
Principal's Column

We are now over halfway through the term, and time has flown by. Currently teachers are working through units of work, and are discussing with students the success criteria required to meet the task. This allows students to understand what they need to do and sets high expectations for their work. I’m a big believer that students will achieve if the criteria for success is clear, and students are provided the right support, at the right time.

School Improvement: Putting the FACES on the data

Currently, our Leadership Team is working with educational expert, Dr Lyn Sharratt as part of a group of Metropolitan Region schools focusing on school improvement. Sharratt’s work focuses on 14 Parameters for school improvement - the key drivers that are important in schools to develop “deep and sustainable collective capacity building”. At Bracken Ridge State School, we are focusing on Parameters 1, 3 and 14:

**Parameter 1**: Shared beliefs and understandings.

a. Each student can achieve high standards given the right time and the right support.

b. Each teacher can teach to high standards given the right assistance.

c. High expectations and early and ongoing intervention are essential.

d. Teachers and administrators need to be able to articulate what they do and why they teach the way they do

**Parameter 3**: Daily, sustained focus on literacy instruction

**Parameter 14**: Shared responsibility and accountability

To support an intensive focus on sustained, daily literacy instruction, we have:

- redirected teacher aide time to classes to support students directly,
- ensured that literacy blocks are uninterrupted,
- scheduled non-contact time so that teachers from same year level are off at the same time to plan collaboratively,
- provided 45 - 60 minutes per week for each teacher for coaching,
increased the Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy allocation to ensure continuity of intervention programs.

Part of this work is “Putting FACES on the data”, where we look at every child’s achievement (data) and work together as a school to ensure that each child is improving. We do this through collaborative data inquiry, coaching, curriculum planning, intervention and Special Education programs, classroom visits and Learning Walks.

**Learning about the Brain and Mindfulness:**

Our staff have also completed the second Professional Learning session with Leigh Inglis, focussing on teaching students the neuroscience of the brain, mindfulness (as a way of helping students to focus in the moment) and being in your comfort/learning/danger zones. Our teachers are now using these concepts with students to help them to calm down and to be present when learning. Hopefully your children are talking to you about “the upstairs/downstairs brains”, “the limbic system”, “the PFC”, “flipping your lid” or “toggle tables”, to explain how their brain works when they are under stress or are heightened after an event.

To learn more about the brain and mindfulness, try “Mind the bump”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNCB1MZDgQA

We are also expanding our offerings at lunch times to help students to remain positively engaged. While students can access our new playgrounds, they are also able to choose the following activities:

- Supported play
- Street Art
- Coding Club
- Hip Hop dance

We intend to expand these offerings in Term 2 with other planned activities.

**Communication - when there’s a problem:**

In an environment that involves over 350 children and 40 staff members, there are bound to be times when things don’t go well or problems emerge. We know and understand this, and are committed to working through any issues or concerns. If we don’t know, we can’t address the problems or find solutions. If you are not sure who to contact if there is a problem, the following will help you:

- Class Teacher is the best port of call as they are likely to have some contextual information about an incident or speak to you fully about your child’s learning and achievement
- Ms Louise Celledoni, is our Head of Curriculum. Should you have any concerns or questions about the Curriculum, Louise is the best person to answer your questions.
- Mrs Kellie Mills, Head of Special Education Services, is the right person to access if you have a child that is verified and is part of the Special Education Program, and you have concerns about your child’s program.
- Mr Ben Laws or myself are the best people to talk to if there is a large issue or concern relating to the operation of the school, safety issues, issues relating to a staff member or if an issue cannot be resolved with another staff member.

Often Mr Ben Laws and I have meetings or class visits scheduled and may not be able to talk to you straight away when you arrive at the office. If this is the case, Mrs Carol Fisher and Mrs Elwynne Buckley will schedule a time in our diaries that suits you to meet with us to discuss your concerns.

**Welcome to our new staff:**
 Mrs Kerry Viney, who will be replacing Ms Tabatha Eske while she is on leave. Thank you to Ms Jade Sercombe, who has agreed to work an additional day to support continuity within the class

 Mrs Nikki Davidson, who is supporting the teaching of literacy in our Year 2 and Year 4 classes

 Mrs Jill Tomkins, who will be teaching Year 4A on Fridays, replacing Mrs Esther Douglas, who will be working an additional day in our SEP.

 Mrs Catherine Tarraran, our new Literacy Coach who will be working with our Prep to Year 3 teachers

Leaders’ Induction Ceremony:

Congratulations to our student leaders who are being inducted on Friday at 9.00 a.m. in the school hall. We welcome all our parents to the Ceremony, and ask them to join us afterwards for morning tea.

The following students will be inducted on Friday:

School Captains           Millie Ambrose-Pearce and Zayde Middleton
Vice Captains             Caitlin Moody and Connor Healey-Twartz
Student Council
President                  Meg Porter
Vice President            Bisrat Alemu
Secretary                 Emily Gerhardt
Treasurer                 Bryn Law-Smith
Music Captains            Samiia Van Reemst and Frank Porter
Fraser
Captains                  Tahlia Bold and Ryan Bennett
Vice-Captains             Ella Sandy and Tyler Moody
Moreton
Captains                  Caitlin McKenna and Bailey Stringer
Vice Captains             Sienna Nunn and Jaymee Hiddins
Stradbroke
Captains                  Avia Buechler and Jarrod Meehan
Vice Captains             Ocean McCausland and Lachlan Gallagher

Congratulations and Well Done to these students.

Best wishes,

Melissa Burke.
Deputy Principal’s Column

**Youth Excel**

Following on from 2015, Bracken Ridge State School will be offering students and their families free psychological services delivered on the school premises through Youth Excel. This service is being coordinated at school through the Guidance Officer, Vicky Alley.

Youth Excel offer free individual or small group sessions with Psychologists and Mental Health Social Workers delivered on the school premises in school hours.

Youth Excel’s onsite practitioners deliver most services free as long as your young person is able to obtain a Mental Health Care Plan from your GP, Paediatrician or Psychiatrist.

Youth Excel has a passionate team of fully qualified workers who specialise in children and adolescents. Their practitioners will tailor-make a Treatment Plan for each student with clear outcomes. They place a high priority on working collaboratively with parents, carers, significant others, as well as student support teams and teachers to ensure the best possible outcomes.

If you would like to know more about the service and how to access the service please make a time to meet with Vicky Alley, the Guidance Officer, or myself through the school office.

**Does Youth Excel work for our school?**

No, Youth Excel is fully independent of the school system. Youth Excel is bound by the State Privacy Laws as a minimum standard in relation to collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information. You determine whether you would like us to work in partnership with your young person’s school, though we do encourage this in order to maximise the outcome for young people. To find out more you can visit their website at [youthexcel.com.au](http://youthexcel.com.au)

**Lunch Time Activities**

As touched on in the first newsletter for the year, this year we have built on the number of lunchtime activities that we are offering. The intention is offering students an alternative to playing in the playground and giving students an opportunity to engage in structured activities that develop a range of different skills. The feedback from the lunchtime clubs has been very positive so far and we are planning on building on the range of activities offered.

Below is a table outlining the activities offered each break.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Break</td>
<td>Coding – Mr White</td>
<td>Supported Play – Mrs Gaskin</td>
<td>Coding – Mr White</td>
<td>Coding – Mr White</td>
<td>Supported Play – Mrs Gaskin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supported Play – Mrs Gaskin</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hip Hop – Mrs Gillies and Mrs Kennedy</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Krave (to begin Term 2)</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Karate (to begin Term 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Break</td>
<td>Street Art – Mrs Gillies</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Some of the activities are closed group activities, such as supported play, although the other activities are open to students across the grade levels. I would certainly encourage parents to have discussions with their child/ren around visiting these clubs, as not only is the feedback from students attending very positive, with students increasingly engaged in meaningful lunchtime activities, it also has a very positive impact on the atmosphere during our breaks.

**Neuroscience of the Brain**

This year we have started teaching our students about the neuroscience of the brain. This involves using our hand as a model to demonstrate what happens when we flip our lids, as well as the importance of using our PFC (Pre-frontal Cortex) in clear thinking and keeping ourselves up the stairs.

Teachers have also begun discussions with their students and set-up spaces in their rooms for students to toggle or refocus, with the idea being students have a space within the classroom and opportunity to decompress, or calm down before flipping their lids. This has been used quite successfully in some rooms and is a researched based strategy that we are going to continue to develop.

Below are some diagrams, containing the language and models we are using with students. I would certainly encourage all families to start a dialogue with the children around this topic. Students have certainly developed a good knowledge and awareness of these concepts already.
QUT Optometry Vision Screenings 2015

A reminder - on the 11th of April 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. There are still a number of spots available. If you would like your child/ren to be screened, please respond to myself via email: blaws19@eq.edu.au. Alternatively, please contact me via the Office. Parents who are interested will then be given a consent form to complete and return.

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

Ben Laws

Sports News

DISTRICT SPORT TRIALS

The following nominations have been called by the Bramble Bay District Sports Association in the sports of Netball, Soccer and Rugby League. Students who believe that they have the required skill and experience levels and wish to be considered for nomination, please see Mr. Moore before the close of nomination. Nominations for District Sports must be done via the school. Payment for District levies, uniforms etc. are completed by parents directly by using School Shop Online. Directions will be given to parents directly by using School Shop Online. Directions will be given to parents, along with the other required forms, upon child being nominated by the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>NETBALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF TRIAL</td>
<td>3 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nominations by 24 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COST</td>
<td>$12.00 payment at School Shop Online ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Details Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENUE</td>
<td>Bald Hills State School (Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORT</td>
<td>Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| STARTING & FINISHING TIMES | U11 trials from 9.00am – 12.00pm  
(registration from 8.30am)  
U12 trials from 12.30pm – 3.00pm  
(registration from 12.00pm) |
| ELIGIBILITY | U12 Girls – 2004  
U11 Girls – 2005 or later  
MUST BE playing A Grade Club Netball. |
| FORMS | The following forms must be completed and handed in at the trial.  
Form 1 – Permission to Attend  
Form 2 – Student Medical Details  
Form 3 – Student Personal Details  
Form 14 – Parental Consent Form  
Form 14.1 – Code of Conduct  
PLEASE NOTE:  
NO FORMS - NO PAYMENT - NO TRIAL |
<p>| EQUIPMENT | Drink Bottle, Food and suitable footwear. |
| SPORT | Rugby League U11 and U12 |
| DATE OF TRIAL | 9 March 2016 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Nomination Details</strong></th>
<th><strong>Details</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nominations by 25 February</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
<td>$12.00 – Details below, online only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Payments close 3 March 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VENUE</strong></td>
<td>Sandgate High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSPORT</strong></td>
<td>Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STARTING TIME</strong></td>
<td>9.00am both age groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINISHING TIME</strong></td>
<td>2.30pm both age groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELIGIBILITY</strong></td>
<td>U12 – 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U11 - 2005 or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FORMS</strong></td>
<td>The following forms must be completed and handed in at the trial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form 1 – Permission to Attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form 2 – Student Medical Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form 3 – Student Personal Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form 14 – Parental Consent Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form 14.1 – Code of Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLEASE NOTE</strong></td>
<td>NO FORMS - NO PAYMENT - NO TRIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUIPMENT</strong></td>
<td>Suitable Clothing, foot wear and mouth guard, lunch and drinks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT COACH</strong></td>
<td>U12 - Brendan Forbes- Earnshaw SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U11 – Dave Formby – Norris Road SS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Players should have a clear understanding of the Mod rugby league laws, a high level of rugby league skills combined with a high level of fitness (speed, strength & cardiovascular endurance)

- Ideally, if boys (and girls) are playing club rugby league, they should be playing at the highest level e.g. Prems or Div. 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>FOOTBALL (SOCCER)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF TRIAL</td>
<td>10 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nominations by 25 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COST</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Details below, online only (Payment close 3-03-2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENUE</td>
<td>Aspley State High School (Oval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORT</td>
<td>Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STARTING TIME</td>
<td>Girls – 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys – 10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINISHING TIME</td>
<td>Girls – 10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys – 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIGIBILITY</td>
<td>Girls and Boys Born 2004 or later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| FORMS                      |
The following forms must be completed and handed in at the trial.

Form 1 – Permission to Attend
Form 2 – Student Medical Details
Form 3 – Student Personal Details
Form 14 – Parental Consent Form
Form 14.1 – Code of Conduct

PLEASE NOTE: NO FORM - NO PAYMENT - NO TRIAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EQUIPMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playing shirt, playing shorts, shin pads, long socks, suitable footwear, lunch, hat, water bottle. Goalkeepers bring their own keeping equipment (gloves, shirt)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys: Nathan Knox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls: Mone Coats-Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School: Aspley State High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT MANAGER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Colin O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School: Aspley State High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Phone: 3863 9222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Players should have a high level of skills combined with a good standard of fitness. There will be boys and girls in your schools who may not play club games, but have a natural ability to excel in most sports

- Boys, particularly, who are playing club football, should be playing at the highest level, NPL or Football Brisbane ‘Super Youth League’ in their age group.
- Girls – there are many girls who have a natural ability who do not play club football.

PLEASE CONSIDER nominating girls who have good all round sporting credentials and do not necessarily play football as the club sport. In general girls who do not have the technical skills make up for it with their enthusiasm and athletic ability.
Huge congratulations to our School Swimming Team who attended the Bramble Bay District Swimming Trials on Friday 12 February. Not only were they well behaved and fantastic representatives of our school, they also demonstrated great courage, resilience and persistence in the pool as they pitted their talents against the best swimmers in the District.

I must say a big thank-you to all swimmers for representing our school so well. Also thank you to Mrs West and Ms Firth and the wonderful band of parents who accompanied the children and assisted them throughout the day.

It is very pleasing to inform our school community that Caitlin McK 50m Freestyle, Bryn L-S 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly and Declan J 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly have been chosen to represent the Bramble Bay District at the Metropolitan North Regional Championship on Wednesday 24 February in their respective events. It is also worth mentioning Matthew C. who came second in the 9 yrs 50m Breaststroke and will be looking for selection next year when he is old enough to represent the District. We wish all of our students the best of luck for this next exciting challenge.

P&C NEWS

Uniform Shop News

- We are now open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. at present.
- Skorts (plain black) are available in all sizes and are on sale for $10.00 each until sold out.
- Microfibre shorts (plain) are also available in all sizes and are on sale for $10.00 each until sold out.
- Old style dresses are being sold out for $28.00 each. All sizes available.

Tuckshop News

If anyone is interested in volunteering in our School Tuckshop, could you please put your name down with Libby at the Tuckshop. Thank you. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

- McDonalds Day will be held on the Wednesday 16th March, 2016. This is organised to help support the tuckshop.
**P&C News**

- **Fun Run** will be held on the Thursday 10th of March. All students will participate so please get behind this Semester’s major fundraiser. The proceeds will go towards the playgrounds and equipment in all year levels this year.

- **Free Dress Day** will be held on the Wednesday 16th March. This will be a **CRAZY HAIR OR CRAZY SOCK** Day for a gold coin donation.

- **Election BBQ** will be held on Saturday the 19th March. We will be having a BBQ and cake stall at the election. If anyone is available to help on the day or can do some cooking for our cake stall, this would be greatly appreciated.

- **Grass Roots:** If you are looking to book a holiday, please go to this website and check out what they have available. For anyone who books a holiday with our code, the P&C gets a percentage back. [www.quickbeds.com/?grassrootscode=1692](http://www.quickbeds.com/?grassrootscode=1692)

If you have any questions or comments on any P&C information, please feel free to contact me Bronwyn at brssfundraiser@optusnet.com.au or 0402459164.

**CHAPPY NEWS**

The Krave lunchtime program will be starting back in Term 2. Krave is for all students in Years 3-6 consisting of high energy, interactive music, dance, games and sports. It will be happening at first break in the school hall on a Wednesday.

Chappy Rachael will be away on the Year 6 school camp next week.

Thank-you again to Phil Henley from Steadfast Realty who is a regular supporter of SU Qld School Chaplaincy.

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**WILL I BEE FOCUS : LINING UP**

Dear Parents, Friends and Children at Bracken Ridge State School,

Hello again to all my friends at Bracken Ridge State School. An important thing we all need to do at school and in the hive is to line up in an orderly manner. This means we need to bee nice and quiet as we move to other areas of the school. We should move in two lines and follow the directions of our teachers whilst staying a safe distance from the person in front of us. If we remember to follow these rules, we will bee doing our best and our best it what we want to bee.
Did you know that we do School Banking with the Commonwealth Bank?

It is a great way for your child to learn the concept of saving money, and the school will also receive fundraising benefits when deposits are made through the program.

After registering with Commonwealth Bank for School Banking your child can earn great rewards for saving money. Your child can hand their bank book into their teacher or at the office every Monday or Tuesday with as little as 50 cents for saving. After they have made 10 School Banking deposits they will be entitled to choose from many great rewards on offer by Commonwealth Bank. (Please see above)

Also School Banking is running a wild Grand Prize competition. Commonwealth Bank are giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin. Plus many extras including 4 nights’ accommodation, 5 days’ car hire and $1000.00 spending money. HOW TO ENTER: Simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 and you’ll automatically receive an entry into the competition for a chance to win.

Find our more at www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL STUDENT BANKING CO-ORDINATOR KIRSTEN FOR ALL HER HARD WORK ORGANISING THIS AND LOOKING AFTER OUR STUDENT BANKING.
Community News

Parents please note 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. Also please note that there is a two minute drop off zone at the front of the Year 1 playground in Binburra Street. This is for drop off and pick up only.

Parents please phone the school office on 3869 7888 or email Carol Fisher cfish63@eq.edu.au for any student absences. If we
HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE, WE ARE NOW REQUIRED TO CONTACT YOU REGARDING THIS SO THAT ANY UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES CAN BE MANAGED. YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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.

1 Binburra Street
BRACKEN RIDGE, QLD 4017
07 3869 7888
07 3869 7800

the.principal@bracridgss.eq.edu.au
http://www.bracridgss.eq.edu.au

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