Dear Parents and Caregivers,

School Absenteeism

This week I distributed a one page flyer to all families from the Insight publications authored by Michael Grose, titled, ‘It’s not okay to be away… nor to be late to school’. This article provides an interesting perspective on the issue of student absenteeism. I encourage you to read the article at your earliest opportunity. Many of the themes contained within the article are evident in our school. At a time when we are implementing a new curriculum, all teachers are craving as much time as possible with their students. While I understand this will be a commonly understood message for many parents, I hope it does trigger some reflection across our school. Every day counts!

Australian Curriculum Developments

As you will be aware, Queensland schools are introducing the Australian Curriculum in English, Maths and Science in 2012. Plans are well underway to see History introduced in 2013 with the first draft of the documents available on the ACARA website. Much of our planning in Term 4 will ensure we have perused the documentation and made ourselves ready for the implementation of History on Day 1 2013. If our thorough preparation in 2012 is anything to go by, we should see another smooth transition when we introduce History next year.

Accident Insurance Cover for Students

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education and Training does not have Student Accident Insurance cover for students. Therefore, if your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs, are the responsibility of the child, parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If parents have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered through the private health insurance. Any other costs would be borne by the parents.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 28 Aug</td>
<td>P&amp;C Father’s Day stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 29 Aug</td>
<td>P&amp;C Father’s Day stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 31 Aug</td>
<td>All lost property to be claimed. Bookclub money due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 31 Aug</td>
<td>Early Years Celebration Prep Barnyard Babies money due $6.60</td>
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<td>Thurs 6 Sept</td>
<td>Prep Barnyard Babies incursion</td>
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<td>Tues 11 Sept</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting 3.00pm</td>
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<td>Fri 14 Sept</td>
<td>Bush dance 5.00 – 8.00pm</td>
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<td>Wed 19 Sept</td>
<td>Toothpaste &amp; toothbrush donation day Free dress</td>
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<td>Fri 21 Sept</td>
<td>Last day of term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Oct</td>
<td>First day term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 22 Oct</td>
<td>2013 Prep Enrolment interviews. Student free day</td>
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Student Accident Insurance is an insurance policy that pays certain benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is a personal decision for parents as to the types and levels of private insurance they arrange to cover their child for any accidental injury that may occur. Parents should contact their insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if they choose to take out student personal accident insurance cover for their child.

Regards
Sharon Schimming
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTIES’ DESK

Humpybong State School to support the Burnett and Cullen Family Visit to Tanzania

Will Cullen (MAC Orange) and Ruby Cullen (2 Lime) are travelling with their parents, Sally and Nick Burnett to Tanzania at the start of October. The reason the family is travelling to Tanzania is through a personal connection with The Cicely Foundation. The Cicely Foundation exists for deprived, vulnerable and needy children in both the United Kingdom and throughout the world to help overcome some of their difficulties. The main focus of the Foundation involves supporting work linked to education, health and well-being. The family is friends with the founding members, Steve and Maureen Clifffen. One of the major projects they support is Peace Matunda. Peace Matunda is a project in Tanzania, East Africa. They are a non-profit organisation committed to the education and development of underprivileged children. The Peace Matunda project is situated high in the beautiful rainforest of Mount Meru in Northern Tanzania, around 15km outside of the city of Arusha and includes:

Peace Matunda School - primary day school for over 200 children in Baby Class, Kindergarten, Standard 1 through 5, with the expectation to be a full primary school up to Standard 7 by 2014.

Peace Matunda Orphanage - provides a home and positive family environment for 24 permanent residential children who do not have a family.

Sally, who is a registered nurse, and Nick, who runs an educational training consultancy, are going to offer support and advice to the staff at Peace Matunda, whilst Will and Ruby will be joining classes in the school. The family will be staying at Peace Matunda. From discussions with the staff at Peace Matunda, one of the major issues they face is in the area of dental hygiene, and so they are all delighted that Humpybong Primary School has agreed to hold a non-uniform day in return for children bringing in new toothbrushes and/or toothpaste which the family will take out to Peace Matunda. Sally will be delivering some training to staff and children to hopefully improve dental hygiene. The class with the most toothbrushes and toothpaste will be rewarded with a Pizza lunch on the last day of term.

Early Years Celebration – Under 8’s Day

Next Friday from 9am – 10:30am we will be hosting our annual Early Years Celebration. This exciting event involves students in Prep to Year 2 participating in highly engaging activities in the Prep precinct and playground, celebrating everything wonderful about being in the Early Years of Learning. The focus this year is ‘Language – actively connecting children to their world’. If you are able to assist on the day, please contact your classroom teacher. We look forward to you joining us to celebrate the wonder of being under 8!

Attendance – Every Day Counts

At last week’s P-3 assembly we highlighted the impact of absenteeism. The students were amazed by the visual representation when calculating that being absent 1 day a week equates to approximately 40 days across the year. When compared to a student who is absent for only 5 days a year, it became very clear who would have the greater chance of learning and succeeding! It was at that point of distinction when the audience was invaded by a very unique being. Absolute Attendance, or better known as AA, turns out to be our very own school super hero, who is here to help us with attendance. AA shared her knowledge of the Flynn Effect with the children, explaining why each generation is becoming even more intelligent than the previous one; the reasons being due to the increased length of
time accessing education and good nutrition. Five classes were then presented with a very special Principal Award for achieving high attendance percentages. These star classes include:

2/3 Crimson – 93% attendance
3 Orange – 93% attendance
Prep Orange – 92% attendance
2 Purple - 93% attendance
3 Lime - 92% attendance

In the coming weeks, parents with students who have significantly high absenteeism will be contacted to discuss their child’s regular absences from school and develop Individual Attendance Plans containing targets for improvement.

Tim Adsett & Hayley Bloxham

ADVICE FROM ABSOLUTE ATTENDANCE

My ears pricked up as I flew over the Redcliffe Peninsula last week, when I heard the beautiful Mrs. Bloxham cry out for help. I can hear a cry for assistance a mile off, so I knew that I was needed. As I flew into Humpybong, I saw the most beautiful school in the world. Seated quietly in the hall were children from Prep to year 3, dressed in their school uniforms, enjoying the entertainment of a talented band and listening to their caring Deputy Principal. I had to ask myself, “Why wouldn’t anyone want to come to this amazing place?”

But alas, it appears that some children at Humpybong are not coming to school every day. In fact, some children are staying away, even when they are well. This is enough to make my blonde hair frizzle at the ends!

It is imperative that children come to school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. We must not take for granted the power of learning that takes place each and every day at school and the detrimental impact on a child’s learning when they have gaps in their attendance. This week, I gave out stickers to some parents for getting their children to school on time, the real heroes are our parents and grandparents who make the enormous effort to make sure their children are here for the start of learning every day. Well done to those super mums, dads and grandparents!

I must admit that as a superhero, even I have my hiccups some mornings and it is with the generosity of a superhero that I share some tips for this week. Sending your child to school every day is the single most powerful thing that you can do for your child’s future. If the mornings are stressful for you, get them to put their uniform on the bottom of their beds the night before so they can get dressed straight away and don’t let them turn on the TV. unless they are completely ready for the start of the day.

Until next time…

Remember, you don’t have to wear Lycra and a cape to take control of your own future.

AA

CURRICULUM CORNER

The ICAS results for Writing and Spelling have just come in. These were both very difficult papers. The year 3 spelling paper included the word knuckle. Other words included: infections (Year 4), appliances (Year 5), pseudonyms (Year 6) and appendicitis (Year 7). Well done to all the students who took part! Special congratulations go to:
Writing competition:
Chloe Forbes (2/3 Crimson), Sera-Jade Tuimavave (3 Lime), Lillian Field (3 Orange) and Sam Schimming (Mac Gold) who achieved a Credit and Jai Torresan (3 Purple) who achieved a Distinction!

Spelling competition:
Jai Torresan, Sam Schimming, Ama Sam (6 Aqua) and Melissa McKinless (7 Lime) who all achieved a Credit as well as Arich Ruengsawat-Keuker (Mac Crimson) and Andrew Anderson (Mac Purple) who achieved a Distinction!

Tap on an App
*Drag Race Division* is a $0.99 app that allows students to practise their division facts in a fast-paced drag race. Students can play the computer OR race another student from somewhere else in the world. The speed of their car is determined by how fast (and accurately!) they answer the division questions.

*Archimedes: Math Explorations* is a free app for younger students. Archimedes is a shy owl in charge of the tree house, where children can explore basic maths concepts such as addition and subtraction by manipulating objects in the tree house. The tree house has been designed in 3D, so students can rotate some features. Students earn stars and rewards for completing activities, and spoken instructions are provided.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**HSS Student/ Staff voting for the Book Week Picture Books!!!**

2012 Theme - “Champions Read”. Students and staff were asked to vote for the most outstanding cover of the six Book Week Picture Books. Here are our results:

1. ‘Bus Named Heaven’- 27 students, 4 staff
2. ‘Flood’- 256 students, 7 staff
3. ‘Dream of the Thylacine’- 269 students, 0 staff
4. ‘Look a Book’- 6 students, 1 staff
5. ‘No Bears’- 25 students, 3 staff
6. ‘For All Creatures’- 6 students, 1 staff

We’ll see what the professional judges think around 24 August. What did you vote for?

**Book Disco**

Thank you to the students and staff who took the opportunity to dress up in their wildest characters outfits! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the night and went home exhausted. Thank you to the P&C and Tuckshop for their organisation and support of the Library.

**Book Fair Round Up**

Thank you to the students, staff and parents who purchased books, posters and stationery at the recent Book Fair. We made approximately $2250 in sales. As a school library, we take 30% of that amount ($675) in books chosen by students from the actual Book Fair. The books will be processed as soon as possible for children to borrow.

Edwina Clark
Teacher Librarian
MUSIC MATTERS

NAIDOC celebrations

Last week saw our school community celebrate NAIDOC week. This is a very special event on our school calendar. With over a third of Queensland’s Indigenous population in South East Queensland, our school celebrations are a powerful way to send messages to our students about respecting Indigenous people and their culture and go a long way towards highlighting the issues around Closing the Gap and Reconciliation.

Throughout the week, each class engaged in texts with an Indigenous theme. Miss Kellie Low from 1 Orange has been skilfully leading our staff through Professional Development in First Steps, an approach to teaching reading. With Miss Low’s support, we used these texts to practice some of the strategies we have been learning, involving students in higher order thinking and engaging them in deep conversations about issues facing Indigenous people.

We celebrated some of this learning at our whole school assembly last Thursday, when we were privileged to have Deon Bird visit our school. Deon is the grandson of our local elder, Uncle Peter, who unfortunately couldn’t make it to the assembly but gave his blessing for our celebrations. The year three and five students were lucky to have a session with Deon and his trainees. They taught them traditional games, which focus on teaching teamwork rather than competition. Deon generously donated his time for the day and we extend our heartfelt thanks to him and his team.

The finale of our NAIDOC week celebrations was the performance by Lucas Proudfoot. Lucas delivered two performances throughout the day and had the children completely captivated by his engaging approach to educating about Indigenous culture. It was an absolute delight to see the children enjoying themselves so thoroughly, all the while learning about and respecting the traditional owners of our land.

The Curriculum Leadership Team is currently developing a framework for Engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students. This involves setting goals for the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in both curriculum and pedagogy. Indigenous community members will be invited to collaborate with us to develop these goals, which aim at improving learning engagement for Indigenous students and to deepen the understanding of non-Indigenous students. For more information about this process please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Bush Dance

The anticipation for our Humpybong Bush Dance is building. The event is not far away and we are working hard to prepare an exciting night for our school community. We hope to see all our wonderful families on Friday, 14th September from 5pm-8pm on the front oval. There is no entry charge for the evening.

Dinner will be available throughout the night and we strongly encourage all families to pre-purchase their meals. A letter outlining the costs of food will be sent home with an order form this week. Please return your order and payment to the office as soon as possible. This will ensure we have catered adequately and that nobody is left hungry after all that dancing!

At the Bush Dance each year level will be showcasing a particular dance. They will then invite a parent or special guest to join them in the dance. Our intention is to create a festive, celebratory night that brings us together as a community. We are encouraging all staff to attend and bring their families as well. In light of this, we must stress that this is not a supervised event. Children must remain with their parents at all times and are your responsibility for the night. As a courtesy to all the students, we ask that all children stay to watch their peers, rather than leaving as soon as their performance is over. We have worked so hard this year to develop our audience manners and participation and this is an opportunity to not only showcase our dancing skills, but our social skills as well.
As we will be catering for hundreds of people on the night we are desperately seeking assistance from parents. We need help cooking and preparing food on the afternoon of the event as well as throughout the evening. If you are available to assist us, please let us know by emailing me (jreid25@eq.edu.au).

To add to the atmosphere, we are asking families to dress in a Bush Dance theme. We don’t expect parents to buy anything special for the event but clothing such as jeans, checked shirts, cowboy hats and denim skirts for the girls or pretty dresses would be perfectly suitable.

I am looking forward to a very special night, celebrating our much loved community. Keep an eye out for more information coming home and remember my dance card isn’t full so I hope to be dancing with lots of you on the night!

Juanita Reid
Music Coordinator

CHAPPY CHATTER – Three Cheers for Dad!

Sometimes when I watch TV, I think that father-bashing has become an international sport. Among the stereotypical Dads portrayed by the media, precious few are positive role models. However, after decades of research, studies have highlighted some important benefits of fathering:

Positive father involvement:

- Reduces their infants’ chances of experiencing cognitive delay
- Improves children’s cognitive and academic ability, as well as promoting children’s social and language skills
- Protects against children developing risky behaviours and reduces problem behaviours (boys) and mental health issues (girls)
- Is associated with positive child characteristics e.g. increased empathy, self-esteem, self-control, feelings of ability to achieve, psychological well-being, social competence and life skills
- Increases life satisfaction and self-esteem for both men and women

So dads might do things a bit differently. So they want to play when mums are trying to put the children to bed. But their involvement and the different skill-set they bring to parenting make for much happier children. Vive la difference!

Happy Father’s Day to all the Dads! You are champions!

Nicola
Chaplain

“Listen to your father, who gave you life...” Proverbs 23:22

TUCKSHOP NEWS

REMINDERS: Tuckshop closed Mondays. There is no hot food at Snack time. Tuckshop will be CLOSED for snack on the last day of term, Friday 21 September.

Item Changes: Slush puppies are now $2.20. Juice cups are no longer available.

If your child goes home sick and has Tuckshop ordered, can you please stop by the Tuckshop and let us know and we can arrange their order for another time.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Volunteers are urgently needed in the Tuckshop. Please help your school community.

Sherri Hallam
Tuckshop Convenor

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Meal Deals

1. Pizza  
   Large Popper  
   Ice cream  
   5 Pikelets  
   $5.20

2. Fruit  
   Chips  
   Icy Bite  
   Small popcorn  
   $2.70

Tuckshop Bags 20cents extra
P&C NEWS

Next P&C Meeting – NEW TIME!

Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 September at 3.00pm. All are welcome.

Father's Day Stall – Tuesday 28th August to Thursday 30th 2012

Our annual Father's Day stall will be starting on Tuesday 28 August to Thursday 30 August. We will be selling items from $1 to $5. If there are any students who are away during their classes scheduled time, please note we will be open Tuesday and Wednesday during lunch and snack. We will only be open on Thursday until lunch so that students who did not get to attend with their class don't miss out. If anyone would like to volunteer at the stall, please email Kelly@kohlerzone.com with your preferred time and day. All volunteers are welcome, even if it is only for an hour. The stall will be open from 9am to 2pm.

Queensland Schools Car Raffle – Now Proceeding in September 2012

The tickets will arrive at our school early in September. The five prizes will be: a Holden Car (approx. value $25,000), camper trailer ($8,000), travel voucher ($3,000), Coles/Woolworths Fuel Voucher ($1,000) and an iPad3. Once the tickets arrive they will be distributed to families. Tickets will be $2.00 per ticket; each family will receive a book of 20 tickets to sell. A note has already been sent home to all families, if you do not wish to participate in this fundraising activity, please complete the details and return the form to the office no later than 30 August 2012.

Scholastic Book Club – Issue No. 6

Book club catalogues have been distributed to all classes. Orders are due NO LATER THAN Friday 31 August 2012.

Pauls Collect-a-caps

Keep those caps coming in; this program will be running all through 2012. Drop your caps into the special box in the school office.

Colin Orr
P&C President

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RICRFC Homework Program

Hi our names are Raelene Mould, Matthew Gee and Talosaga Nunu. We are the facilitators of RICRFC Homework Program that is being offered through Humpybong Sate School. The program is for children from Years 1 to 7 and is for those children who have been identified as struggling with school work. The program runs for the full term after school from the Redcliffe Community Association Centre with parents dropping off and picking up their child/children. At the end of the term we hope the students will have a better understanding on how to better manage their homework. If you feel that your child/children are struggling, please give us a call to book. Bookings are essential. PH: 3480 8700.

Redcliffe Leagues Hockey Club’s 80th Anniversary Celebration. Calling out to anyone who does or has played hockey at Redcliffe.

When: Saturday 1st September. Where: Redcliffe Leagues Club. Cost: $50 for 2 course dinner

To book: phone Vicki Scheumack on 0417 729 709 or email sheuy@bigpond.com