NEWSLETTER NO.20
June 24, 2014

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

Term Three

Yesterday I accepted an offer to take on an acting position for semester two as Principal at Samford State School. I will be replaced by Anita Bond who is currently a Principal at Northlake’s College. I am confident that under Anita’s leadership our school will continue to grow from strength to strength. Please join me in welcoming Anita into our wonderful school community.

Report Cards

It is my favourite time of the year. On Thursday you will receive by email your student’s 2014 Semester 1 Report Card. I know you will enjoy celebrating your child’s learning, congratulating them on their applied effort and reading the comments from the teachers.

This event is also a wonderful opportunity to talk with your child about their own progress and highlighting to them their individual learning success. We all start at different points at the beginning of the year, and while it is important to have information about how students perform in relation to year-level expectations, it is also paramount to note the distance travelled by each student.

The importance of progress and improving learning is a new way of thinking for some students. But, if our desire is for students to acknowledge and accept their academic responsibility and to consistently work hard with honest effort, we must begin talking to them about just that.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE
25th Winter Music Soiree
26th Senior Band Students Band Tour
27th Last day of Term 2

JULY
14th First day of Term 3
21–25th Year 6/7 trip to Canberra
31st School photos

AUGUST
1st School photos
5th Junior Athletics Carnival
20–22nd Year 5 Camp
Equally important as the students’ achievement level is the effort which the student completes their work. Students are rated from A-E on their effort in each subject area. I am very proud of the effort that is displayed by all of our students in Semester One. I ask that parents spend time talking to their child about this achievement rating to assist them to take some ownership of their learning.

As you may remember I encourage parents not to give rewards, gifts or punishments when the report cards come home. We know that this method can be very counterproductive and also send the wrong message to our students. Lifelong learners are able to be self-motivated and not dependant on extrinsic motivation to work to the best of their ability.

The report cards are written with parents as the intended audience, which is why they will emailed to parents this semester. Your child will be curious and will be looking for reassurance and affirmations which is done best by open conversations.

Our report cards are a great way for formally acknowledging the wonderful efforts that our students demonstrate on a daily basis. Congratulations to all students on the wonderful progress that they have made over the last six months.

Extra Holiday! G20 public holiday for Brisbane schools.

Parents and families are reminded that Friday 14 November 2014 has been declared a public holiday to ease the impact on the city and help minimise any potential disruptions, and our school will be closed on this day.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

Thanks Lions Club

The Lions Club of Brisbane Bunya have kindly donated a sound amplification system to our school which will assist all students in the class in which it is installed, especially our hearing impaired students. This is a very generous offer as one of these sound systems sells for just under $2000. Attached to the newsletter this week is some additional information about our local Lions Club.

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

Congratulations to 2M for winning the Gold Star award AGAIN with 92% of students actively travelling for the previous week’s Fun, Fit, Friday 🎉

Has our school won the AST Golden Boot Award for the month of June - ‘Most improved school – from the previous month’? Keep your eyes open for the reveal in upcoming school newsletter items!! As our school is SUPER keen to get our hands on the AST Golden Boot Award again, there’s no time like RIGHT NOW to get organised and be prepared for next month’s Golden Boot criteria – ‘School with the highest cycling percentage’. GET ON YOUR BIKE AND RIDE TO SCHOOL EVERY FUN, FIT, FRIDAY for the month of July!!!

Don’t forget to always secure your helmet firmly to your head and walk your bikes and scooters while on school grounds 😊

The AST shop (room 22) will be open (at first break after eating time) this Friday for students to claim their AST prizes.

SCHOOL PHOTOS 31 July and 1 August

Class photos will be taken on Thursday, 31 July and group photos on Friday, 1 August.

YEAR 5 CAMP

Don’t forget the following timeline for Camp Payments. You can send your completed Camp forms to me as soon as you have filled them out. I have to do a Camp Medical Register so the sooner I have the relevant information, the easier it is for me.

N.B.: If FULL payment is not made by Friday, 18th July, your child will be unable to attend the camp. There is an option to pay for camp by a part payment system. If you choose to use the part payment system, the payment amounts and dates due are as follows:

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<th>Payment</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Final</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>18th</td>
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STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Pyjama Day! June 27th

On the last day of this term (June 27th) the student council will hold a fund raiser for The Pyjama Foundation. The Pyjama Foundation utilises volunteer ‘pyjama angels’ to read with children in need. The goal of the foundation is to improve the literacy levels of all children. At EPSS we are holding a Pyjama Day! That means all the students are invited to wear their pyjamas to school and donate a gold coin to the foundation. This is a very worthwhile cause and we encourage everyone to participate.

Sports Badges

District and regional sports badges will be awarded to the following students on parade on Friday:

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<thead>
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<th>9 yrs boys:</th>
<th>9 yrs girls:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethan D</td>
<td>Charlee E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duncan M</td>
<td>Grace M</td>
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<td>Noah T</td>
<td>Jordan M</td>
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<td>Brayden M</td>
<td>Emileigh B</td>
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<td>Edward F</td>
<td>Taylor B</td>
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<td>Jordan M</td>
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Senior Sports Carnival

Thank you to all the staff and parents who helped to make the senior sports carnival a successful event. Congratulations to all the students who participated on the day and congratulations to the age champions.

9 yrs: Ethan D
10 yrs: Duncan M
11 yrs: Noah T
12 yrs: Brayden M
13 yrs: Edward F

Tracey Irwin
LOST

Year 6 Seniors Jacket - size 14 – unfortunately not named. It found please return to Administration.

COMMUNITY NEWS

YOGA
Thanks everyone for a great term!!
Yoga classes will resume for term 3 on Tuesday 22 July.
Classes are held in the EPSS Library at 7pm every Tuesday night during the school terms. Contact Ursula Lovelock 0409 708 192 or breathe-yoga@hotmail.com

We Rescue Our Children Too Quickly

This generation of young people has not developed some of the life skills kids did thirty years ago because adults swoop in and take care of problems for them. We remove the need for them to navigate hardships. May I illustrate?

Staff from four universities recently told me they encountered students who had never filled out a form or an application in their life. Desiring to care for their kids, and not disadvantage them, parents or teachers had always done it for them. A university lecturer said a mother of one of his students called him, saying she’d seen that the weather would be cold that day and wondered if he would make sure her son was wearing his sweater as he went to class. She wasn’t joking.

This may sound harsh, but rescuing and over-indulging our children is one of the most common ways to damage them. It’s “parenting for the short-term” and it sorely misses the point of parental leadership—to equip our children to do it independently and successfully. Just like muscles atrophy inside of a plaster cast due to disuse, their social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual muscles can shrink because they’re not exercised. For example, I remember when and where I started to learn the art of conflict resolution. I was eight or nine years old, and everyday about fifteen of us boys would gather after school to play football. We would choose sides and ref our games (no video ref required). Through that consistent exercise, I started to learn to resolve conflict. I had to. I wanted to be part of the game and I wanted it to work and be fun. Today, if the kids are outside, there are sometimes four mothers present doing the conflict resolution for them. The fact is, as students experience adults doing so much for them, they like it at first. Who wouldn’t? They learn to play parents against each other, as they grow older, they learn to negotiate with faculty for more time, lenient rules, extra credit and easier grades. This actually confirms that these kids are not stupid. They learn to play the game – and very well I must add. Sooner or later, they know “someone will rescue me.” If I fail or “act out,” an adult will smooth things over and remove any problems and sometimes consequences. Once again, this isn’t even remotely close to how the world works. It actually disables our kids. Confronting – yes it is. Who can do something about – you can!

David O’Connor
Deputy Principal