Benarkin State School hosts a playgroup every Wednesday morning, from 9-11.30am, for all parents and children from 0-5 years.

As Winter is upon us, Trudy will be doing more indoor activities, including introducing the library to our playgroup friends.

TERM 2, WEEK 7

Calendar of Events

MAY
23 Under 8’s Day at Tanduringle SS
24 Stamp Club - soaking stamps lesson
26 PIE DRIVE FORMS & MONEY DUE
26-27 Mrs Sparrow @ THRASS training Brisbane
27 Year 5/6 Drama Excursion to Cooyar School
27 SCHOOL PARADE 2.45pm

JUNE
1 Janet Skinner Art Workshop P-6
1 Speech Language Visit
3 Video filming with Josh Arnold
3 SCHOOL PARADE 2.45pm
6-9 School Review
15 Cleaner’s Day - Celebrating Debra Gaud !
16 Student Led Conferences 3:15pm ALL STUDENTS
24 Last day Term 2
30 P&C Meeting
JULY
11 First day Term 3
11 Ten-Pin Bowling School Kit booked for 5 weeks!!!
14 Athletics Day @ Cooyar
22 Pyjama Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Priorities

We have been working very hard with our students, ensuring that all students are working towards gains in their education. In particular, the 2016 Benarkin State School priorities are Writing, Numeracy and Reading.

Reading

Students have only a few days to get their Reading in May forms back to school. In each State and Territory, the 20 students who record the highest amount of Reading Minutes in May will WIN $100 worth of vouchers for their family to spend on Book Club and Book Fairs. The teacher with the highest classroom Reading Minutes will receive $200 worth of Scholastic Rewards. The school in each State and Territory that records the most Reading Minutes will WIN $500 worth of books plus a perpetual trophy with the school name engraved on it, to keep for a year!

The more families a school has participating in the challenge, the greater chance it has of winning!

Writing

Thank you to Jan Jarvis, local author and poet, who conducted a writing session for our students. Jan was asked a lot of thought provoking questions from our budding young authors, proving all the students are keen writers. Students were then shown ‘word mapping’, a method that Jan uses to cultivate her ideas and brainstorm different ideas and vocabulary to use within her writing.

Numeracy

All students and families are asked to work on their number facts, particularly their multiplication facts. It is never too early or too late to learn these. This skill has to be automatic, without knowing basic number facts, students will struggle to understand harder concepts.

To assist in this, all students have been sent home with an A3 poster of number facts. During the month of June, all students are going to be tested daily on their number facts. Prizes are up for grabs for students who show the greatest skill, but also those students who show the greatest gain in knowledge.

Josh Arnold

This week Josh Arnold arrived at Benarkin. Josh and our students made fantastic progress in writing the unique song that he has written. The catchy song, you no doubt have already heard coming from your showers, will soon be available on U.tube—Small Town Culture.

School Winter Uniform Update

We have received an update with regards to the supply of winter uniforms. Unfortunately the factory that makes the uniforms as experienced a mini-cyclone. The shipment is due on June 6. The good news is this has given us a little longer to scrape our money together. You are now able to make payment for these at our office, $38 for jackets, $22 for pants.

Learning and Growing Together

Regional Expectation - Every Student Succeeding

Benarkin State School Priorities - Writing, Numeracy, Reading

Attendance Goal 95% - Our Attendance 90.2%

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School Review
Our school is scheduled for a school review from 6-8 June. The Department of Education and Training introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews are conducted by the department’s School Improvement Unit. The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools have a review at least every four years. Key findings from the review are made available to parents and the community on the school’s website.

As part of the review, the review team would like to hear from our school community and I encourage anyone who is interested to have their say. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students. Feedback can be provided to the review team by phone or in person. All feedback remains confidential.

If you are interested in speaking to the reviewers, or would like more information about the review process, please contact the school office or email the review team at SIUMB@dete.qld.gov.au.

Further information about the reviews is available from the department’s website at:

Benarkin State School
Students of the Week
Reading Improvement Award
Bree-anne
William
Oliver
Ivy
Sight Words Awards
Harper & Ruby
We had a Monster Book Fair
Spirit of Anzac Excursion Toowoomba

Next Meeting: Monday 30 May
3:15 pm **All Welcome**
Thank you for your support at our Blackbutt Show Stall. We raised $300 on the day, which will ultimately go back to helping the school and our students.

KIDS MATTER
Schools can be scary places, and not just for children
We want parents and carers to feel welcome and at ease to get the most out of being involved with their children’s school. When parents and carers are involved and connected with school, children are better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. This is an important emphasis in schools nowadays that may be very different from what parents or carers remember, or what they may have experienced in another country. Being connected at school is not about having mobile phones and computers. It’s about knowing you can get support, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with school staff to help your child learn and develop. Working together to care for children is the best way for schools and parents and carers to

Parent 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 tells 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; and
• enables widespread engagement and sustains it over time.

This term in Science Preps, Yr 1 and Yr 2 are learning about changes in materials. We have been busy folding paper and testing alfoil and cling wrap for strength. Stretching various brands of lolly snakes to check elasticity was a very popular lesson!

Annabella is ‘Bending’ her body.
Ivy and Matilda ‘Stretch’ their bodies.
Rogue is ‘Bending’ her body back.

Science this term for Year 5 and Year 6 has been investigating Matter. These photos show students experimenting with materials and water. They had to immerse a tissue within a cup in water. Amber, Rina, William, Joseph and Izack were photographed busy testing. Some students were able to successfully put their cup into the water and withdraw a dry tissue!

Sage, Kylah and Majentta investigating folds in paper to find a...