Principal’s Address

Dear Parents and Carers,

In what will be the penultimate newsletter of 2015, I would like to take a moment of your time to thank you for your active participation as a member of the Tambrey Primary School community. To every student, parent, carer, family member, community member and staff member – your contributions to the education of children that occurs here at Tambrey is what makes it the special place that it is. As the principal of the school and also a parent of students enrolled, I am in the privileged position to be intimately aware of what makes Tambrey tick, and indeed have considerable influence over each and every tick and tock. I can truly say that I am proud of this school, what happens in it and the people that make up its community. Am I satisfied that we are the best Tambrey that Tambrey can be? No. But I believe that we are well and truly on the journey of success. Most importantly, I believe that we are on that journey together. If you don’t feel the same way – that’s OK. But if you want to: stick your thumb out, put your hand up, pick up the phone, knock on the door, we will listen and we will welcome you to join us.

National School Opinion Survey

Thank you to the many students, parents and staff who recently completed the National School Opinion Survey. The results give us valuable data and evidence to evaluate the school improvement journey we are on. Results will be analysed and presented in this year’s Annual Report early next year, however I am very pleased to note that the vast majority of responses were favourable. I can’t promise a pool the size of the oval, but I can assure everyone that bullying is not tolerated. All groups surveyed recognised that there are high standards expected of students. Staff and parents agreed that parents can talk to teachers about their concerns. Perhaps most importantly, all groups responded positively to; students like being at this school.

The survey responses reinforced the need for us to maintain our school as best we can and to put further emphasis on seeking and responding to each other’s opinions.

Nature Play

We recently hosted a series of Kidsafe WA workshops with students and school staff across Karratha about Nature Play, and conducted an audit of our playgrounds with a view to making our outside learning environment more engaging. The beauty of Nature Play is that the cost can be minimal. Certainly with the spirit of the Tambrey community on board, I am excited to share this journey with you. Yes there may be a bump and bruise along the way, but research has shown that the benefits of children being encouraged to take calculated risks in a controlled environment from a young age prepares them to make good choices later in life when the potential for harm from a poor decision is much greater. Imagine what could happen to the young man with the keys to dad’s car for the first time if he was never given the opportunity to learn from the mistake of not holding on tight to the rope that would stop him falling two feet off a log into the sand pit in the playground? I’ve heard it called the ‘stupid gene’, but let’s see if we can use nature to prove nature wrong. Let’s play!

End of Year Events

As 2015 draws to a close, please remember that every day at school matters. Learning happens at every opportunity and there is not a moment to lose. There is plenty to celebrate and I am excitedly looking forward to our Presentation Night scheduled for Monday 7 December where we will celebrate the year that was and recognise the talents and achievements of our students. Our Year Six students enjoy their graduation on Thursday 3 December after eight years of primary school – some of them have even completed all of that time at Tambrey. The final Tambrey Team Player Day will be held on Friday 11 December.
Reports to Parents
Student achievement reports will be sent home with students on Wednesday 16 December. If you are leaving town early and would like your child’s report mailed to you, please provide a stamped self-addressed A4 envelope to the front office by Friday 11 December. Alternatively, reports will be available for collection from the front office in the New Year.

Planning for 2016
Planning continues for an even more successful future for Tambrey. The most valuable and the most expensive asset we have to make a difference to the education of our children is our staff. With greater autonomy given to schools through one line budgets and the successful strategies of the Independent Public Schools initiative, we are empowered with the ability to select suitable staff more so than ever before. Staff selection processes are conducted locally with all positions filled on merit in accordance with public sector standards. There is little difference between staffing for IPS schools and public schools. Everyone applies online and is selected based on their merits as assessed by the selection panel. I would like to thank our team of trained staff members who have assisted in the selection of all positions filled for 2016. It is a challenging responsibility but one that I believe is important to share.

School Development Days for 2016
In consultation with other schools across Karratha and with our associated Councils and Boards the following School Development Days (pupil free days where staff are at work but students do not attend school);
Thursday 28 January and Friday 29 January
Friday 8 April
Tuesday 26 April
Monday 18 July
Monday 10 October
Friday 16 December
In addition, Easter Tuesday 29 March will be taken as a public holiday. While uncertain at this stage, there is expected to be a local festival public holiday declared for FeNeCLNG.

Assemblies on Wednesdays for 2016
With Kindergarten swing day to be Wednesdays next year, we will schedule assemblies and many whole school events on Wednesdays.

Voluntary Contributions and Charges
In consultation with our School Council and Finance committee, the contributions and charges have been set for 2016. The attached document outlines these figures. The financial support provided by parents plays an enabling role in the provision of resources that extend our capacity to add value to students’ learning experience. For your convenience, payment of the $60 contribution is payable through the booklist provider, or at the front office. Eftpos is available.

Whale Shark BWPS
A group of 12 students, accompanied by Mrs Helen Osborne and Mrs Jess Alexander did themselves, their school, their families and me proud last week as they celebrated our involvement in the Whale Shark Race Around the World research project at Baynton West Primary School. Thank you to all involved.
The science learning and enthusiasm that has been generated by this project has been wonderful to witness. The mural looks amazing. Thank you to all involved.

Student Leaders
Congratulations to the Year Five students who wrote and delivered a speech about why they want to be a student leader in 2016. The speeches were of a very high standard. It is wonderful to witness the confidence; organisation and resilience of these students. Students and staff then voted for who they believed would be worthy student leaders. Interviews are being conducted by Mrs Willoughby, Miss Harper, Patrick Kiehnne and Alesha Herring this Thursday before the final leaders are chosen.
They will receive my endorsement before being announced at presentation night. It is a rigorous process and will result in a wonderful group of student leaders for our school as well as a wider group of students who have had a taste of what it is like to apply for a job in a very competitive market. And for our head boy and girl – a taste of what it is like on the other side of the fence.

Leaving town?
If you are leaving town between now and the start of next year, please let the school know via the front office. The State Government funds schools based on the children that are enrolled and actually attend individual schools, measured on census day Friday 12 February next year. I am currently in the process of planning the resources to support student learning for next year based on predicted numbers of students. This needs to be as accurate as possible as it effects staffing, facilities and purchasing – all of which have a direct impact on student learning.

Troy Withers
Principal
Room 8 Bread Tags

As of 19 November, Room 8 had received 28,688 bread tags from 111 packages, with a total of 32,066 bread tags altogether.

Big thanks to Bakers Delight Karratha who donated 10 000 bread tags!

Thanks also to the families who are dropping in tags to our classroom.

Above: Room 8 with the 10 000 bread tags donated by Bakers Delight Karratha

The Smith Family

Homework Club
The Smith Family Homework Club is not on next week, Tuesday 1st and Thursday 3rd December however will be back on the following week.

Money for School Things
Did you find it hard to pay for uniforms, shoes, camps, books and pens this year? The Smith Family is able to help.
Contact Smith Family Karratha on 9144 1854 or email tsfkarratha@thesmithfamily.com

School Banking

There will be no school banking this week but will return Thursday 3rd December

Merit Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who received a merit certificate at the assembly held on Thursday, 18 November:

ECC2  Siona Dale, Millie Morris
ECC4  Macy Bruce, Jillian Cooney
Room 1  Maddison Cheesman, Swaroop Piraji
Room 2  Marnie Hall, Stella Pearce
Room 3  Callum Ryan, Maya Oosthuizen
Room 5  Mickayla Roberts, Teya Bailey
Room 7  Ashlee Jones, Clark Cayabayab
Room 8  Harrison Snow, Hannah Miles
Room 9  Ava Steyn, Samirah Fitzgerald
Room 11  Shenaya Black, Eronne Kelly
Room 12  Charlotte Campbell, Baylie Ellison
Room 17  Connor Sullivan, Jarvis Hofstee
Room 18  Rachel Dick, Monique Herring
LOTE  Logan Dunbar

Aussie of the Month

Junior  Matilda Smith
Middle  Charlie Boyes, Tahlia Brown
Senior  Cassandra Somerville, Ahrt Kennedy

Canteen Manager Wanted

Tambrey P&C is looking for a Canteen Manager to take over the running of the canteen for 2016. If you are an energetic person who enjoys putting smiles on the faces of many children, this may be the job for you!
3 days a week Mon, Wed & Fri (change of days may be negotiable)
The ideal candidate will show the ability to lead, plan and control the day to day operations (ordering/cleaning/maintenance/banking) of the canteen. The position reports to the P&C Committee. The ideal candidate will have previous experience though on the job training will be provided.
The canteen has had enormous support this year and I would love to see it continue in 2016. Please make contact with Anne-Marie Horn for any questions or interest or leave your details at the front office.
Room 1 News

Room One has been extremely lucky this term. Every week we have had parents from different countries join us to talk to us about their celebrations, traditions, currency and answer any of our questions. We have also been VERY lucky to have these parents cook some yummy food with us!

We have used this information to learn about informational writing and each student has created their own Countries in our Classroom informational book. So far we have made Sushi from Japan, Lamingtons from Australia, Gulab Jamuns from Indian, Spring Rolls from Thailand and had a Hangi from New Zealand. The students have been super excited each week and have really enjoyed learning about each other's countries. Thank you again to our amazing and brave parents of Room One who have shared their cultures with us!!