half way through Year 3 in an attempt to better support Tom's learning needs and make his schooling experience more positive and successful. You see Tom and his twin brother Luke were born at 24 weeks - 4 months premature. We lost Luke when the boys were 10 weeks old but Tom soldiered on miraculously and we were bittersweetly excited to finally be able to take our healthy little boy home after 105 days in hospital. Tom came through his early days relatively unscarred, however premature exposure to lights and sounds rather than the protected womb environment can impact a child's ability to concentrate and resist distraction. Tom had begun to experience difficulty in a busy mainstream classroom environment so, after much soul-searching, we decided to have a go at reducing those distractions by attempting schooling at home while getting a better idea of what he really needed. We signed up for 6 months and here we are still almost 2 years later!

Thankfully, we made the transition into schooling at home and our new roles quite smoothly although things like down time and house work became even more elusive as I'm sure many can relate to. Very early on Tom made the comment "Mum we get so much more work done at home - it's so much better - there's not as many distractions!"

Many days we struggle with the curriculum & work rate calendars, eyes glaze over (his and mine) & it's jolly hard work! We wrestle and wonder how sustainable this is for us, but almost everyday I am reminded of why we are here and I am thankful for the opportunity to give Tom the 1-1 support that he needs and the flexibility afforded to us to tailor curriculum, teaching strategies & environment to meet his needs. HUGE thanks to Tom's teachers (Mary, Pam, Lesley & now Mark) for their support and patience.

The funny thing is that I never really imagined myself as a homeschooling mum! I actually love school communities & enjoy being a part of them! So I am pleased that study days, mini schools, camps, etc give us the opportunity to experience and contribute to the CSDE school community. As I write this Tom is on his first Music camp which he is LOVING - a chance to be with mates and I hear the Music is great too!

Well, that's us!

Have a wonderful Easter!

Lisa & the Cossa Crew
The 39-Storey Treehouse  
by Andy Griffiths, illustrated by Terry Denton  
Andy and Terry’s amazing treehouse has 13 new levels including a chocolate waterfall, a non-erupting active volcano, an opera house, a baby dinosaur petting zoo, Andy and Terry’s Believe it or Else! museum, a not-very-merry merry-go-round, a boxing elephant called the Trunkinator, an X-Ray room, a disco with light-up dance floor, the world’s scariest roller-coaster and a top secret 39th level that hasn’t even been finished yet.

The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf  
by Ambelin Kwaymullina  
Join the Rebellion! The Reckoning that destroyed civilisation and humanity has had to rise from the ashes. But there are now people with abilities – Flyers, Firestarters, Rumblers ... and society is scared of them. The government calls them Illegals. Ashala Wolf protects a group of Illegals. They hide together in the Firstwood and she’ll do anything to keep them safe. When Ashala is captured, she realises she has been betrayed by someone she trusted. Now she only has herself. But when Neville starts digging in her memories for information, she doubts she can protect her people forever ... will the Tribe survive the interrogation of Ashala Wolf?

Little BIG  
by Jonathan Bentley  
Being little is no good. That's because being big is better. Except when being little is best of all. This warm and entertaining story explores the trials, and occasional benefits of being the baby of the family.

Once Tashi Met A Dragon  
by Anna Fienberg and Barbara Fienberg, illustrated by Kim Gamble  
Tashi rides on a white tiger to the top of the mountain to see why the dragon is not sending the rains to his village. No one had ever seen the dragon, but once a year it would send smoke and thunder down the mountain, and soon the rains would follow. Now the skies were always blue, the creeks were drying up and the people were hungry. What was happening up there? When Tashi reaches the dragon’s golden palace, he meets an angry young dragon who is upset because his mother is under the spell of a demon sleep and he can’t wake her up.

Stop the Bullying!  
by Julie and Andrew Matthews  
This book is all about why bullies bully, why bullied kids don't tell their parents, and how bullied kids can make a stand. It is also about: how parents sometimes create bullies, what schools can do about bullying, bullying in the workplace, preventing suicide, and how bystanders can help.

100 Mega Machines  
by Richard Gunn  
From the world’s largest space rocket to the world’s largest television, a whole range of incredible mega machines are featured. Illustrated with more than 150 photographs and illustrations showing the awe-inspiring machines at their most spectacular.
Instrumental Music Camp

The halls of Cairns School of Distance Education echoed with the tooting and honking of enthusiastic music students who attended the first Instrumental Music Camp for 2014. Students, new and old, joined together to make music and have fun while enjoying the usual social benefits of attending these gatherings.

There was a serious side as well, with the band rehearsing 3 pieces to perform at this year’s “Fanfare” competition. “Fanfare” is an interschool music competition held throughout Queensland every two years, and will take place on the 25th May at Cairns SHS.

The music making was interspersed with great meals and morning teas organised by Mrs Bainbridge and her helpers and a huge round of applause must be given to her. (and also for the ice cream).

I look forward to updating our progress as a band throughout 2014.

Mr Kelly Perger
Instrumental Music Teacher
Field Support – Study Days

Cairns

What a jam-packed two days it was for students and Home Tutors attending the Cairns Study Days!

eKindy students focussed on their social development and spent their school time learning and playing together. Our littlest students particularly loved playing with Bee-bots.

Prep and Year 1 students focussed on ‘whole body listening’ and the Habits of Mind, ‘thinking flexibly’, ‘applying prior knowledge’ and ‘finding humour’ in all tasks undertaken.

The academic program for Years 2 and 3 students was rigorous, as Study Days timed in perfectly with C2C English assessment and monitoring tasks.

Students in Years 4 to 6 worked with C2C materials and IT, and Years 7 to 12 students continued to work with curriculum materials under the supervision of support teachers.

Students worked with their teachers or specialist science teachers in their study of Science. Biodiversity was the science order of the day for Prep to Year 3 as they studied biodiversity of the school grounds. Fire safety was also on the agenda for all, including Home Tutors.

All students enjoyed tennis instruction from Tennis Australia’s Ryan Coffey, as they honed their racquet and ball skills. Students also worked collaboratively on a whole school art project based on the Habits of Mind. Fiona MacGillivray
Savannah

Croydon certainly came to life with the CSDE Study Days. At last count there were 15 cars parked outside the SES Hall on day two. A bit of a record for CSDE but with the RAFS present it was a great way to bring together some new families into the school network.

The two day event was successful and highlighted the camaraderie that all the students had with each other. Everyone was friendly and very helpful and seemed to enjoy the break from routine. The home tutor sessions were productive, spurred along by the involvement of new families that are in the area, and enjoyed a relaxed and positive vibe.

Students worked on C2C lessons but weren’t hitting the books the whole time. For Science the students got to investigate living things in their local area. This was a great activity allowing lots of free flowing discussion about what was to be found in the local areas. Students were determined to spot as many species of living things as possible as the results would later be compared with other districts during the science lessons.

One of the last activities for the first day was tennis. Leaving this activity until later on the day proved beneficial, but it was still pretty warm out on the courts. Croydon is fortunate to have a local tennis court, which was great to work on. It was pleasing to see the level of skills that our students had and the delight the students took in taking aim at the teachers, when practising their returns. We managed to fit in a bit of fun with Mr Holland’s Quiz. The teacher’s team was left red faced as it was not only defeated by the home tutors but also the students themselves. Thanks to Mr. Hollands - the teachers still think the quiz was rigged!

We thank all the families that attended the Study Day and hope that our new families found the experience invaluable and managed to make connections with other home tutors and their teachers.

We had a wonderful time and are looking forward to our next field event.

Thanks to everyone involved.

Helen Sachlikidis
Tablelands

Study Days are a great way to start the year and meet new families and students. The Mareeba/Tablelands cluster met at Merrilands Hall and what a facility that proved to be! This was my first time on this cluster and I had serious doubts when I was told that we were going to have all the classes, the home tutors and the tennis skill building activities in the hall. But then I hadn’t been to the Merrilands Hall.

The students started off the first day with our visiting scientist, Professor Brook (giraffe ears). They thoroughly enjoyed exploring the area for species of living things and as all true scientists do making their observations and recording their evidence. Some of the younger scientists were so enthused they arrived the following day with more live samples to share with Professor Brook. It was observed that living things in this area were a little different to those observed in Croydon.

Students worked hard with their teachers covering a variety of tasks from C2C materials to using ‘Habits of Mind.’ On the agenda this year were the following habits – ‘thinking flexibly’, ‘applying prior knowledge’ and of course, never to be forgotten, ‘finding humour’. Our home tutors worked very hard with Camilla and I believe these habits were just as useful for the adults.

I cannot go without mentioning the beautiful morning teas that helped sustain us through the workload we had to cover. Thanks home tutors!

Tennis proved to be a real hit and thankfully we could learn many new skills out of the searing heat. Our instructor enjoyed his experience with our students so much he asked if he could come back and work with them again. That’s saying something!

Our guest, Blaze proved a big hit. The agenda was Fire Safety but there were a few times there where the Fire Safety Officer could have been on stand-by to do CPR. It gets quite hot under one of those outfits.

We thank all the families that attended the Tablelands Study Days and hope that our new families enjoyed meeting other families in their cluster. The building of relationships and the development of a support base is invaluable for distance families in an education context.

We are looking forward to our next field event. Mary Potter
Languages

What do you know about Indonesian animals?

This term the Year 7 Indonesian class have been learning about some of the many animals found in Indonesia. They have been writing a book to share their knowledge. The book is all in Indonesian but it will have a dictionary at the end. We hope to have the book available for borrowing from the school library in both a digital and paper form early next term ... so if you would like to know more about Indonesian animals check it out!

Salam, Itin Hadijah

The Maths Corner by Mr Mendel

If the tower is 5 metres wide from the centre of the path and the slope is 1/5, how high is the top goat.
Answer can be found on next page.

Thinking Challenge

During the week 17 – 22 March, 12 students from Cairns SDE participated in the Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge Pilot 2014.

Altogether, 2199 students from 30 schools across Australia participated so it was great to see students from our school take up the challenge. The map to the right shows the distribution of those schools.

Within 45 minutes, Bebras introduces 21 of the 44 strands in the new ACARA digital technologies curriculum with a particular focus on computational thinking.

Our students performed well on the challenge scoring from average to very high on the score range.
Early Years Phase of Learning

PREPPY FUN!

Playing

Imagining

Learning

Learning

Moving

Creating

Term 1, 2014
The Hunt
By James Sharp-Callaghan, Year 3P

We went pig hunting and we saw a big, boar pig out the front where the dead calf was. It tripped on the road and then the dogs grabbed it by the ears. Then Adam stabbed the pig under the armpits. As we went down the road we saw another pig and stabbed it too. I like hunting pigs.

Below: ‘Folded Drawing’ by James Sharp-Callaghan

Home visits are the best!
Below: When we go on home visits we learn so much about our families. The Plant children have puppies and are learning all about being responsible puppy owners.

The Wet Season
The storm clouds form above
The time of year that I love
The fish are getting ready
Heading down the creek nice and steady
The water running down the creek
The water birds scooping fish up in their beak
The fish trap is getting mended
Getting squeezed, twisted and bended
The frogs are calling
The rain is falling
The water is over the bridge
The cars can’t go up the next ridge
The rain is finally here
So let’s all give a great big cheer
By Kurt Plant
Year 4B

Left: Willem showed how he did an art activity using kaolin to make handprints on the rock wall.
5 Steps to solving word problems.

1. Read the question and find the KEY words and numbers. Underline any words you don't understand.
2. "Wh" and "How" WORDS
   Tell me what the question is asking you to do?@ the question words.
3. Tell me how you are going to work out the answer.
   Show me how you get the answer. Tell me what you are thinking when you are working out the answer.
4. Write down your answer.

Literacy is an important aspect of mathematics. Students use literacy to understand and interpret word problems and instruct/OM that contain the particular language features of mathematics. They use literacy to pose and answer questions, engage in mathematical problem solving, and to discuss, produce and explain solutions.

The Australian educator Anne Newman (1977) suggested five significant prompts or questions to help determine where errors may occur in students' attempts to solve written problems.

As a student attempts to solve a written mathematics problem, they typically work through five basic steps:

1. Reading the problem
   Reading
   Comprehending what is read
   Comprehension
2. Carrying out a transformation on the words of the problem to the selection of an appropriate mathematical strategy
   Transformation
3. Applying the process skills demanded by the selected strategy
   Process skills
4. Encoding the answer in an acceptable written form
   Encoding

These five processes are clearly linked to the five questions the teacher asks. Research has shown that over 50% of errors occur in the first three steps, before the student uses their processes skills!

Just as we do when teaching students to read, we can help students read written problems by using strategies like:

- providing an orientation to the text so that the student is more aware of the context of the problem and unusual language that might cause difficulties
- focusing on language features (e.g., knowing that what needs to be worked out often appears as a question at the end of the problem might help students to focus on the essential information as they read the question)
- chunking text so that critical information stands out in sequence
- identifying irrelevant information
- monitoring for understanding as they read
- using graphic organisers, acting it out, making a series of pictures

Senior Secondary Phase of Learning

Annette Roselli Dance Academy
Distance Education Students

Year 11

Madi Whitely
Amelia Fisher
Abbe Whitford
May Ling

Year 10

Keelin McLaren
Isabelle Olivier
Laura Scott

Year 9

Lucy Christodolou
Lilliana McGuire
Jessie Kalayzich
Senior Artwork

Arichia Sam Year 12 - Ice Art (Left)

Peah Woosup Year 11 – Panel Design, Pencil on Paper (below left)

Simakah Amey Year 11 – Panel Design, Pencil on Paper (below)

Anndalasso Sebasio Year 11
Graphic Pencil on Paper (above)
Panel Design coloured pencil on paper (below)

Tatyana Wapau Year 11 – Panel Design, Paint on Paper (above)

Vanessa Woosup Year 11 – Sculpture Design, Pencil on Paper (above right)

Cedella Jacob Year 11
Panel Design Study – pencil on paper above

Natalie Littler Yr 11 Teapot study - various techniques (left)

Vesna Stone Yr 12 – Ice Sculpture (below)

Rene Atu Yr 12 – Ice Art Sculpture (bottom)

Djameela Child Year 10
Self Portrait

Brynn Bainbridge Year 10
Self Portrait

Ocean Mitchell-Croft Year 10
Self Portrait