Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

As you may know, Naplan results were released last week. Overall we are very proud of our school’s results, both in Year 3 and Year 5, particularly in the areas of literacy. You may have seen in Saturday’s The Cairns Post that Machans Beach SS was the only state primary school to make the list of top performing schools in Cairns! Here are some of the highlights for our school:

- 100% of Yr 3 students at or above National Minimum Standard in all 5 strand areas;
- 100% of Yr 5 students at or above National Minimum Standard in Reading, Spelling and Numeracy;
- Our Yr 3 average Writing score was significantly above the rest of the nation;
- Our Yr 3 and Yr 5 average reading, spelling and grammar & punctuation scores were equal to the rest of the nation.

But this is what made us most proud…

- Over 50% of our Yr 3 students and over 20% of Yr 5 students achieved in the highest 2 bands for reading;
- Over 70% of our Yr 3 students achieved in the highest 2 bands for writing.

Congratulations to all of our students and staff – your hard work is reflected in these great results!

Our school recently purchased a text notification system that links with our school roll marking program so that when teachers mark their rolls each morning, a text is automatically sent to parent’s whose child is absent. This helps to ensure the safety of our students as well as assist the school in recording reasons for student absences. If you receive a text message notifying you of your child’s absence, please respond to the message via text.

Please ensure that if your contact details change please notify the school so that we can update your details on our system.

Until our next newsletter…. Jessica Wertz, Principal

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**Wednesday 10th August, 2016**

**School Office hours:**
Mon – Thurs 8:30am to 3:00pm

**School Watch: 13 17 88**

P&C Association Meeting is held once a month at 6:30pm
President: Andy Grainger
Next Meeting: Thursday 25th August

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**August**
- Thursday 11th
  - Basketball Program starts
- Mon 22nd – Fri 26th
  - Book Week
- Saturday 27th
  - Cairns Festival Parade
- Wednesday 31st
  - Prep Open Day
- Friday 2nd
  - Teacher Aides Appreciation Day

**September**
- Thursday 15th
  - Future Leaders Eco Challenge
- Friday 16th
  - Last day of Term 3

**UNIFORM SHOP**
Open each Wednesday from 8:30 – 9:00am

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*I never learn anything talking. I only learn things when I ask questions.*

Lou Holtz
Year 2/3/4 News – Miss Carvill

This week I want to give a big shout out to our awesome grade 3 students for their brilliant results in NAPLAN this year! It is a reflection of the work they put in each day both at school and at home. I am sure there are some very proud parents out there because I know I am very proud of them all! For many of these students it is their third year in my class and I am so proud of each of them for the progress they have made. Many of these students have previously been involved in support programs and received support from myself, teacher-aides and parents. However this support would amount to nothing without the determination and enthusiasm that these students put into their learning each day. Well done grade 3!!!!

Yr P/1 News – Miss Vallis

This week, we’ve been reading and enjoying another Julia Donaldson book ‘Room on the Broom’. The children love listening to her stories, which are written in rhyme, and have learned about noun groups. In this story, when the dragon caught the witch, he was looking forward to ‘witch and chips for tea’ – very clever we thought. Perhaps the children may be able to tell you what happened next in the story. This week we’ll be trying to make up a new character to ride on her broom.

The children have played ‘Buzz’, a counting game in different ways, to enhance their counting and number skills, and can often be buzzed out. We’ve done more work on recognising 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes as well.

I’m thrilled that most children’s attendance has improved and their results are reflecting this. Thank you to the parents for enabling this, terrific work!

Students of the Week

**Fiero** – for displaying diligent effort in the classroom and for also being a wonderful friend to everyone.

**Sid** – for showing enthusiasm in maths and a willingness to take on tough maths challenges.

**Jun** – for being a happy addition to our class, always trying his best very enthusiastically. Lovely work Jun!
Week 4 was a very busy week in terms of completing our English Assessment. Although we have not finished yet, we are taking our time to make sure that our best work is the work being assessed. Slow and steady wins the race! In the meantime, I’m really enjoying seeing the progress that Year 4/5/6 are making and I’m happy to say that every student is making big individual steps within all learning areas.

Art is a wonderful activity to do every Friday afternoon, and the students are in the process of completing a giant classroom comic strip. At the moment they are creating artwork for the onomatopoeia section of the comic strip including words like “BOOM”, “POP” and “ZAP”. This is coming along really well, the artwork is very vibrant and the students enjoy themselves when in their creative element.

I would like to remind parents to please ensure that your child is completing homework every afternoon/night as it an extremely helpful tool which reflects the learning at school. Please also ensure that your child completes their reading, the log book is signed, and homework is brought along with them every day. Have a great week 5!

Thank you to Rhys and Jeff from Staging Connections for the generous donation of a stage! This will be fantastic to use when we have school performances and for our Awards Night.

This Friday 12th August we will be welcoming 52 music students from Wynnum State High School who will be performing for our school. All parents and community members are welcome to come along and watch this special performance from 12:30 – 1:20pm.

Thank you to Rhys and Jeff from Staging Connections for the generous donation of a stage! This will be fantastic to use when we have school performances and for our Awards Night.

Machans Beach SS will be introducing a ‘School Hoops’ basketball program which will run during school hours each Thursday for the next 6 weeks. This program is being run free for our students, and is designed to encourage students to be active and healthy through basketball.

Every student will receive a FREE bag of goodies, including a basketball, games and a drink bottle!

Meet our wonderful teaching staff
Learn about the various programs that our school offers
Your child can participate in a variety of fun activities in our Prep room!

All parents of children eligible for Prep in 2017 are welcome!
Introducing The Blue Honour Line at the Cairns Festival 2016 Grand Parade!

Cairns Festival is fast approaching with a wonderful program of events running from 26 August – 4 September. The Grand Parade is a Festival highlight, with its long procession of floats, presenting a colourful spectacle that will wind its way along the Esplanade from 5.30 pm on Saturday 27 August.

This year we’re asking you to keep your eye out for the ‘True Blue Line Brigade’ who will introduce the new ‘Blue Honour Line’ system designed to keep you safe whilst enjoying this wonderful community celebration.

The Blue Honour Line is a thin blue line placed on each side of the road along the Parade route that creates a boundary between the audience and the Grand Parade Floats. Staying behind it will ensure your safety and give the Parade performers plenty of room to do what they do best.

15 Officers of the ‘Friendly Enforcement Brigade’ who make up the ‘True Blue Line Brigade’ will be dressed in full blue brigade costume and ready for duty along the Parade route from 4:30pm.

Come along and enjoy the Cairns Festival 2016 Grand Parade behind the safety of the new ‘Blue Honour Line’.