Dear Parents and Friends

This is the final Ridge Talk for the year as we wind down to the end of the term and to the well-earned break for Christmas. May I take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and community, for your support of our school right throughout the year. From the work in classrooms, the tuckshop, the working bees, excursions, sports, camps, swimming, the P & C or supporting the discipline and welfare policy of the school, we appreciated all these efforts that contribute to make our school the best it can be. There is a fine group of parents that we farewell particularly from the school with the graduation of their children. We thank you for your many years of involvement in our school and wish you and your children the very best for the future.

We thank our students for their year of learning, and contributions to our school. We farewell our Year 6 and 7 students as they leave for high school and wish them well in the years ahead and the next stage of their education. This particularly so for our pioneering Year 6 students going to Year 7 at High School for the first time in 2015.

To the staff of BRSS, for the jobs that you do whether in a supporting role or in the classroom, we thank you greatly for your work and dedication to our students. We look forward to another great year in 2015 with its many challenges.

Staffing our School

After the decrease in student numbers in recent years, and losing two year levels to High School, the current student population is steady and we are hopeful of continuing 2015 with 15 class groupings. We have a number of new teachers to the school for 2015 as well as a small number who have transferred, taken leave or have completed their teaching contracts. Our class groupings consists of the following:

- Prep 1 ~ Mrs Donna Hobbs
- Prep 2 ~ Ms Jane Elizabeth Harris
- Year 1A ~ Mrs Maree Kuhneman
- Year 1B ~ Miss Courtney Jeffries
- Year 2A ~ Miss Julie-Anne McMackin
- Year 2B ~ Mrs Allison Gillies/Ms Tabatha Eske
- Year 3A ~ Mrs Katie Lawler/Mrs Shona McEvoy
- Year 3B ~ Miss Jade Secbombe
- Year 3/4C ~ Mrs Deb Biers
- Year 4A ~ Mr Nicholas White
- Year 4B ~ Mrs Kate West/Mrs Esther Douglas
- Year 5A ~ Mr Jason Morish
- Year 5B ~ Mrs Rachael Gaskin
- Year 6A ~ Mrs Cheryl Naracott
- Year 6B ~ Miss Sara Reynolds
- SEP ~ Mrs Wendy Bryde, Mrs Diana Skillen, Mrs Esther Douglas 0.3
- STLan ~ Mrs Sam Hawton 0.7
- LOTE ~ Ms Tara Cleave
- Guidance Officer ~ Mrs Julie Bagley 0.3
- HPE ~ Mr Wayne Moore
- Music ~ Mrs Annette Grant 0.6

Other staff in specialist or support positions will be notified during the new year. I thought it best that you our parents know who we have to staff our classrooms for 2015.

We farewell and thank Miss Peta Street and Miss Emily Gill and teachers who have completed their contracts for another year, Mrs Jill Tomkins who is taking indefinite leave, Mr Colin O’Connor transferring to Aspley State High School and Mr Trevor Cox who is transferring to Wavell SHS.

We especially thank and farewell Mr Cox who have been at BRSS for over 20 years and Mrs Jill Tomkins for 34 years. Best wishes to both teachers from all the students and present staff of BRSS.

Retirement and Farewell Margaret Thompson

We would like to farewell one of our long serving teacher aides Margaret Thompson. Margaret has worked for Education Qld for 19 years specifically and the final 14 years at BRSS. Margaret’s very successful career has been in supporting teachers, students and school communities. We wish Margaret and her family long and happy retirement. Thank you from all the students, staff and parents of BRSS.
End of Year Events Roundup

RSS Day of Excellence – Congratulations to all students who were successful and received awards at this event. Thankyou parents for your support of this inaugural event that will now be part of our annual calendar. Thank you to the P and C who sponsored the Encouragement Awards.

UTS – Thank you to all parents, teachers and students for a very successful Christmas Under the Stars for another year. We were fortunate with the weather. Congratulations to all involved for getting into the spirit of the season.

Swimming Carnivals – Apologies for the cancellation of the Senior Carnival due to the weather. We are looking forward to this event being rescheduled for next Monday, 8 December. The Junior Carnival was held earlier during the day. Thankyou Mr Moore for his organisation and coaching of the students.

Graduations Year 6 and 7 students – Year 6 Graduation will be held Wednesday, 10 December starting 10:00 am. Year 7 Graduation will be held Tuesday, 7 December also starting 10:00 am. Parents are required to transport the students to the iSEE Community Church, Beams Road, Taigum. Best wishes to both groups for a very successful graduation.

Volunteers Morning Tea – thank you to all parents and volunteers to our school this year. Our year would not have been successful without your support. Please continue to support our school. The richness of our children’s learning would not have been possible without this volunteer support.

Student Reports

Student Reports will be available on Wednesday, 10 December. Please take some time to discuss this report with your child. Pay particular attention to the mark awarded for effort and compare that to the achievement mark. Discuss what your child could do to improve on that performance and what goals they will need to set for the next year. Check the number of days absent at the bottom of the report. There is a strong correlation between performance and attendance. If students have done well in a particular key learning areas, reinforce and praise this. Above all do not just file this report away without discussing it with your child and setting goals for the next year.

Booklists and 2015 Requirements

Booklists for 2015 have been distributed to all students. Our recommended supplier is Nextra Aspley Village News at the Coles Shopping Centre, Robinson Road. Parents are free to buy from other suppliers if you so desire. We have tried where possible to keep requirements to a minimum on the understanding that parents will replenish student expendable supplies as needed during the year. Many students will be able to reuse certain materials like dictionaries and scissors from the previous year. THRASS Charts and CARS Books are necessary and it is extremely important that these are purchased by every student depending on the recommended Year Level. These will be available from the school office for purchase at the start of next year.

BSM Support Update

The drive to employ a Business Services Manager to our school is ongoing. We are in the shortlisting phase with interviews expected to be held next week. We should have the right candidate for the job to start in 2015.

School Closure and Beginning 2015

Our school will close for the summer vacation from the 12 December 2014, to be reopened for all students on Tuesday 27 January 2015. The school office will be closed for the same period and will reopen a week early on 19 January. Teachers will return for Pupil Free Days on Wed 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January, 2015.

Parents are reminded that the school is out of bounds during this closure period but please keep a lookout for any unauthorised visitors to the school. Please ring School Watch number, 131788 if there are signs of disturbance or unusual happenings on our school grounds during the break.

Wishing everyone a super fantastic Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all back in 2015 for even more of the fun we have had this year. Hope Santa finds his way to every household this year.

Best wishes

Mai

• Important Dates – Last Week
  Dec 08 – Senior Swimming Carnival
  Dec 09 – Year 7 Graduation
  Dec 10 – Year 6 Graduation
  Dec 10 – Student Reports Distributed
  Dec 11 – Class Swaps 2015, Class Lists released
  Dec 12 – Last day of Term

Deputy Principal's Column

2015 Meet and Greet

On Thursday 11 December all students will be informed of their 2015 class, teacher and classroom. They will be given an opportunity to visit their new room and meet their 2015 classmates and teacher before embarking on the end of year celebrations with their 2014 class. We are providing this opportunity to our students so that they can go to the summer vacation with their minds at ease rather than feeling too anxious over what could happen next year.

Year 6 & 7 Graduation

Year 7 & 6 Graduations are next Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. Congratulations to all the Year 6 & 7 students as they have completed one chapter of their school life and now embark on the next phase of their learning journey. Good luck at High School!

Volunteers Morning Tea
On Wednesday we held our Volunteers Morning tea to acknowledge the wonderful work that the many volunteers do around our school as well as to say thank you. The many volunteers who support our school have given their time to assist us by covering books, helping children read, “spotting” for class swimming, school fundraising events, P&C, teaching and tuckshop commitments to name just a few. These supporters build strong relationships and help develop a sense of community with students so they grow as community minded citizens for the future. Thank you again to all our volunteers.

Thankyou and best wishes for the festive season

With just over a week until we break for the Christmas holidays I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the staff, parents and students of Bracken Ridge State School.

I think it is important to acknowledge the many wonderful staff we have across the school who work extremely hard to build the school climate and make Bracken Ridge State School a great school.

The Teacher Aides who provide the coal face support for our students and teachers doing jobs well beyond the call of duty.

The Admin staff (Mrs Fisher, Mrs Buckley & Mrs Hyde) who provide the shop window and all the answers to parents on arrival and in the day to day running of the school, as well as make my job and Mr Lupo’s a whole lot easier.

The groundsmen (Mr Trotter) who has worked tirelessly to improve the way the grounds look.

Our cleaners who also work tirelessly to keep our school clean and who contribute to providing an inviting learning environment.

The teachers though, through it all, provide the programmes and the graft into which our children are submerged. They are the glue really that holds it all together. Our teachers work extremely hard for your children. They are teachers, mentors, first aiders, coaches, computer whizzes, counselors, peace negotiators, advocates and friends. Their job is huge, it is ever changing, and it is dynamic. They work long hours to put the programmes in place.

I would like to thank the team we have here at Bracken Ridge State School for all the work they have provided for your children this year, as well as pass on best wishes to all staff members who are moving on next year.

Special thanks must go to the school’s hardworking P&C group (who may be small in number, although make up for it with the large amount of support they provide to the school).

This support certainly adds value to what the school is trying to achieve and is an integral of the students’ and school’s success.

To all of the students, parents and families please have a very happy, safe and relaxing Christmas Break and I look forward to seeing you all again for the beginning of the 2015 school year.

Ben Laws

BRACKEN RIDGE SWIMMING CLUB INC.

* Learn To Swim and Squads will operate our normal program through the Christmas School Holiday period. We will be closed only 21 December 2014 - 4 January 2015.

*Intensive Learn To Swim for weeks 1, 4, 5 & 6 are open now and taking bookings. $65 per swimmer per week for 5 weekday morning lessons.

*Skills based Learn To Swim & Squad programs with "Quality tuition with care and attention” Philosophy. *All new clients receive a free fee assessment, for entry to the correct level of the swim program. * Competition, Triathlete, Surf and Adult Fitness also catered for.

admin@brswim.org.au or phone 38690005 (please leave a message)

Sensory Santa

Sensory Santa is for families with special needs, bookings only, so no lines or queues, no back ground music, before Shopping Centre's trading hours and understanding Photographer and Santa... book now or you may miss out as only limited places.

Morayfield Shopping Centre 9am-11am Sunday 14th December to book contact Chanelle 0422416309

Thank you so much for you continuing support

Chanelle Avison

Sensory Movie Day & Inclusive events.

Jabiru Kids Holiday Program at Bracken Ridge State School!

Jabiru Kids has developed a fabulous Holiday Program for the upcoming December/January holidays! The votes have been counted, our Jabiru Kids have spoken – we’re going to Dreamworld! With additional excursions to see Penguins of Madagascar at the movies, pro-scooter and skateboard instruction with special guests ‘Real Things That Move’ (helmets are a must!), and amazing themed days featuring disco dancing, perfect pets, slip ’n slide water play and of course some Aussie Aussie Aussie fun, you’ll definitely want to secure your spot so you don’t miss out!

Jabiru Kids Bracken Ridge is open from 6.30am to 6pm over the holidays. We even serve fabulous breakfast and late afternoon snack.

Try a day for free: if you haven’t tried Jabiru before, join us for a free day of holiday fun. Just mention this article when you book.
The full program is available from Jabiru Bracken Ridge or online at http://www.jabiru.org.au/kids.

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

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

New Student Support Service in 2015.

In 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, Julie Bagley.

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. Under some circumstances, parents and schools request special reports or assessments, usually for school funding applications. These services are not covered by Medicare and are charged to either the parent or school by prior negotiation.

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 Julie Bagley, the Guidance Officer, through the school.

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

CHRISTMAS IN SANDGATE

Saturday 6 December 4.00 p.m. Start
Children's Lantern Workshop from 4.00 p.m. prior to a twilight parade before the film, proudly supported by Kerry Millard MP.
Lantern Parade and Christmas Tree lighting at 6.45 p.m. proudly supported by Kerry Millard MP.
Victoria Newton awarding prizes for best-dressed.
Jumping castle, proudly sponsored by Wayne Swan MP.
Free Family Film "Frozen" screens after 7.00 p.m.
PG-rated computer animation.
Ein bunpin Lagoon Parklands, Brighton Road Sandgate
Further information: https://www.facebook.com/ChristmasinSandgate

BRACKEN RIDGE LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

PHONE 36676060

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day storytime - Friday 19 December 10am-11am. Come along enjoy the book before you see the movie. Ideal for ages 3 years and over.

Chess* – Friday 19 December 2pm-3pm, Wednesday 24 December 10am-11am and Thursday 8 January 2pm-3pm. Come along and learn how to play chess or bring your fantastic chess skills to join in a game of skill and tactics to dazzle your friends. Suitable for most ages.

Creating an edible planter for children* – Saturday 20 December 10.30-11.30am. Children will get to learn all about how to create their very own pot of edible plants. We will look at strawberries, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers, how to pot up, decorate your pot, how to water, fertilise and care for your plants and what are the benefits of growing your own. Ideal for children 5-12 years. Presented by horticulturist, Claire Bickle.

Make your own loom bands* – Tuesday 23 December 10am-12noon and Friday 23 January 2pm-3pm. Create your own jewellery masterpiece using colourful loom bands. Ideal for ages 6 years and older.

Story to stage* – Friday 2 January 10am-11am. Create your very own mini puppet theatre to share your favourite book or story on a stage! Ideal for ages 6 years and over.
Dave Hackett “Cartoon Dave” Illustration Workshop*Wednesday 14 January 10.30am-11.30am. Learn to draw cartoon vomit, bums and snot with “Cartoon Dave.” Dave has appeared on Toasted TV and is now celebrating the release of his new book, making him one of Australia’s most popular cartoonists.

The Lego Movie (G)* – Friday 16 January 11am-12.40pm. This original computer animated story follows Emmet, an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO minifigure. He is drafted into a fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil tyrant, a journey for which Emmet is hopelessly unprepared. Everything is awesome. Ideal for all ages (2014)

Author Workshop – Samantha Wheeler* – Tuesday 20 January 1.30pm-3pm. You have to write a narrative. The page is blank. Where do you start? How do you finish? Let author Samantha Wheeler help you plan your story so that it starts with a boom, races across the page towards the finish, and comes to a rounded, satisfying end. Become the champion of storytelling in one short workshop that is sure to leave your narrative shining. Ideal for ages 7-9 years.

Pencil Tins and Poetry: A creative craft and writing workshop* – Wednesday 21 January 1030am-11.30am. Let your inner artist run free and decorate your own rainbow pencil tin organiser, then make a super funky rainbow pencil so you are ready to head back to school after the holidays! You will also create your own unique acrostic poem bookmark so you will never lose your place in your favourite book! There is nothing better than your own creativity on display at school for all your friends to see. Ideal for 6 years and over.

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 from the commission earned will be donated to our 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

Wavell State High School - Orientation Day for students in Years 7 and 8 in 2015.

Monday 8 December 2014
Assembly Hall
Telopia Avenue, Wavell Heights.
8.30 a.m. for 8.45 a.m. start
5.00 p.m. finish
(Morning Tea provided for parents at 10.00 a.m.)
Students to bring/wear:
Primary School Uniform
Notepad & pens
Morning Tea and Lunch
Combined Shop Hours - Monday 8 December
Stationery & Clothing 1.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.
(Pre-purchase your requirements prior to Orientation Day.
Shop opens Monday - Thursday 8.15 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.)
Applications still welcome.
Enrolment Enquiries: Contact : Sandra Lock
Enrolment Officer on 3350 0328

ENROLMENTS FOR 2015 - Year 7 and Year 8

Bracken Ridge State High School would like to complete enrolments for next year as soon as possible so that class allocations can be finalised. If you know of anyone who is expecting to attend our school next year and has not yet enrolled, please urge them to do so now.

Enrolment interviews can be scheduled through the main office - BRSHS 36697222

Sandgate District State High School would like to invite families who are yet to enrol their child in 2015, to please collect an enrolment pack, which is available from your Primary School office. Upon completion of all relevant paperwork please contact the office on 3869 9888 to arrange an interview time, as places are filling fast.

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 direct to you, please email Elwynne Buckley on ebuckley@eq.edu.au. Our newsletter will only be available via our Website and email. If you are unable to access the internet, only a small number of paper copies will be available at the office.
