12th February, 2015.

Principal's Column

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to the third week of our new term. We have had a very calm and settled start to the year. Overall our students were enthusiastic and happy to be back at school. Thank you to parents and teachers for supporting the children during these first few weeks to settle into their learning routines.

Day 8 has been and gone with little change to our classes or enrolments. Day 8 is the census date for Education Queensland schools where enrolments will determine gaining a teacher or losing a teacher, which will influence a host of services provided to our school. With our decrease in enrolments with the departure of Year 7s to High School, there have been some minor adjustments in our support services area.

Parents and Citizens Association

The first meeting of our P and C Association for this year will be held on Thursday 19 February, starting at 7:00 pm in the school staffroom. This will be the Annual General Meeting and will be followed by the General Meeting for February. This is a great opportunity for new parents to participate and see how the P and C operates and conducts its business. At this stage the P and C will be looking for a new Secretary. If you can spare a little bit of time, please come in and join.

Great Results Guarantee

Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes. We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy. Read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

If you would like to support our students and learn more or if you would like to take part in the discussion please get in touch. This topic will be discussed at our next P and C meeting on the 19 February. As many parents as possible are encouraged to attend.

Parent Information Afternoons
Thank you to parents who came to our Parent Information evenings this week. These sessions were designed to give you information about what is happening in classrooms as far as teaching and learning and expected routines for our students. If you missed the information, just contact your child’s teacher for some notes or clarification of what your child will be learning at school this term. Another opportunity will be available at the Parent Interviews which will take place at the end of the term, Wednesday 25 March.

**Student Supplies**

Cars Reading Comprehension books are now available for purchase from the school office for all students in Year 1 – 6. It is important that every student in the school purchase this book as it is a key part of our Literacy Program. The cost is $5.50 and as these are one use only, they are unsuitable to be passed down from student to student.

Likewise THRASS charts are available for purchase for any student who has not purchased one previously in Years 1 – 3. The cost is $7.00 each. Students who have taken these home, please return these for use here at school. This is especially so for students Year 4 to 6. Prep students will have a chart purchased for them as part of their levy requirements.

**New legislation banning smoking near school grounds**

The use of cigarettes, other tobacco products or electronic cigarettes are now banned on and within five metres of school land. This applies before, during and after school hours, and on school holidays and weekends. The ban doesn’t extend over neighbouring residences or businesses. School resources are available.

**School Leaders**

The selection and appointment of our school leaders to the various leadership roles available in our school is now completed. Students will be inducted into their various roles at a special parade to be next week Thursday, 19 February 2015. Here is a list of all students to be inducted into the BRSS student Leadership Team for 2015. Congratulations to all students and their parents.

School Captains:  Lily Grayson & Tommy Airey  
Vice-Captains:  Kate Phillips & Joshua Glass  
Music Captains:  Alita McKenzie, Tara Ormston & Travis Wale  

Student Council:  
President:  Matthew Edwards  
Vice-President:  Chloe-Leigh Young  
Secretary:  Cerys Hotchkiss  
Treasurer:  Keith Beran  
Members:  Kanei Clark, Jake Mutimer, Abigail Spemann & Austin Warnock
Deputy Principal's Column

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

This year we are heading into the 3rd year of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS).

This framework will continue to underpin many of the things within our school, as it is about creating positive learning environments by developing proactive whole-school systems to define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviours.

It is very pleasing to comment that since the beginning of this term there has been a noticeable improvement of the school climate and behaviour across all facets within the school, noticeably in our consistency of expectations, language used and responses to behaviour.

This term, similar to last year, each week classes are focussing on a number of key teaching points for each of school rules within the context of the classroom as well as outside the classroom. Teachers have been teaching, discussing and brainstorming with their students the expectations of the rules, with a key focus on one particular aspect of the rule.

It is very pleasing to say that this focus along with the ‘Gotcha Stars’ (which are presented to students in order to reward them for demonstrating the expected behaviour), continue to have a positive influence on behaviour and the overall school climate of the school. Next term the school will focus on teaching social skills.

Inter-School Sport

On Friday the 20th of February Inter-school and Rec sports will begin. Important consideration in students being members of these teams is based on their behaviour, attitude and commitment to training.

Upon making a team children will be asked to sign a contract outlining their key commitments, the contract will also outline their ineligibility to be a part of these teams, due to not satisfying all of the criteria.
All children who do not participate in Inter-school sports will have opportunity to take in Rec sports.

Due to the Summer Sport program beginning early this year we will have really tight timelines around getting the appropriate paperwork and payment back before the sports begin. We do really need all paperwork back and payment made before children are able to participate in their chosen sport.

**High Expectations at Bracken Ridge State School**

At our school we are really trying to develop high expectations and consistency across all facets of the school. One particular area of focus is the school uniform. It is particularly noticeable that when there is a high standard of the uniform being worn it has a positive impact on the tone of the school. With this in mind I would like to thank and congratulate all parents for their support in getting children to school in their full uniform. I’ve stated many times this year already, how proud I am of the standard of uniform being worn.

Below is an extract from our ‘High Expectations’ document in regards to uniform. By sharing this we hope to dispel any myths as well as make expectations really clear and develop consistency across the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform inclusive of school shirt, black shorts, skirt or skort,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>white socks and predominantly black or white shoes/runners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(laces/velcro/buckles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In winter no hooded tops, black jumper or jacket only and black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trackpants for both boys and girls, no leggings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uniforms, hats, shoes and socks, hair tied back.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No jewellery except sleepers, studs, wrist watch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hats and shoes for outside play (no sandals or thongs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Well groomed, long fringes clipped back, no drawing on body,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>neat uniforms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No ornamental things on arms, legs etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No makeup, nail polish and hair colour, hair chalk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Travel to & From School**

Thank you to all parents and carers for the extra special care taken to adhere to speed limits and parking signage around our school. We have had at times some parents driving in to the Staff Carpark to drop off the children of a morning or pick up children in the afternoon, or doing U-turns around high pedestrian traffic areas.

Due to the obvious heightened safety risks involved in doing this I would ask that all parents refrain from doing this and I do encourage everyone to continue to be vigilant when picking up and dropping off their children.

Could I also ask all parents and carers to take care when dropping their children off outside of the school, double parking or parking in no parking zones certainly increases the risk of an accident. We certainly want to ensure...
that our children stay as safe as possible.

**Before School Procedure**

As fits with our ‘High Expectations’ at Bracken Ridge, it continues to be very important that the children who arrive at school from 8:00am onwards need to sit under the Senior Play Shed area. As from 8:15am everyday, the school has staff members on duty to help ensure the safety of all students at school at this time as well as to help minimise any behaviour incidents.

It is also very important that children are not arriving at school before 8:00am and if they are, they are attending Before School Care due to safety concerns.

Children are able to wait in the Year 1 Area (Under A Block) as well as the Year 2/3 Area (Under B Block), as long as they are in the direct supervision of a parent. Children in these areas should also be seated.

Children should not be going to the tuckshop before school unless they are with a parent, or should be waiting until the first bell at 8:40am to go.

The school certainly does appreciate all parental support with the above requests. As the overall intention is to ensure the safety of all children as well as a smooth transition into the classroom so that children and teachers are able to focus on Learning.

**Parent Information Evenings**

Thank you to all parents who have turned up to their child’s Parent Information sessions. These sessions have generally been very well attended and certainly help with the dissemination information and ensuring a common understanding about classroom operation, learning and decision making.

**QUT Optometry Vision Screenings 2015**

On the 18th of March our school has the opportunity to host a number of QUT Optometry and Vision Science students (accompanied by a supervisor) to conduct some vision testing.

The main purpose of vision screenings is to identify children who have or are at risk of developing ‘lazy eye’ (amblyopia), which can lead to permanent visual impairment unless treated in early childhood. Early intervention and correction as a result of detecting this condition, betters the chance for a child to obtain maximal vision and reduces the potential long-term effects on their learning ability.

Other conditions that can be detected within the screening including ‘turned eye’ (strabismus), ‘eye coordination problems’ (binocular vision), long and short-sightedness, astigmatism and eye health abnormalities such as cataracts or glaucoma.

Consent forms will need to be signed by the parents or guardians of all students attending the vision screenings. Unfortunately without this signed consent form, a vision screening will be unable to be conducted.
Students will be also be provided with a letter for their parents which indicates if they passed the vision screening, require further testing or a full eye examination. These letters will be posted back to the school to be distributed to parents.

If a child does not meet expectations within the screening it is strongly advised that they have a consultation with an optometrist for a full comprehensive eye examination.

Parents can bring the children into the QUT Health Clinics at Kelvin Grove for a comprehensive vision screening at no cost or alternatively they can take the letter to their local optometrist for further testing.

Due to a limited number of places for this opportunity it is important that if you would like your child/ren to be screened, please respond to myself via email: blaws19@eq.edu.au Or alternatively, please contact me via the Office. Parents who are interested will then be given a consent form to complete and return.

Due to the popularity of this opportunity, I’m currently trying to organise another date. Any additional students will be put on a waiting list, until we get confirmation that another date for a visit has been organised. All students referred so far have been put on the list to be screened.

Thank you and I look forward to sharing more in the next edition of the newsletter.

Ben Laws

**Chappy Welcome...**

Welcome to the start of the 2015 school year! I trust you and your family had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are settling well into the new school year!

I will be at school every Wednesday and Thursday and my office is located on the second level of A Block.

Chappies Brekkies have now started! Every Thursday, Chappies Brekky will be held outside the activities room at D Block from 7.45 a.m. All students are welcome to come and grab some free juice and toast.

Krave lunch time program will also be starting on Wednesday, 18th February. Krave is a lunch time program held every Wednesday at first break for Years 3 – 6 in the hall. Students will be able to enjoy fun, interactive games, music and dance at Krave.

If you have any enquiries about the Chaplaincy service please don’t hesitate to see me or phone the school.

I hope you have a great start to the term!

Blessings, Chappy Rachael.

**What is a SU School Chaplain?**
Working alongside other caring professionals, SU Qld Chaplains care for young people through pastoral care, activity programs, events, camps, community outreach and adventure-based learning. Most importantly, SU Qld Chaplains provide a personal point of contact, care and support for students, teachers and their families within their schools.

Chaplains provide a listening ear, caring presence and message of hope as students seek to deal with a wide range of issues such as family problems, friendship issues, peer pressure, self-esteem issues and self-control.

The chaplaincy service operates lunchtime activities, special events such as Chappy breakfasts, attends school camps and activities, one-to-one appointments with students and personal development programmes and support for students including Girls with Big Dreams Program and Walking In Others Shoes Program.

Please note that you do not need to have a faith to be involved in a religious group to see the Chaplain. Faith conversations will only occur if it is initiated by the students themselves or if permission is gained from parents/guardians first.

**Supporting School Chaplaincy**

($500 donations to School Chaplaincy)

For those looking to sell their home soon.

If you engage Steadfast Realty Qld to sell your home, by taking up this offer $500.00 from the commission earned will be donated to School Chaplaincy. Steadfast Realty Qld will guarantee great service, a competitive commission rate and more, while supporting your School Chaplain.

Contact Phil Henley to find out more

0439 990 320

"The School Chaplaincy Program is a great resource for our kids, by using my services you will be supporting them at no extra cost to yourself."

Phil H
Please donate to this worthy cause. The direct link is as follows:-


NAB AFL Auskick is running at your school now!

Where: Sandgate Hawks JAFC (Lemke Road Taigum)

When: First session is on Saturday 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2015

Time: 8:00 – 9:00am

Length of program: 8 Weeks*

Cost: $70

Register & Pay online by Sunday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February, to receive 4 complimentary tickets*

(2 adults & 2 children) for a selected match to see the mighty Brisbane Lions in action at The Gabba. *Selected matches only, subject to availability.

For more information visit aflauskick.com.au

or call 3865 8700. *Weather permitting

For information regarding Brisbane North Physie, please see attached.  

Physie.doc

For information regarding Zumba Brisbane North, please see attached.  

Zumba.doc
PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AS THIS ENDANGERS THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

BRACKEN RIDGE STATE SCHOOL Facebook Page is now available. Please 'like' our page and share with other parents at our school. We will endeavour to use this page to keep you informed with upcoming school events as they happen.

If you would like the school newsletter emailed directly to you, please email Carol Fisher on cfish63@eq.edu.au, or phone the school office on 3869 7888. Our newsletter is also available via our School Website. If you are unable to access the internet, a paper copy can be collected from the office on request.

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