From The Principal’s Desk

We have three weeks until the end of this term and we still encourage all students to attend school regularly and to stay focused in the classroom, especially leading up to a range of assessment pieces that will need to be completed by the end of this term.

At Dalby State School, teachers use various tools to verify learning in the classroom. Assessments are in three categories – diagnostic, formative and summative.

Diagnostic Assessment: “What comes first – the chicken or the test?”

It might be helpful to think of diagnostic assessment as testing that occurs before instruction. A diagnostic assessment or pre-assessment often focuses on one area or domain of knowledge. It can provide educators with information about each student’s prior knowledge before beginning instruction. You can use a diagnostic assessment to assist in developing lesson plans and to provide differentiated instruction to meet children’s needs.

Formative Assessment – “So, what did you learn today?”

Formative assessment is typically embedded within the instructional process. A simplified but perhaps helpful way to think about formative assessment is that it is given during instruction. Formative assessment can be used to determine what needs or topics have to be addressed next with a student. A parent can use a formative assessment to find the gaps between what children have learned and where they are struggling. A formative assessment not only includes tests and homework but can also be an interactive process with the students. For example, discussions with children can include letting them write questions and answers prior to learning a topic. Research shows that descriptive feedback is also a very valuable component of the formative assessment process. Pointing out to children what specifically they did well, including links to other resources and specific suggestions for improvement, can help them reach the next level of learning.

Summative Assessment – “What’s for dessert?”

A summative assessment is typically given to children after a specific point in instruction to measure their understanding of a subject. Some examples of summative assessments include high stakes tests, standardized state exams, district or interim tests, midterms and final exams. Summative assessments can also be used to check their mastery of a subject every few weeks or months. Many textbooks include questions for parents to use for a summative assessment based on the instruction provided. While summative assessments are important, many people feel that the information gleaned from them does not occur frequently enough for summative assessments to inform instruction at the classroom level. This is where formative assessment comes in.

While the various types of assessment can be confusing and their uses considered controversial, it is important to remember that they should be used as a framework to inform the instruction process. Ultimately, the knowledge gleaned from assessment should be used to reach individuals and support them in their learning process.

Please continue to speak to the classroom teacher on your child’s progress, especially around diagnostic, formative and summative assessment.

Have a wonderful week

Regards,
Mona Anau
Principal
IMPACT Projects – Booster Writing and Booster Numeracy

This project is delivered online by Dalby State School in partnership with Brisbane School of Distance Education’s IMPACT Projects Team. Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE) offers a range of online extension opportunities and our school has joined with them to offer the Booster Numeracy and Booster Writing Project in 2015.

Both these Projects are extension programs and are offered to students who are already good at writing and numeracy. It aims to help them go “from good to great” and should develop a greater sense of confidence and achievement in these subjects.

The Booster Project also provides a great opportunity for students to experience online learning in a Virtual Classroom. It includes the chance to connect and collaborate with students from other state schools in Queensland. The Year 4 Booster Writing group work with Ellissa Purser, online Teacher, and connect with students from Yelarbon State School and the Year 5 Booster Numeracy group work with Peter Collins, online Teacher, and connect with Pilton State School.

The project is delivered over 12 school weeks from February to May 2015. Year 5 students (morning session) and Year 4 students (afternoon session) attend one web conference per week during school time that goes for approximately 60-70 minutes.

The students are also encouraged to engage in learning activities in their own time for at least 20-30 minutes each week. Engaging in these activities, Blogs, quizzes, videos etc, ensures that the students get the most out of the project.

Writing Course Content:
1. Project Introduction
2. iConnect and eLearn Introduction
3. Audience
4. Text Structure
5. Ideas
6. Character and Settings
7. Persuasive Devices
8. Vocabulary
9. Cohesion
10. Paraphrasing & sentence Structure
11. Spelling & Punctuation
12. Project Assessment & Review

Numeracy Course Content:
1. Project Introduction
2. iConnect & eLearn Introduction
3. Part—Part Whole
4 - 5. Multiplication & Division Triangle
6. Identify the Steps Strategy
7 - 8 See The parts & visualise objects
9. Find the pattern or rule
10 - 11 Benchmarks
12 Project Assessment & Review

Weekly Attendance Data

Our overall attendance rate this week is 94.79%

Congratulations to Year 5 students for having the highest year level attendance rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>92.87%</td>
<td>😊😊😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>94.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>96.71%</td>
<td>😊😊😊😊😊</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cool Tool
Straight In &
Straight Out

Values
Respect, Safety
and learning

Congratulations Students of the Week
DALBY STATE SCHOOL CREED
“I am proud to be at Dalby State School. I will try my best to make the right choices and will respect others, all property and myself. Ever Onward.”

From the Student Council
Have you run a kilometre yet?
Tuesday and Thursday mornings have seen more than 115 students come out to KM Club to have fun with friends and keep healthy. Congratulations KM Clubbers for the distances you are accumulating. Some students have hit the 5km mark and some are very close! Parents are welcome to get involved in the walking or running, supporting and/or helping hand out paddle pop sticks or write down totals! KM Club will continue up until the Easter holidays and 5km certificates will continue being presented during Meet and Greet times.

Crazy Hair Everywhere!
Last Friday the school went into crazy hair mode all for the good cause of raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Thank you to everyone who spent time and money supporting the event with coloured hair, wigs and an amazing array of accessories! We raised $717.15 which will go towards a group fundraising effort with Mrs McPherson and the O’Sheas Windsor Hotel Team.

Sports News
Students enjoyed participating in an AFL quiz on Friday as they learned about the skills and history of the game. We thank Amelia, Ben and Keith for their time and enthusiasm and for inspiring our students.

Community News
Cent Auction at North Bowls Club
Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 9am
Morning Tea, Raffles, Lucky Door Prizes

Dalby & District Tennis
Ladies Midweek Tennis Season Starts 22/04/15
Register by Contacting Helen 0418 210 954 or Amanda 0417 929 259

Multicultural / Indigenous AFL Trial Day
Wednesday 18th March 5 - 6 pm
Boys and girls of all ages
Free to join in for those from Multicultural / Indigenous backgrounds
For more information contact; Keith Webber 0438 890 379 or keith.webb@aflq.com.au

POSITION VACANT: CHIEF COOK
DALBY STATE HIGH SCHOOL
BUNYA CAMPUS
Temporary Full-Time
38 hours per week
Classification: 004
For further information please contact the Bunya Campus on 07 46600333. Applications close Friday 20 March 2015 at 4:00pm

Dalby’s Public hair shaving events for Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave are;
O’Sheas Windsor Hotel on sat. 14th March 3pm - 5pm
Dalby Foodworks on Sunday 15th March 8am - 1pm