FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy Holidays

With the 2012 school year coming to a close I would like to thank all members of our school community for the work undertaken to ensure our children receive an outstanding beginning to learning and life. Humpybong State School has much to celebrate this year as a result of the dedicated work from all stakeholders and I take this opportunity to wish staff, students and the community the best for a well-deserved break and safe Christmas holiday. Next year is shaping up to be another exciting year for Humpybong State School and I look forward to working with you again in 2013.

Break Up Arrangements

The last week of school is always very busy for our staff and students. Individual classes will make arrangements for their end of year break up which will be scheduled for Thursday. Traditionally, the last Friday of the school year sees a considerable number of students not in attendance. The arrangements for this day therefore are:

- Students report to their individual classrooms at the beginning of the school day.
- Students must wear the correct school uniform.
- Students must ensure they bring lunch and morning tea as the tuckshop will be closed.

Parking at Humpybong State School, revisited.

Recently, our newsletter ran an article about parking in the school precinct. We’re thankful to the parents who took note of the article and started to make better choices about parking around the school grounds, but there are some serious issues that still remain unattended.

Of particular concern is parent abusing the loading zones near the school entrance gates. These zones, in Mabel St and in Ernest St are DROP and GO zones – which allow you 2 minutes to drop off or pick up your child/ren and drive off.
As the sign says, two minutes to pull up, wish your children a great day at school, and pull out.

What we are finding, though, is some parents who choose to leave their vehicles parked in these zones for extended periods of time – which denies any other parents the chance to drop their children off in a safe and timely manner. This abuse of the loading zone is causing considerable frustration and worry amongst a great many parents. It is unfair, it is dangerous for our students and it is illegal to do so between 8:00 and 9:00 AM and 2:30 and 3:30 pm.

We have raised the issue with the school P&C and they have endorsed the school taking whatever action we can to try and encourage parents to behave fairly and with consideration in the parking areas.

We acknowledge there is a shortage of parking spaces around the school. This is an issue over which we have no control. There are some things we can do, however:

- We have ordered a batch of new signs to remind parents of the dangers of misusing the loading zones and of their responsibilities to their fellow parents.
- We have invited the police to recommence patrols around the school grounds in the afternoons, with a particular focus on cars that have been left in the loading zones.
- We will start making announcements over the school PA requesting parents return to unattended cars which have been parked in the zones for too long.

We all understand that this is a big school, life is complicated and rushed and that the physical circumstances about parking here aren’t perfect. But we are a community here at Humpybong and if we all work together and consider the rules that are in place to help us all work together, everyone will be able to get the most out of the wonderful experience that being part of this great school can offer.

(Many thanks to the concerned parent who gave us the framework for this article, and provided the excellent photo)

Our wonderful volunteers

It’s a fact of life that without our wonderful volunteers our school would simply not be able to offer the range of services it does to our students and parent community. This statement applies to any school, of course, but we appreciate it very keenly here at Humpybong nonetheless. I think it is important to remember that, in dealing with our volunteers – for example, in the tuckshop or the uniform shop, that is it good will and devotion that keeps them coming back here day after and that if we are uncivil or we can’t put our issues to them in a constructive way, then we risk diminishing that good will and devotion and it may just be that, one day, we exhaust it. And when that happens, that’s the day the tuckshop has to be closed for a day, or the uniform shop isn’t available or an important fundraising venture fails. And things like that have real consequence to our school.

What I am asking here is to remember that our volunteers are members of the school community, just like you, who are working very hard every day to make sure we can be the very best school we can be. They face the same frustrations and limitations in their work as we all do. We all need to bear in mind that we need to interact with them respectfully and constructively (as we do with all members of our school community) to resolve issues and to get our opinions heard.
If anyone has any issues at around an interaction with a volunteer in the school, there are three things you can do:

- Contact our School P&C president, Mr Orr. He will be more than happy to mediate an outcome.
- If Mr Orr is unavailable, come to the Office and talk to me. I’ll gladly take any issues you may have of the P&C and we can work through them together.

If anyone is considering becoming a volunteer to help make the experience at Humpybong even better, please contact our P&C via the school office.

**Changes to Banking for 2013**

We’re looking at streamlining our receipting and banking procedures here in the front office by making a few small changes:

- Daily banking will be between 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Any monies received by 10:00 am will be banked in that day’s banking – anything received after will be put in the safe and banked the next day. This means that, effectively, cut off time for an excursion is 10:00 am on the cut-off date. In extraordinary cases (for example the first few weeks of the new school year) we’ll leave the banking cut-off open longer to accommodate high volumes.
- We will no longer issue change if correct change is not tendered. Any change will be banked to your student’s ledger as a credit and will applied to either any other outstanding invoices or to the next outstanding invoice. You can also claim a refund if you don’t wish the change to be applied to any other invoice. This practice is quite common amongst schools our size and is a significant risk mitigant, reducing the unsecured flow of cash around the school. We will issue a statement to parents at the end of each term to show the balances of your student’s “account”.
- We will, generally, make receipts available to go back to classrooms on the same day we bank the deposit. On some high volume days or days when we are short staffed, this may not be possible – but I see it as another risk mitigant so we can detect early of anything has gone wrong in the course of making a payment.
- We will be strongly encouraging parents to pay invoices by BPAY. There are enormous advantages to BPAY – chiefly instant receipting, no cash needs to travel to the school and there are no issues around change having to be rebanked as credits. It is quick, convenient and everyone can do it.

We will post another article in the New Year to remind our school community of our school receipting and banking procedures.

**Farewell to Rebecca**

It was a sad farewell last Friday as Rebecca said goodbye to us at Humpybong State School. Rebecca was a valued member of the School Administration and was the first point of contact for phone inquiries and visits to the school office. Rebecca was also a friendly and caring staff member that many children went to for comfort and reassurance after a fall in the playground or a sore stomach. She will be missed by our school community, and we wish her well in her new pathway.

Regards

Sharon Schimminig
Principal
FROM THE DEPUTIES’ DESK

Clontarf Beach SHS Soccer & Rugby Programs

Year 7 students wishing to enter the Football (Soccer) and Rugby (Union and League) programs in Year 8 2013 must trial on Year 7 orientation day, Tuesday 11 December. The trials will be conducted on the Clontarf High oval as the last activity of the day. Students should bring appropriate sports clothes/equipment to complete the sports and should contact the school to ensure their name is on the trial list. Further enquiries about the programs can be forwarded to sfore7@eq.edu.au (Rugby) and abenn138@eq.edu.au (Football).

On Saturday the 17th of November, a team of keen students from Humpybong participated in First Lego League Robotic Competition. The tournament was attended by 42 teams from all around Queensland. Patrick Van Haaften, Maggie Woodward, Kristian Schumann and Natasha Van Haaften from Scarborough State School competed against experienced teams and high school teams.

They were required to program a robot to complete challenges on a mat, complete a research project and demonstrate exemplary teamwork. Team H.A.I.R. conducted themselves well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Year 7

It is the time of year that our Year 7 students will be saying good bye to their Primary years of education in readiness for the next step in life’s journey in High School. Our Year 7 students will have a fun and exciting final week planned for them, including their Graduation ceremony in our Hall at 9:30am on Wednesday 12 December 2012. Their final week also includes a transition day at Clontarf Beach or Redcliffe State High Schools where they will be getting a feel for their future days for secondary education.

Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival is to be held on Monday 10 December at the Redcliffe Pool. The event is open for all students from MAC classes and Year 6 classes.
Students have been asked to nominate for their events and will be competing for a position in the School team that will participate in the District Carnival to be held on Wednesday 20 February 2013. Letters have been sent out to students previously regarding the event, and we request that all money and permission forms be returned to the school as soon as possible.

School Captains 2013

At this stage of the year, student leaders for 2013 are elected. At the half way point of this process, we have our School Captains for 2013 elected and have informed the students of the outcome. The rigorous process involved candidates making a speech, voting, and having an interview with school administration. The elected students are Dylan Husband and Jacinta Murphy (School Captains) and Genevieve Szabo and Maggie Woodward (Vice Captains). We wish these students well with their roles and responsibilities in 2013!

A formal Induction Ceremony will be held in the new school year for all elected positions.

MasterChef

The two chefs from Humpybong attended the Final at Clontarf Beach SHS last week. Jerome and Christine prepared their signature dishes and impressed the judges with their cooking skills. Our four finalists are looking forward to visiting the Golden Ox Restaurant at Margate this week to see the workings of a commercial kitchen and the chefs preparing meals. Thanks to Miss Dobson and Mrs Scalf for coordinating this event for our students who have shown a keen interest in cooking.

Tim Adsett
Deputy Principal

STUDENT BOOK LISTS FOR 2013

We are pleased to announce that Woody Point News has been awarded the contract to supply our book packs for next year. James has sourced great prices for Humpybong parents to buy quality products at reasonable prices. Because he is local, you can pick up your book packs and not have to pay postage. The prices are special prices for Humpybong parents because of our bulk order and you won’t find these prices if you just pick up the product from the shelf. We do ask that you purchase from Woody Point news as the school has looked at the quality of what is being purchased. Cheap yellow pencils from the chain stores don’t sharpen and cheap glue sticks dry out very quickly. It is important to buy the right type of red and blue lines and the right size book and James will be able to supply these without you having to search through many books on a shelf. As it is past the 15 November, you will need to take the order form to Woody Point News and not send to school.

Some of the items on the book list you may not require because they were purchased this year. For example, if the child has a recorder (year 4 to 7), a calculator (year 3 to 7), a USB stick (year 3 to 7), a protractor and compass (year 5 to 7), you do not need to purchase again. This will save you over $21. You will probably need to buy a new set of headphones as they do not tend to last longer than a year. Children need to listen to the instructions when using computer programs and this is difficult if they don’t have their own headphones. Please name the headphones clearly as children are not able to use other children’s headphones for health reasons.
On the book list, you will see a Technology Levy to be paid at the school. We have increased the levy from $40 last year to $50 this year so we can continue to use Reading Eggs and Mathletics throughout the whole school. This year the P&C kindly contributed towards this cost. If you were to purchase these on-line programs at home, they would cost $90 each for a year’s subscription. Many of our classrooms are now using i-pads and technology will increasingly play a part in your child’s education.

If you have any questions about the book lists, please contact James at Woody Point News. His phone number is on the book list.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – ASBESTOS REMOVAL

Oh Saturday, December 1st, contractors will be working in the school to remove some ceiling access covers in rooms which are thought to possibly contain asbestos materials. This work will be subject to a full cleanup and the rooms will be inspected before a decision is made to reopen them.

Even though the risk to the public is minimal, no-one but the contractors is allowed to be on site on that day. Even though public access is not permitted to the school on weekends ordinarily, on this day the contractors will be able to stop people and order them off the site. Legal consequences may apply for non-compliance to the contractors instructions. Please, give the school grounds a wide berth on 1/12/2012.

LOST PROPERTY

Hats and misc. items can be found near the drinking taps outside the library. Jumpers are inside the library in the cane basket near Teacher Reference. You are welcome to come in and search for lost jumpers at any time. Any Lost Property must be claimed by Thursday 29 November. Where possible, named items will be returned to classes. Any left-over viable items then will be cleaned and donated to charity.

OFFICE NEWS - BPAY

Did you know you can BPAY your voluntary contribution for next year? Our recent finance software upgrade allows families to make BPAY payments against their account. Extra money after Christmas? Why not start 2013 in credit. Ask our office staff about BPAY options.

MUSIC MATTERS

Juanita Reid
Music Coordinator

CHAPPY CHATTER – The Season of Joy?

Children are capable of incredible amounts of joy! For that reason, I love having small children around at Christmas – their sense of excitement and wonder really enhances the celebration!

As adults we can lose that “essence of joy”, as we get caught up in the stress of preparations, travel and the general busyness of it all. So, we might have to work a bit harder if we want to recapture the pleasure that comes so easily to children.

Last Christmas we organised lucky dips (of silly masks and rubber duckies), water pistol fights and a Christmas quiz with a prize for the winner. This introduced a renewed spirit of levity to our celebrations. Why not try something like this yourself? Perhaps a treasure hunt, silly novelty gifts, or a game of “Guess Whose Gift”? 😊
So, however you choose to celebrate, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and “Love and joy come to you, And to you your wassail, too, And God bless you, and send you A Happy New Year, And God send you a Happy New Year.” Couldn’t have said it better myself!

Nicola
Chaplain

“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.” Luke 2:10

P&C NEWS

Thank You to all our Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers this year, we could not have had such a successful year without you. So THANK YOU all very much.

Uniform Shop News – Opening Hours

The uniform shop will be open on the following days:

- Wednesday 28 November – 9:00am to 10:30am
- Friday 30 November – 9:00am to 10:30am
- Wednesday 5 December – 9:00am to 10:30am
- Wednesday 12 December – 9:00am to 10:30am

Price Increase – School Dresses

At present the school dresses (size 4 and 6 only) are sold at $40. Due to a price increase by the supplier of our dresses, the price of the dresses will increase to $45 in 2013.

Queensland Schools Shared Car Raffle

This raffle has now finished; the winner will be announced by Musgrave Hill State School on Friday 30 November 2012. The student at Humpybong who sold the most tickets was Melanie Nock from Prep Purple; Melanie received $80 Coles/Myer/K-Mart Gift Voucher. All students who sold tickets went into the draw; the winner was Samuel Husband from 3 Lime who received a $50 Coles/Myer/K-Mart Gift Voucher.

Friday – Sausage Sizzle

Just a reminder that we are still running our sausage sizzle under the Year 1 buildings, every Friday. Only $1.50 for a sausage in bread. We are also selling drinks, $1.00 for water, $1.50 for Fizzy Drinks. Please note the Fizzy Drinks are the drinks approved to sell in our tuckshop. We will also be selling Coca Cola, Sprite, Fanta and Coke Zero for $1.50 these drinks will be for ADULTS ONLY! They will NOT be sold to children. Our last day for the sausage sizzle will be Friday 30 November, we will not be holding any during December.

Christmas Raffle

The raffle is going well. If anyone would like extra tickets to sell, they are available from the School Office. The tickets are $0.50c. If you have received tickets and do not wish to sell them, please return them to the office immediately so we can pass them onto someone else.

First prize for the raffle is a Huffy Rival Bike (silver) 21 gear, full suspension – a truly awesome bike, which will be on display at our Sausage sizzle this week. Our other prizes are $50 Nothling Bros Meat Voucher, $50 Caltex Petrol Voucher, Various Gift baskets. Tickets and money must be returned to the office by FRIDAY 7 December 2012. The raffle will be drawn on the Wednesday 12 December.
**Christmas Stall – Friendship Bracelet Fundraiser**

Our annual Christmas Stall will be held on Monday 3 December to Wednesday 5 December 2012. The stall will be open from 9am to 2pm (Monday and Tuesday ONLY). Wednesday 9am to 11am. Items selling from $1.00 to $5.00.

We will be selling Friendship Bracelets as a fundraiser at the stall, selling for $2.00 and $3.00. The students will be permitted to wear their Friendship Bracelets on the last week of school.

If you can help out at the Christmas Stall, please email Kelly@kohlerzone.com. Even if you can only spare an hour or 2 that would be very much appreciated.

**Pauls Collect-a-caps – Program ending for 2012!**

Keep those caps coming in, this program will be ending shortly, so please drop your caps into the special box in the school office.

On behalf of the P&C we would like to thank all the staff, parents/caregivers and students for their fantastic efforts with our fundraising this year, it has been an amazing year and we look forward to an even better 2013.

Have a safe and happy holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Colin Orr
P&C President

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**REMINDERS:** Tuckshop closed Mondays. There is no hot food at SNACK time. As we come to the end of the year, our stock becomes low. Please check with us the availability of items.

The Last day of tuckshop will be Wednesday 12th December. Stock is running low, so please check with us before dropping off orders.
I would like to thank all my lovely volunteers who have given their time to tuckshop. Special thanks must go to Margaret; tuckshop wouldn’t be same without you. I hope to see you all again next year as well as some new faces.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Sherri Hallam
Tuckshop Convenor

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Messy Church**

Come and join us at Messy Church. Crafts, games, songs, sausage sizzle, stories. Fun for all the family. Come along and have some fun. Bring your friends, everyone welcome.

**WHEN:** Saturday 8 December, 5.00 – 7.00pm
**WHERE:** St Peter the Fisherman Anglican Church, 13 Lucinda Street Clontarf
**CONTACT:** For more information phone 07 3284 9283

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**Meal Deals**

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Tuckshop Bags 20cents extra
Nutrimetics with Jo

Run out of time to Christmas shop without the kids?

*Shop from your seat, not with your feet!*

**Nutrimetics – nutritional cosmetics, skin care and more**

Stocking fillers, Teacher’s gifts, Secret Santa,
gifts for her AND him of all ages, from just $8.

Text for a brochure 0412 421 701 or
email: nutrimeticsjo@optusnet.com.au


Gift packs also available (great for teacher’s gifts and Secret Santas).

Please text or email for a flyer.

**Hassle free parking, and a glass of bubbly on arrival at our Christmas Clearance Open House in Margate Friday 30th November 6.30-8pm and Sunday 2nd December 2-4pm. Call for the address.**

Glass of bubbly on arrival and give aways.

*Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas,  
with a safe and sunburn free holiday season.*