According to Interrelate, our school’s students are the “most committed in the state to stamping out bullying”.

As you may know, we were recently named as the major winner in the Interrelate state-wide anti-bullying poster competition themed “My School Without Bullying”. We thank teacher, Mrs Kylie Reedy for driving this initiative. The school will receive a prize of $1000, to spend as we like!

While bullying occurs in all schools whether they choose to admit it or not, at our school we choose to ‘call it out’ and do something to reduce its incidence and impact, whenever and wherever we can.

Under our Anti-bullying Policy, published on our website (under Caring for Students), bullying is defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure. Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships and can involve harassment, humiliation, domination and intimidation of others.

Arguments, disagreements or even poor manners are not necessarily forms of bullying if there is no abuse of power or no intent to harm, especially among young children who are still learning how to get along with others – how to give and take. Students in Year 2 in particular, are always exploring ways of ‘filling the buckets’ of others with kindness and caring.

At our school we like to focus on addressing relationship issues early to help the children to develop healthy and respectful interactions, to help them identify bullying and to assist them to take control and modify their behaviours in and out of school. This ensures a healthy foundation for relationships in later life.

You can find out more about Interrelate on 1300 736 966 or visit the centre at 24 Park Ave, Coffs Harbour.

While we are committed to teaching and learning around relationships – understanding ourselves and others, we are not neglecting the academic aspects of our work.

Yesterday, Stage 3 students explored marvellous microrganisms. No textbooks in sight – instead the girls and boys explored the yeasting process while preparing and baking leavened and unleavened breads, explored the mysterious microbiotic process of cheese making (thanks to Lyndall from The Cheesemaking Workshop, Emerald Beach), used a variety of lenses in the field and microscopes in the classroom (thanks to John McQueen from Cascade Environmental Education Centre, Dorrigo). They even managed to cook some damper on hot coals and use pastels to draw a still life bread basket! Many thanks to all involved (including parents, teacher aides) in this marvellous day of learning that the boys and girls will remember for a long time.

Everywhere I look amazing things are happening in this school. We have a lot to be grateful for!

If I don’t see you through the week, I hope to see you at the School Gardens WORKING BEE on Sunday!!!?? Be there!

Cheers!
Ray Rincheval, Proud Principal
Woolgoolga Oztag will be starting a new competition in April. There will be 2 divisions Years 3 & 4 and Opens Years 5 & 6. Games will be played from 4.30—5.30pm. Registration will be held on 2nd and 9th April at the Woolgoolga Sports Ground from 4.00—6.30pm. For further information please contact Peter Buller on 0401939171

Did You Know?
We have grass ticks everywhere at the moment. Please check your child for these tiny, itchy critters.

Did you Know?
We have had quite a number of children with school sores. Please check your child and give them appropriate medication as they are highly contagious.

Did You Know?
Our school won $1000 in the Interrelate No Bullying poster competition recently.

Did You Know?
We are a KidsMatter school. We work for the good mental health of our children e.g. Interrelate have been providing positive relationship lessons in Stage 3 and the students are loving it.

Did You Know?
Each of our classes are working on Garden Art sculptures in the lead up to our School Fete on the 9th May. Are you helping out at the fete??

Did You Know?
The school gardens Working Bee is on this COMING SUNDAY.

Did You Know?
We have entered our junior choir in the Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod.

Did You Know?
We have a major refurbishment of the lower level of our Resource Centre (old library) happening next term. This will result in a brand new, extra large classroom space. The builders will have to take over a fenced off section of our top quadrangle as their work site. Work is due to start on the 12th May for 6 weeks.

Did You Know?
We will have a highly rated arborist inspect our trees this week to ensure that we have identified any dangerous trees so that we can have them removed.

Did You Know?
We are already looking to plan our school’s priorities for the next few years to 2017+. Please complete the survey sent home with this newsletter today. It’s also available on the school website in the Newsletter section.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH is an education life skills program which teaches children and young people the skills to develop resilience and cope with change. It focuses on understanding the effects of change, loss and grief and specifically targets skills in communication, decision making and problem solving.

The program is recommended for students who have experienced significant loss or trauma. This may be because of death of a loved one, divorce/separation of parents, domestic violence or a range of other circumstances. For primary school aged children the program is run over 8 weeks for approximately one hour per week.

Sandy Beach’s School Counsellor, Ms. Jacinta Clarke, is planning to run this program over the next few terms, commencing with either Stage 2 or 3 students. Teachers have been asked to nominate participants, however it is vital that parents give informed permission and also have the opportunity to nominate their own child if appropriate.

For this reason Jacinta is planning to run an information session for interested Stage 2 and 3 parents next Monday afternoon, 7th April at 2.30pm at the school. Please come along if you would like to know more about this program and/or nominate your child. If you would like more information, but are unable to attend the information session, please do not hesitate to contact Jacinta at the school on Mondays or Thursday.

Jacinta Clarke
School Counsellor

A REMINDER THAT THE SCHOOL GARDENS WORKING BEE will be held this Sunday 6th April from 9.30am—3.00pm. You don’t need to stay all day just come for a couple of hours.

Come along with your gardening tools and help create our new tropical gardens. We will be planting, mulching, trimming, laying some new turf and doing a general tidy up.

We would appreciate any donations of Xanadu plants you can send them to school or see Charmaine or Mrs. Crooks on the day.

So bring your rakes, shovels etc and get involved—don’t forget the sunscreen! Refreshments will be available throughout the day and lunch will be provided and each child involved will receive a Top Kid Award.

Wendy McMoore

SNACK SHACK NEWS

First of all I need to thank my volunteers especially those who helped out last Friday at our Meal Deal Day. These volunteers not only worked tirelessly all day but managed to bring laughter and joy to me as I was clearly under pressure and slightly stressed out. Our volunteers are an amazing group of people so my personal gratitude goes to Tracy, Phil, Pete, Kirri, Diane & Chris who all did a fantastic job assisting with our 130+ orders.

We have had some great artwork come in so far. The students still have until the end of term to submit their entry. There will be prizes awarded to the best and runner up for both senior boy and girl as well as junior boy and girl. You will be able to vote at the Fete for your favourite piece of work. Good luck to our budding artists.

Jody Phillis
Canteen Supervisor