26th February, 2015.

Principal's Column

Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you to a great number of parents who turned up for our student induction morning last week. It was probably the biggest audience we have had for quite a while. Student Leaders will now be engaged in carrying out their leadership roles in the school. Your support of them and us will be greatly appreciated. Thank you to Mrs Jeanette Gentle, Principal of Sandgate District SHS for her generous words in speaking about our students.

Parents please remember to purchase a school reading comprehension text. These books were part of the Booklist for 2015 for every student, Year 1 – 6 at BRSS. As the books were not available at local booksellers, we have ordered these books straight from the publisher to be sold from our school office. The cost to each student is $5.50 per book.

Please purchase these from the school office as soon as possible as we are already behind in our teaching program due to the unavailability of these books. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. All students are required to purchase this book unless you have heard from your child’s teacher.

Parents and Citizens Association
At the last meeting of the P and C, the following parents were elected or re-elected to be the new executive of our Association.

President: Bronwyn Brown
Vice President: Vacant at present
Minute Secretary: Kerry Fenech
General Secretary: Ian Nelson
Treasurer: Tracey Bellinger

I would like to sincerely thank these parents for nominating themselves to be part of the committee as these are volunteer positions that take up a lot of personal time and effort to fulfil on behalf of our students. I would also like
to thank the outgoing Secretary of our Association, Katherine McDonogh who has carried out the duties of the Secretary diligently for the last 2 years. We are still on the lookout for a Vice President. Please contact me if you can help.

Smith Family School Support

The following programs will continue to operate at BRSS this year.

1. Scholarships and Family Programs. There are no vacancies in this program but interested parents may complete an application form for when a place becomes available. Call us if you would like to know more about the program.

2. Student To Student (S2S). This program is offered to students who needs extra help with their reading. Children selected for this program will be teamed with a trained phone buddy using a landline to practise their reading. The requirement is you must have a landline for this program. Please contact our school for details of the program and an application form. The Smith family will bear all costs including supplying the readers to students and buddies.

3. Homework Club or Learning Club. Students attend the homework club once a week with their homework in our school Library. The Smith Family will run the program, train the tutors as well as supporting students with their homework. The club is running very successfully at present in our school. They have vacancies for 5 more students. Ring our school office for an application form and the details of the club.

School Communication

From time to time, students have disagreements with each other in the playground or even before and after school when teachers are not around to supervise them. Unfortunately some of these disagreements spill out of the school causing enormous distress to parents who naturally are concerned about their child’s safety. Disagreements are natural where a lot of people are working and learning together. It is how these disagreements are solved or are settled to the satisfaction of all parties. I would hope that parents can trust us to solve these disagreements in the school as part of our duty of care to students according to the strategies contained in our Responsible Behaviour Plan for students. Please let us know as soon as possible should your child be feeling unsafe or uncomfortable about any event that may have happened at school. I caution and urge parents not to approach children other than your own, or other parents to try and solve the situation. Trust that we, the teachers can investigate and settle the issues or take steps to ensure the safety of all children entrusted in our care. Making an appointment to see the Principal or the Deputy Principal is the best place to start.

School Fees

Our school levy or Parent Levy is a volunteer levy that is used mainly to support the learning of all students in our school. We will not be sending out invoices for this levy although receipts as normal will be issued. I would like to encourage parents to please pay this levy as soon as possible as we have tried to significantly reduce the cost of student requirements for the beginning of the year. This money is distributed throughout the school from Prep to Year 6. We do understand hardships are encountered by many families in our community.
**Principal's Conference**

The Department of Education, Training and Employment will host the third biennial Principal's Conference on Thursday 26 February and Friday 27 February 2015 for all State School Principals and selected Senior Departmental Officers of which I will attending.

The conference will progress the key priorities of pedagogy and changes to Department structure.

Best wishes for a great week.

Mai Lupo
Principal

**Deputy Principal's Column**

**Head Lice**

Through discussion with some parents we have been made aware that head lice are a problem across some of our year levels. We recognise the frustration that parents are having with infestation or reinfestation but would like to promote the importance of a daily routine in regards to treatment. Treating a child’s hair once is often not enough as if any eggs are left, reinfestation generally occurs. Reinfestation this way is often more likely than head-to-head contact.

Education Queensland recognises that the occurrence of head lice is the most common insect infestation in humans throughout the world. Education Queensland acknowledges that although head lice infestation may affect people of any age, nationality, gender or socio-economic status, in Queensland, infestation occurs mainly in children of primary school age. It is seen as much a social issue as a health or educational issue, and the way that it is approached can have significant influence on a student's emotional, social and educational development.

Parents have the prime responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children.

Schools take into account that the main route of transmission for head lice is head-to-head contact and promote general measures that help in the prevention of infestations.

Students suspected of having live head lice or eggs present in their hair are not removed from class or school. Such students are provided with information to take home to their families and a letter requesting immediate treatment be commenced.

Schools discourage the following strategies as they have been shown to be either unnecessary or ineffective (according to International guidelines)

- shaving the head or cutting the hair a short length
- treatment of inanimate objects such as clothes, furniture, carpets or car interiors
- over-use of chemical treatment options by families, and
- treatment of every member of the household unless every person has evident lice.
Care is taken with regard to the provision of school hats during periods of infestation, being mindful of the fact that head lice can only live a short time away from the human head (up to one or two days).

More information can be found in regards to symptoms, transmission and treatment of head lice at the following Queensland Health link:-

http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/Parasites/headLice_fs.asp

**School Uniforms**

It is great to see the number of students turning up to school in full school uniform. Thank you to the parents for your efforts in this area, as it defines our students and makes for a great school environment.

**Year 6 Camp**

Camp is not very far away now – next Wednesday 4th March. It is important that all students have their forms returned and money paid to the office by Tuesday 3rd March. As mentioned previously families wishing to finalise payment plans, please see the ladies in the office.

**High Expectations at Bracken Ridge State School**

In keeping with the theme of sharing information from our ‘High Expectations’ document, please find information below about the school’s expectations in regards to manners. By continuing to share this information we hope to dispel any myths, as well as make expectations really clear and develop consistency across the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manners</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hands up, please, thank you, excuse me. – always.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To be insisted on and modelled by all staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Formal greeting to visitors as prompted by teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Helpfulness, no talking with mouth full.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Saying sorry-‘sincerity’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Don’t interrupt adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Knock before entering. No swearing, hands up to speak, listen carefully to speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Respect personal space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Address adults by name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reasonable eye contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Giving way-Students move aside for others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No ‘put downs’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Be positive and support classmates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• I always say “There is one thing in life that is free and gets you a long way.” – Basic Manners.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

The Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support framework helps schools to create positive learning environments by developing proactive whole-school systems to define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviours.

Data shows that the framework helps reduce problem behaviour and increase academic performance. Principals have also reported decreases in referrals of students to school administrators, allowing this time to be invested into other areas of school business.

Through the framework, schools implement evidence-based approaches to managing student behaviour support issues at the local community level. With an emphasis on data-based decision-making, the framework is evaluated regularly and practices are adjusted to make sure the process is achieving effective results for schools.

In line with this and which has previously been mentioned at Bracken Ridge we have a continuing weekly rules or social skill focus. For Term 1 we are focusing on our rules and explicitly teaching a rule each week.

Included below are the rules that we are focusing on for next week (week 6 & 7). It would be fantastic if families could have discussions with their own children promoting the same language and expectations.

- Walking on concrete
- Going to the toilet in pairs during class time and behaving responsibly
- Using the toilet appropriately during lunchtime
- Staying within boundaries
- Sit down when eating
- Wearing appropriate footwear
- Hand, feet and objects to yourself

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Respect outside</th>
<th>Safety outside</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Caring for the school - litter, including others, treating others in a friendly manner.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Using equipment/school/own or others resources safely and appropriately</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Ben Laws

Free Psychological Service
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. To find out more you can visit their website www.youthexcel.com.au

Psychologists or Social Workers can assist young people:

- make positive life choices
- communicate better with parents
- resolve conflict
- broaden social skills
- overcome self-harm or suicidal thoughts
- process grief and loss including that related to death, divorce and separation
- improve self-esteem and confidence
- manage anger and mood swings
- be more responsible online or deal with consequences associated with sexting
- combat bullying
- strengthen body image
- manage anxiety, depression
- manage attention deficit and hyperactivity
- cope with pain and chronic illness

Youth Excel frequently see young people suffering from:

- Asperger’s Syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Conduct Disorder
- Mood Disorders
- Anxiety Disorders
- Attention Deficit and Disruptive Behaviour disorders
- Substance Related Disorders
- Eating Disorders
- Adjustment Disorders

Youth Excel offers a range of small group programs relating to:

- Anxiety
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
• Social Skills
• Anger Management
• Organisational skills and motivation

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.

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.

Tuckshop News

• At the moment Fried Rice and Vege Chips are unavailable.

• McDonalds Day will be held on Wednesday March 11 March. A form regarding this will be sent home in the near future.

P&C Information

• Working Bee: This is being held this Sunday the 1st of March. If you can come along and offer any of your time, it would be very much appreciated. As they say ‘many hands make light work’. We will be there from 8.00 am until possibly 12.00 pm and are happy to have a sausage sizzle and drinks if we get a few people along. We have about 60 plants to plant, hedges to be trimmed, bark spread out and a few other jobs that need doing if we can fit them in. Please just turn up on the day. We will be mostly around B & C block or the office.

• Fun Run: We will be holding our fun run on Tuesday the 17th of March in the last session of the day. It has been great to see so many people setting up support pages and the donations flowing in from online supporters. Great work everyone! All funds raised will be going towards playground areas and equipment for our students.

• Soccer Field: The field should be started on the 6th of March, so therefore part of the grounds in the Year 2/3 play area will be fenced off for up to a week. This should look fantastic when finished.

• Playground: The design of the playground for the Year 2/3 area has been decided and I think will be liked very much by all. A picture of it will be on show in the office, so if anyone is interested please take a
look. It will take about 8 weeks before this will get started so we are looking at maybe the first week back in Term 2 if possible. Once this is completed, I will be able to submit another grant to replace the Year 1 playground. We are certainly looking forward to that.

• **Meeting Change:** We have decided to change the P&C meeting from a Thursday night to a Wednesday night. Hopefully this will suit more people so we can get more voices and opinions heard. It will start at the same time of 7.00 pm and will be held as usual in teachers’ staff room in the Admin Building. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th of March. Hope to see you there.

• **BBQ’s:** So far this year we have had 2 BBQ’s - one at the recent election and the other at Bunnings. I would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who came in and helped. It does make it easier when there are plenty of helpers around. Thanks to the parents who did some cooking for the election BBQ also. I must say there was some very yummy cooking on offer. All together we banked $1594.84 in profit which is a very good start to the year.

• **Book Club:** The Scholastic Book Club is being set up and hopefully you will receive a book club brochure next week. This is now being offered through the P&C. However, to make it easier you can go online and do all your own ordering & payments at the same time. This way we do not have to collect any cash. The books will be given to your children once they have been sent to the school at the end of the issue. If at any time you would like to keep the books secret for birthdays or anything else, please let us know so we can hold it at the office for you to collect. If anyone does not have internet access and would like to place an order please contact us so we can arrange something for you.

P&C contact is Bronwyn at brssfundraiser@optusnet.com.au

**CHAPPY NEWS**

Next week, I will be attending the Year 6 School Camp up at Alexandra Headlands. Please note this means Chappies Brekky and Krave will not be running next week.

Krave is a fun lunch time program for Years 3-6’s every Wednesday at first break made up of sports, games, dance and music.

SU Holiday Camps - if you are interested in your child attending a SU holiday or day camp check out [www.sucamps.org.au](http://www.sucamps.org.au) where there are various events happening in the Easter holidays.

Rachael Bhatnagar
0403 724 122

**SU School Chaplain:**
**Brighton State School - Tues & Fri**
**Bracken Ridge State School - Wed & Thurs**
PARENTS - THE "CARS" RACE IS ON!

THE RACE BEGAN WITH ALL "CARS" STEADILY MOVING ALONG. AT THIS STAGE WE HAVE THE BLUE CAR (YEAR 2) LEADING THE WAY, VERY CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE LIGHT GREEN CAR (YEAR 1).

WHICH YEAR LEVEL WILL BE OUR WINNER .. and .. WHO WILL BE IN LAST PLACE?

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A "CARS" READING BOOK. ALL YEAR LEVELS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT A COST OF $5.50 EACH.

Parents of Year 1 and Year 5 Students

Please note that all students in Year 1 and Year 5 should have received a Consent Form from the School Dental Clinic for this year. It would be greatly appreciated if any outstanding Dental Forms are returned to the Dental Clinic or School office at your earliest convenience so that your child may have a FREE dental examination, clean and assessment.

A NORWEX MEGA PARTY
Saturday 28th Feb 2 - 4pm
Sandgate Uniting Church, 116 Board Street, Deagon

Entry by donation (gold coin minimum), 100% of entry goes to the Ride

25% of all sales go to Ride For Derek

Join us for a great afternoon of demonstrations, lucky door prizes, giveaways... and lets help Lisa raise the funds she needs to ride!

Afternoon tea and refreshments provided
S$200 worth of luckydoor prizes and giveaways!
Child friendly venue

For more information, to place an order or to RSVP, please call, text or email: Sandra Robertson - Norwex Independent Sales Consultant
Ph: 0425 327 809 Email: sandman876@gmail.com
Please donate to this worthy cause. The direct link is as follows:-


Family Fun Day at Aspley Hornets

For information please phone 32635522

Fun Activities include Football Season Launch, Free Rides and Attractions, Handmade Markets, Beer Garden and Live Entertainment, Food & Coffee Vendors plus Free 5 Minute Massages from Elite Body Management.

Sunday 29th March 2015

2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

For information about becoming a Foster Carer, please see attached.

Become_a_Foster_Carer.pdf

NAB AFL Auskick is running at your school now!

Where: Sandgate Hawks JAFC (Lemke Road Taigum)

When: First session is on Saturday 28th February 2015

Time: 8:00 – 9:00am

Length of program: 8 Weeks*

Cost: $70

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 attached.  

Zumba.doc
PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO PHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 3869 7888 OR EMAIL CAROL FISHER cfish63@eq.edu.au FOR ANY STUDENT ABSENCES. WE ARE REQUIRED TO MANAGE ANY UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES AND YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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.

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