Hi everyone

Welcome to Week 4!

School Opinion Surveys
Thank you to all parents/carers who came in and completed the surveys! You rock! We value your opinion and look forward to receiving your feedback so that our school can plan for 2015.

This term we have been working hard to improve the following areas of our school:

**Attendance – Every Day Counts** and we will be celebrating with students in Week 6 a special reward day for those children who attend and work hard in class and with their behaviour!

**Reading – books in hand everyday**, our children are working hard alongside their teachers and support staff to improve with their reading

**Behaviour – we come to school to learn** and we value safety, respect and are responsible for our own actions and the consequences for these actions. Garbutt Staff thank parents/carers for supporting us to reinforce these messages and working with staff to provide a safe and supportive learning environment. Our school rules are for all members of our school community and I thank the majority of parents/carers who actively model appropriate behaviour within our grounds and community to our children

**Learning Time** – we have no time to waste and we value EVERY minute of Learning Time. School starts at 9am – it is great to see lessons starting on time and children beating the bell.

**Making appointments with staff**

Like any business and service in a community, such as at a doctor’s surgery, appointments are necessary to afford every member the time they deserve to receive quality service. Our school staff have a number of commitments and meetings to fulfil each week. We have designated meeting times outside school hours and sometimes in school hours. It is very important that parents/carers ring to make an appointment with teachers and myself to avoid long wait time or disappointment if we are unable to speak to you at the time of dropping in. I encourage and welcome parents to meet and speak with their child’s class teacher in the first instance about student behaviour and academic progress. Parents are welcome to **make a time that is mutually convenient** with me to discuss their child.

There are times when teachers are not available (learning time/duty time/meeting time). When teachers are teaching their classes, they are not able to afford parents/carers meeting times as the priority is all students learning. Please contact the front office to arrange the meeting times in advance. Thanks for supporting us with this.

Kind regards
Helen McCullough

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**Parade**
There will be no parade this Friday, August 8th.

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**Cultural Day**
On the 8th of August we will be having a Cultural Day that will include a lunch showcasing dishes from a variety of cultures. There will also be Cultural Dress and we encourage students to wear an outfit from their heritage.

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**Book Levy**
Once again this semester will have our book levy, to make it easy for parents to purchase the basic school supplies to ensure your child is learning.

Please pay $30 to the office if you wish to participate.

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**P & C Meeting**
Our next P & C meeting will be on the 12th August at 3pm. We hope to see some new faces for the second half of the year.
Grade 6 and 7 High School Information Nights

High School information nights and transition days are approaching, so all grade 6 and 7s should be aware of the dates and have their permission slips returned.

Townsville State High School
Information Night—J Block Auditorium 26th August

Interschool Soccer

Interschool soccer has two more games remaining for this term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8th August</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>29th August</td>
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School Supplies

Could all parents please check with your kids to make sure they have enough pencils and books to begin the new term. The right supplies are important to get the most out of school everyday.

Challenge Day

On the 30th and 31st of July students from Garbutt participated in Challenge Day. Challenge Day is an annual event for students with disabilities that encourages fun and having a go, held at the Red Track. Over 800 students from Queensland attended and everyone had a blast.

Australian Mathematics Competition

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition this week. It’s great that we have people participating in national competitions and we hope you all do well.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week

We are all looking forward to National Literacy and Numeracy Week in Week 7, the 25th to the 31st of August. There will be plenty of challenges and prizes to be won so make sure your children get involved.

Sports

This week the Under 10s won as well as the girls team who beat the Tigers! Congratulations to both teams for winning this week!

Unfortunately the Under 12s lost their game this week but they all tried their best.

Grade 6 and 7 High School Information Nights

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Townsville State High School
Information Night—J Block Auditorium 26th August
Regular school attendance
Information for parents and carers

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.
- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?
Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school.

Principal decide if the reason given for your child's absence is acceptable.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:
- birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?
You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?
Yes, you must let the school know the reason why your child has been absent from school within two school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.

Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?
- won't get out of bed in the morning
- won't go to bed at night
- can't find their uniform, books, school bag ...
- slow to eat breakfast
- haven't done their homework
- watching TV
- have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- it's their birthday.

If so, a set routine can help
- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

What should I do if my child won't go to school?
You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

Every day counts – Is your child at school today?
www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts
### Term 3 - 2014

**Important Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th August</td>
<td>Interschool Athletics</td>
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<td>12th August</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>15th August</td>
<td>Cultural Lunch (change of date)</td>
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<td>15th August</td>
<td>Cultural Dress Day</td>
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<td>26th August</td>
<td>Town High 2015 Info Night</td>
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<td>19th September</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3</td>
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**Smart and Strong Awards**

- 24th July: Tresean, Jade, Shannah, Troy, Kyliah, Nadir, Oliver, Laveen, Sue, Taj, Jade, Chloe, Zac, Michael, Nakiyah, Aaliyah, Brianna, Julian, Velanda

- 1st August: Loren, Visenia, Kyliah, Mujahid, Jayden, Kiarah, Raquarn, Tyrell, Wariba

- **Principal Awards**
  - Year 1: Sherwin, Kenneth, Ayla, Jade, Jayden, Tyrell, Jamil, Keau, Oliver

**Gotcha Winners**

- 24th July: Kadafi, Jesse-James, Nathan, Jade, Jai, Kairreece

- 1st August: Nathan, Samantha, Troy, Sheyla, Jayden, Ayla, Laveen

### Class Weekly Attendance—Term 3

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