8 SEPTEMBER, 2016

**PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN**

**P&C NEWS**

**OFFICE TALK**

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN**

**WILL-I-BEE**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

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Published by Bracken Ridge State School

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**Exciting News – Lyn Sharratt Visiting Bracken Ridge State School!!**

We were recently selected by Metropolitan Region to host world renowned, educational expert Dr Lyn Sharratt next Thursday, September 15. This is an incredible learning opportunity for the Leadership Team and our staff. Dr Sharratt, along with several other Principals and Assistant Regional Directors, will visit several classrooms to engage in Learning Walks with students. As I have written about before, Learning Walks are opportunities to hear student voices about what was taught and what they have learnt. During a Learning Walk, five students are selected to answer the following questions:

- What are you learning?
- How are you doing?
- How do you know?
- What do you need to do to improve?
- Where do you go for help?

Following the Learning Walks, we will have an opportunity to discuss what students have said, and talk about how we as a Leadership Team can use this strategy to strengthen instruction and improve student learning and outcomes. These types of opportunities to engage with an expert of this calibre and standing are rare, and we are looking forward to the opportunity!

The end of the Term is around the corner, yet we still have a few exciting events to come: **Book Week Parade** is on Tuesday, September 13, with the Book Fair being held September 12-13. We encourage all our students to dress as a character from a book to celebrate the joy of reading.

Our quarterly **Twilight Concert** is being held at 4.30 pm Wednesday September 14, in the hall. Our students have been busily preparing their musical and dance numbers. We look forward to all our families joining us. A HUGE thanks to Mrs Annette Grant, Mr Malcolm James, Mrs Alison Gillies, Miss Christina Kennedy and Class Teachers for their hard work in preparing students for their performances.

After the Twilight Concert, we are hosting a free **Movie Night** with food vans for any community member to attend. The movie, "Oddball" will be showing from 6.15 pm, so bring along a blanket or a chair, and join us for a fun night out!

Over the last couple of weeks, we have also hosted a number of events:

- **Coffee, Cake and Chat** – Our next session will be held after the holidays, so stay tuned!
- **Transition to Prep Information Evening** – We are looking forward to inviting our Preppies back for 6 orientation mornings and a “Meet the Teacher” morning next term.

Our second **Fathering Project** event which was a Physical Training Session along the Sandgate foreshore was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Mr Ben Laws and Mr Gareth Roberts for hosting and coordinating the event. The next event will be held next term, so stay on the lookout for details!
Parent Teacher Interviews were held for most classes on Wednesday, September 7. A HUGE thanks to the teachers who worked hard to prepare for interviews and to our parents who made the time to come along.

Our students were also involved in the following:

Year 5 Students went on a very successful camp, thanks to the support, hard work and sleep deprived nights had by our teachers – Mr Jason Morish, Mrs Rachel Gaskin, Mr Nic White, Mrs Kellie Mills and Ms Lyn Frith. (See Below)

2 teams attended the Regional Maths Tournament thanks to Mr Nic White who trained and managed the teams. We are proud of them for having a go, and trying their best.

All Year 4, 5, 6 Students have attended their second round of Inter-school Sport with great sportsmanship and a growth mindset. We are very proud of their achievements and wholeheartedly thank our staff, teaching and non-teaching for their incredible support to train, coordinate and organise our teams to compete.

Facebook:

Are you keeping up with our Facebook page? We are updating the page several times a day with announcements, reminders, photographs and celebrations. Make sure you “like” us today so you don’t miss out!! Thank you to parents who also “share” our posts. This is a great way to inform our community about the great work we do. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Disability Review Underway:

Parents, carers and students are invited to participate in the independent review into the educational provision for students with disability in Queensland State Schools. The review is aimed at ensuring world-class inclusive education is available to all students. Have your say through the online survey (http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/disability/qld-disability-review.html) before 30 September.

Community Information

Focus on Improving Quad Bike Safety Awareness

The increasing popularity of quad bikes for recreational and work use has sparked a key initiative by the Queensland Government. The Ride Ready Campaign has been developed to raise awareness of the risks associated with quad bikes and improve rider safety. Queensland has consistently recorded the highest number of quad bike related hospitalisations compared to other states. By providing resources and tools to improve quad bike safety, Ride Ready aims to reduce the growing rate of serious injuries and fatalities, particularly for children under the age of 16. Further information about quad bike safety is also available on the Creating Healthier Workplaces website (http://education.qld.gov.au/health/safety/hazards/vehicle-safety.html).

Free Advice and Support for Queensland Parents

Not every parent may need support, but it is ok to ask for help. Since the Triple P Parenting program started last year, more than 20,000 Queensland families have received free parenting advice and a helping hand. The Triple P Parenting program provides tips on managing kids’ behaviour, balancing work and family and the best ways of raising happy, confident children. Research shows that children raised in a calm, consistent and positive home environment are more likely to succeed at school, have better jobs, experience more positive relationships and enjoy better mental and physical health. Parents who do Triple P are also more likely to have lower levels of depression, anxiety and stress, so there are plenty of good reasons for parents to learn more about the benefits of positively parenting their children. The range of support includes an online program, topic-specific seminars, parent discussion groups and one-on-one consultations as well as more intensive, small group-based and individual programs. For more information about the Triple P program or to find a session near you, visit the Triple P website (http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/). Immediate Triple P help is available by phoning Parentline on 1300 30 1300 (from 8 am to 10 pm) for the cost of a local call.

Year 5 Camp

Are you keeping up with our Facebook page? We are updating the page several times a day with announcements, reminders, photographs and celebrations. Make sure you “like” us today so you don’t miss out!! Thank you to parents who also “share” our posts. This is a great way to inform our community about the great work we do. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN
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Holiday Message

As we come to the end of Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and community members for their support.

On behalf of all staff and students I would like to say thank you and I hope that everybody has a very safe and enjoyable break. We look forward to building on the momentum of Term 3 and finishing the year on a positive note.

2017

Preparations for 2017 are well and truly underway. As advertised previously it is important for us to have an indication of the number of students that will be attending Bracken Ridge State School in 2017. This is particularly important as our staffing is dependent upon this number. If your child/children will be moving to another school, could you please let us know either via the office or through your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Prep enrolments for 2017 are also currently being taken. It is a requirement that we sight either the original or legal copy of the child’s birth certificate so that the enrolment can be completed. It is also really important from a school planning perspective that we get all Prep enrolments finalised as early as possible next term so that we can begin accurately planning for 2017.

High School enrolments also need to be undertaken. If your child is graduating this year, it is essential that you contact the High School that you wish your child to attend to arrange an enrolment meeting with the Principal/Deputy Principal. Our local High Schools are requesting that parents undertake this request now so that they can begin to plan and organise Year 7 classes and resources for 2017.

Watch over our school during the 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 or the Police.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. This year vandalism has cost our school dearly. It has made our school a less inviting place for our students and staff and has set a bad example for the children.

If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police deal with it. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer Bracken Ridge State School community!

Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all parents and carers who turned up yesterday for our whole school parent interview night. Again, there was overwhelmingly positive support for this event with the number of families who turned up as well as from the comments received after interviews.

Year 5 Camp

Special congratulations must go to all of the Year 5 students who attended camp Somerset. From all reports, all students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had nothing but positives to say about their experiences. As a result, student behaviour during the camp was excellent. All students certainly conducted themselves in an exemplary way and contributed to the very positive reputation that Bracken Ridge State School has at the camp site.

Special thanks to all teachers who attended and contributed to the overall success of the camp.

Friday Assembly

Tomorrow will be a great opportunity for all parents to attend our assembly as we will be presenting our students who have achieved Gold behaviour Level with their certificates. This is a great acknowledgement of their exemplary behaviour.

Grasshopper Soccer

Below is a message from Stuart who has been running some free lunchtime sessions for our students this Term.

"After some very successful lunchtime coaching session, we are delighted to announce that as of Term 4, Grasshopper Soccer will be running a program at the School. The Children have thoroughly enjoyed the program and showed excellent skills, team work and behaviour at all times. We will be delivering varied sessions from week to week, where the children will learn all the fundamentals of Soccer. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to be part of Australia’s number one non-competitive Soccer program and also one of the fastest growing sports in the country. If this sounds like something your child would be interested in, please don’t hesitate as spaces will be limited to a first come first served basis. I’m really looking forward to starting Term 4 at Bracken Ridge State School and getting the chance to help develop all the children’s Soccer abilities."

If you would like more information or enrolment forms, these have been attached to our Newsletter.

Grasshopper Soccer After School Program

Grasshopper Soccer After School Letter

I look forward once again to catching-up with everyone in the next newsletter after the holidays.

Ben Laws

P&C NEWS

Uniform Shop News

We are open Monday & Wednesday from 8.30 am - 9.00 am.

You can now purchase uniforms through the Tuckshop (Tuesday – Friday) from 8.30 am – 12.00 pm (not during lunch break please when children need to be served)

Old microfibre shorts & skorts are available for $10.00 each while stocks last.

Tuckshop News

Volunteers are needed if anyone is interested. Please ask Libby about it at the Tuckshop. Thank you.

I would like to thank the lovely helpers Heather, Sharon, Tracey & Bronwyn for always coming in to serve at the McDonald’s Days. It is a big job and it takes and enormous amount of organisation to get 300 kids served within a 10 minute period. A BIG THANKS also must go to Rod & his staff member for helping serve with us.

P&C News
Next P&C meeting will be held on the 14th September at 7.00 pm in the staff room.

Father’s Day Stall – I hope all the recipients of the gifts enjoyed what was given to them and that you had a wonderful day. We raised a little over $800.00 which was a fantastic effort. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Family photos will be held on the Sunday 11th September with a cost of $20.00 per family. Please remember to book at the school office.

Thanking you in advance for all the support with fundraising this year. It will be going towards installing shades over all of the playgrounds.

If you have any questions or comments on any P&C information please feel free to contact Bronwyn at bpsfundraiser@optusnet.com.au or 0402 459 164.

WILL I BEE
Published by Bracken Ridge State School

WILL I BEE FOCUS TERM 3 : STRONG, BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS

As you know, this Term we are all striving to bee STRONG, BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS. One way to do this, is to solve problems the High 5 Way especially in the playground when we are out on our own. In the Hive, we use this as well, but we call it the Hive 5 Way. It's really quite simple... Talk Friendly, Talk Firmly, Ignore, Walk Away or Report to a Teacher. In the Hive we follow this and it often prevents any conflict from occurring. I will be buzzing around watching you all use the High 5 in the playground. Have a great time until I see you next.

Will.I.Bee Will.I.Bee@gmail.com

OFFICE TALK
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PREP ENROLMENTS 2017

We are currently taking enrolments for PREP in 2017. If your child is born between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, they are eligible for PREP next year. Please call into the school office for an Enrolment Pack or alternatively, contact Carol Fisher on 3869 7888 or email cfish63@eq.edu.au to organise for this to be sent to you.

SCHOOL TOURS

School Tours are available on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. or at a suitable time if this is not suitable. Please contact Carol Fisher on 3869 7888 or email cfish63@eq.edu.au to organise this.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Thank you to all parents who contributed to the Voluntary Contribution Scheme in Term 1. Your financial contribution helps the School enormously. The Voluntary Contribution Scheme is not a school fee but a voluntary financial contribution to the school. This is used for many consumable items that students use "behind the scenes" throughout the school year which is not a part of their class Book List. These include photocopying costs, white paper, coloured paper, cardboard, art and craft supplies, etc. The costs for this is $40.00 per student per year or $10.00 per Term. Your financial assistance is greatly appreciated and will be put to very good use.

STUDENT ABSENCES

It would be greatly appreciated if parents could please phone the School Office on 3869 7888 or email cfish63@eq.edu.au for any student absences. If we have not heard from you regarding your child’s absence, we are now sending SMS Texts to all unexplained absences. Thank you for your help and understanding in this matter.

SCHOOL DENTAL VISITS

Parents please note that it is now a requirement that there be attendance by Parents/Carers at all dental appointments for children and adolescents aged 14 years or under at Metro North Oral Health Services facilities in the future. Children will no longer be called over from class for dental treatment without an adult present.

If you have any queries regarding this service, or would like to discuss this, please telephone oral health services (ph: 3646 7838) or email MNOHS_Directorate@health.qld.gov.au
NO PARKING

Parents please be aware that there is no parking in the school grounds at any time as this endangers the safety of our students. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter. Please note that there is a **TWO MINUTE DROP OFF ZONE** at the front of the Year 1 Playground in Binburna Street. This is for drop off and pick up only.

FACEBOOK PAGE

**BRACKEN RIDGE STATE SCHOOL** Facebook Page is an excellent site to visit for our School. 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.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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 - https://bracridgss.eq.edu.au. If you are unable to access the internet, a paper copy can be collected from the office on request.

COMMUNITY NEWS

*Published by Bracken Ridge State School*

**Take the Fun Challenge for the September Holidays**

Jabiru Kids is calling all kids to take the fun challenge for the September holidays. We’ll zoom around on go-karts and get our skates on for a trip to Skateway.

We’ll have Pokemon challenges, a Messy Day and lots of team challenges. Plus Slip & Slide fun, Bollywood experiences and a Mexican fiesta.

Jabiru Kids Bracken Ridge operates from 6.30am to 6pm over the holidays. We even serve breakfast!

The full program is available from Jabiru Bracken Ridge or online at www.jabiru.org.au

Jabiru vacation care is cheaper than you think, especially for people entitled to Child Care Benefit: call Jabiru’s admin team for a quote on 3269 0044.