Dear Parents and Carers,

Student Achievement
All students have received their report cards this fortnight. I was very privileged to read each report card, silently high-fiving each student with their personal and academic growth. I am so proud of the progress that every child has made, for a number of our students this semester has seen tremendous changes in their achievement.

Semester 2, 2016
The staff at Benarkin are passionate about student growth and improvement. We want every child to succeed in their academic growth every day. We realise however that this can sometimes be a struggle for some students. From next semester, students are going to be taught English and Maths in an ability group. This does a few things:

- It means that we can work on filling ‘gaps’ in student learning so that they can grasp newer and harder concepts easier.
- It means that by working with students of a similar ability, they are more confident in ‘giving it a go’.
- It means that staff can give more directed learning to students at their level, allowing them to let get left behind.

If you have any questions or queries about this, please speak to your classroom teacher or Principal.

Athletics Day
Forms have gone home for Athletics Day in Term 3. Please return your form and money to the school at your earliest convenience.

Farewell
Who knew 12 months ago what an adventure I was in for?! Benarkin State School is an amazing school. I know that sometimes it can be frustrating with the high turn-over of Principals and teachers, but what keeps the school going is the staff and strong community of Benarkin.

Thank you all so much for your support, your acceptance and your friendship. I have truly loved my time here and now it is time to embrace my next challenge.

Thanks and take care.

Kim

Learning and Growing Together

Next Meeting: Monday 18 July
3:15 pm **All Welcome**
The P&C thanks all those who supported our Body Shop Party on Saturday 11th June. The proceeds have been taken in fabulous goods that will be used for our upcoming Fathers Day raffle next term. P&C are also requiring both a Secretary and Vice-President. Please see Deidra if you are able to help.
It’s Bloomin’ Beautiful

Jinibara people, Taromeo, our way of life from long ago
The hard wood logs filled up the trains,
the railway line wound down the range
Scrub turkeys scatter off the track
Kookaburras laugh, how bout that

(Repeat Chorus)

Why is it important for kids to have a voice in school?

Children spend a lot of time at school. After the family, school has the most significant influence on child development, so making students’ time at school enjoyable and worthwhile supports their mental health and wellbeing. Part of this process involves supporting students to be active contributors to their own learning. The sense of belonging, positive relationships and improved self-esteem achieved when children are active contributors in their school community are significant protective factors that support their mental health and wellbeing now and in the future.

While listening to student voice is important, research shows that the benefits for students don’t come from just hearing their own voices. It’s more about how other people (students, teachers, schools) respond to students’ voices and work with them to make ideas come to life. In other words, the opportunities for students to participate in shaping their experiences at school must be real rather than simulated.

Parents and Community Engagement

Why is parent and community engagement important?

Parents and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our children. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes.

What makes parent and community engagement effective?

The research and our experience tell us that parent and community engagement is most effective when it:

• focuses on student learning;
• encourages genuine dialogues and shared responsibility for student success;
• builds the capability, and the confidence, of staff, parents and community members to engage with each other;
• enables widespread engagement and sustains it over time.

Thank you to all of our amazing support staff. You make our lives so much easier and better every day.

Christine, Debra, Chris, Leanne, Deidra, Chantelle, Ross, Delmae:
You are AMAZING!!