12 March, 2015.

Principal's Column

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to another great week at Bracken Ridge State School. The term has really flown by and we will be breaking for Easter in another 3 weeks. This is a critical time of the term for teachers and students. Teachers have started to gather a lot of data on how students are performing and what issues we will need to work on for the rest of the school year.

It is 7 more weeks before the next NAPLAN test and is an important time in the preparation of students in readiness for these all important tests. The dates for NAPLAN this year are from the 12th to 14th of May. We advise that undue pressure should not be put on students but emphasise that whilst the test is extremely important, students should give it their very best effort.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We would like to offer parents the opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is progressing. Interview forms will be sent out at the end of this week and the beginning of next week for the Parent Interview period of the 23 to 27 of March, second last week of Term 1. We will continue with the strategy of holding most interviews on the evening of Wednesday 25 March in the school hall. This will enable parents with 2 or more children to speak to their teachers on the same evening. Parents who are unable to speak with their child’s teacher on the main interview evening may organise an alternate time suitable to both teacher and parent during the Interview period.

I strongly urge all parents to make use of this opportunity to speak and share information with your child’s teacher. Teachers will discuss with parents current student progress, some of the barriers to learning, student conduct, and other issues that are generally impacting on student learning. This interview will avoid the “surprise element” when the First Semester Reports come out towards the end of Term 2. Please return the interview form as soon as possible so that your child’s teacher can plan out the schedule and advise on alternate times should your first choice be unavailable.

Every Day Counts — including the last week of term

As we approach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded that students should attend up to and including the last
day of term unless they have a reasonable excuse such as illness. Every Day Counts is a statewide initiative addressing the issue of student attendance at school. The initiative is designed to change parent, community and student attitudes towards school attendance. It requires the support of both parents and the community if student attendance is to be successfully addressed.

Every Day Counts promotes four key messages:

• all children should be enrolled at school and attend on every school day
• schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance
• truanting can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices
• attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.

Research shows that higher rates of attendance at school are related to higher achievement.

www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/

Our attendance rate for this new term is around 95% so far. This means we still have quite a few students being absent from school unnecessarily.

Our target for the year is for the attendance of around 98%.

Take a Stand Together against Bullying and Violence

Join us for the 2015 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 20 March. The focus on this year’s event is involving parents in our school’s anti-bullying activities and helping to raise awareness of bullying and violence issues.

Since the inaugural National Day of Action three years ago, schools throughout Australia have been working with students and their families to raise awareness and develop strategies and programs that genuinely tackle the problems associated with bullying.

Students and teachers are encouraged to wear orange on the day for a gold coin donation with activity ideas available from the Bullying. No Way! website at www.bullyingnoway.com.au We encourage students to behave responsibly and safely every day, but on this day we will be putting the spotlight on our anti-bullying strategies and to “Take a Stand Together” against violence and bullying.

We will have a few short activities at our Friday parade to help with presenting the message of Bullying No Way.

Harmony Day Everyone Belongs
Harmony Day is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is a day of cultural respect, widely celebrated across schools, childcare centres, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies.

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. In 2015 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia.

Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australia story we share today. From the Dreamtime to the Eureka to the Snowy River, from the outback to the city, in wartime and in peace, our stories may be heart wrenching but also inspirational.

Let's take the time to celebrate our diversity. Let's go beyond the cover of the book and wander through the pages of each other's story. It's a way we can learn and understand.

We will be having a special parade on Friday morning, 20 March, 9:00 am, to celebrate Harmony day in combination with the display of student activities, Choir Performance and some Guest speakers to talk about what Harmony Day means to them. Parents are invited to this parade.

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Smith Family – School Programs

Does your child need extra reading support?

The Student2Student Reading Program (S2S) has been running within the Bracken Ridge and Brighton State School communities for a number of years with great success and this year The Smith Family is again able to offer a limited number of spaces to students at Bracken Ridge State School.

If one of your children needs help with reading, Student2Student (S2S) is a great program that has been able to help many children take big steps forward with their reading skills.

Children accepted into the program will be teamed with a high-school aged phone buddy who has been trained to help others improve their reading skills. The Buddies in our program are high achieving students in years 10 and 11 who attend private schools in the Brisbane area. They will not know your child's surname or where you live. He or she will only use your first name and phone number to make contact. Over a 21 week period the buddy will ring your child two to three times a week and listen to them read a book for at least 20 minutes.

**Some benefits of the program:**

1. Children need good reading skills to be able to perform well at school. When children can read better, their school marks improve and their self-confidence improves.

2. Children may increase their social skills and benefit from the mentor relationship with their phone buddy

3. There are no costs involved in participating.

4. The Smith Family provides the books for the student.

5. You will be provided with a training pack and ongoing assistance from The Smith Family throughout the program. (parents)

Please note that the program is only available to students with a landline.

Interested? Contact our school office now for further information.
School Payments

Parents I apologise for the frequent reminders about the payment of student activity fees that are now due. The following payments are urgently needed:

- THRASS Chart for all Year 1, 2 and 3's. Cost $7.00 from the school office.

- CARS Reading Comprehension Book for all students Years 1 – 7. Cost $5.50 from school office.
  URGENTLY needed. Contrary to what students may say, these books are needed urgently. Please purchase from the school office.

- The Wellbeing Show is coming to our school next Wednesday 18 March. This show supports our social skilling program of “You Can Do It”. We would like all students to attend this show. Cost is $6.00 per student.

- School Levy of $40.00 per student. (Volunteer Levy) This subsidises what we provide for all students.

Thank you to those parents who have already paid for the above.

Numeracy and Literacy Coach

Mrs Robyne Harris has been appointed to the staff of BRSS as our Literacy and Numeracy Coach, working with predominantly our Preps to Year 3’s. We will share Robyne’s services with Shorncliffe SS. Robyne will be working with Teachers predominantly to improve the pedagogy and the teaching and learning strategies in our school. We welcome Robyne to our staff at BRSS.

Deputy Principal's Column

Expectations of the School's Responsible Behaviour Plan

It’s important to acknowledge the key roles that all members of the school community have in helping to provide a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment. This also certainly fits in line with the school's continuing focus on School Wide Positive Behaviour Support.

All members of school communities are expected to: conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others.

Schools are expected to: provide safe and supportive learning environments, provide inclusive and engaging curriculum and teaching, initiate and maintain constructive communication and relationships with students and parents/carers, promote the skills of responsible self-management.

Parents/carers are expected to: show an active interest in their child’s schooling and progress, cooperate with the school to achieve the best outcomes for their child, support school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students, initiate and maintain constructive communication and relationships with school staff regarding their child's learning, wellbeing and behaviour.
Students are expected to: participate actively in the school’s education program, take responsibility for their own behaviour and learning, demonstrate respect for themselves, other members of the school community and the school environment, behave in a manner that respects the rights of others, including the right to learn, and cooperate with staff and others in authority.

The expectations above help facilitate high standards of behaviour so that the learning and teaching in our school can be effective and students can participate positively within our school community.

Ultimately it is hoped that we can continue to focus on developing our ‘High Expectations’ and improve upon the school’s learning environment, as part of the implementation of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework.

Come and See Us
From time to time, issues or concerns about aspects of our school will arise that need to be addressed. Please contact the school to make a mutually convenient time to speak to your child’s teacher about these issues. Please avoid walking in while the teacher is teaching. In this way, these issues can be sorted out so your child can continue on the road to successful and happy schooling. Schooling, like life, has many different pathways which teach us new skills and is a great learning experience for us all – open, honest, two way positive communication will help smooth out some of these different pathways.

National Anti-Bullying Day & Harmony Day 2015
National Anti-Bullying Day and Harmony Day will be celebrated next Friday 20th of March.

We will hold a special whole school assembly to acknowledge and celebrate Anti-Bullying & Harmony Day and students will be encouraged to dress in orange as a show of support. The assembly will take place at the normal time of 9:00 a.m.

Fun Run Update
Next Tuesday is the date set down for our school Fun Run. Students need to do a minimum of 1 lap of the course, or can do as many as time permits on the day. All money raised goes to our school, so please support this event. If you can make it down to watch the event we are sure your children would love to see you there. The event will take place in the afternoon session between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. Approximate times when classes will run are listed below.

- 1:50 p.m. - Prep
- 2:10 p.m. - Year 1 & 2
- 2:30 p.m. - Year 3 & 4
- 2:45 p.m. - Year 5 & 6

University of NSW Competitions
Beginning in June and continuing through until August, students from Year 4 through to Year 6 will have the
opportunity to participate in a number of competitions across **English, Science & Mathematics** run by the University of NSW.

Below is a table which lists the cost, date when entries close as well as the sitting dates of each of these tests. If you would like your child to participate in one or more of these tests could you please send the appropriate money to the office in an envelope, clearly stating the student's name and the test/s they will be completing, before the closing date for entries.

Students will sit all tests at the school with results provided to the school later in the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Entry Closing Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Date Test Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>3rd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>28th July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>11th August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Ben Laws

**Classroom Music**

All students at Bracken Ridge SS have the opportunity to attend at least one thirty minute music lesson per week with Mrs Grant. These lessons take place in our lovely new Performing Arts Space in D-Block.

Prep – Year 3: Are focusing on in-tune singing, beat and rhythmic skills through a variety of songs, musical games, singing story books and playing untuned percussion instruments ie. tambourine, castanets, rhythm sticks etc.

Year 4 - 6: Are focusing on in-tune singing through a variety of age-appropriate songs and games. Students are also working on music literacy ie. reading, writing and playing melodies and rhythms using the recorder and the glockenspiel. Students are required to have a recorder for these lessons. Glockenspiels are provided by the school.

Please note: Year 6 will be commencing their ukulele program in term 2. If your child owns a uke, they are welcome to bring it along. Otherwise, school ukuleles are provided.
Choirs

Students from years 2 – 6 have the opportunity to join one of our school choirs. Junior Choir (Year 2 and 3) rehearse from 1.30 – 2.00pm on Tuesdays and Senior Choir (Year 4, 5 and 6) rehearse from 1.30 – 2.00pm on Wednesdays. These groups have been rehearsing for several weeks but it is not too late to join. These are “all-comers” choirs so all are welcome (both boys and girls). If your child enjoys singing and performing, please encourage him/her to participate.

Ovation is an audition choir led by Mrs Reynolds. This group focuses on contemporary music as well musical theatre. There are some vacancies so if your child enjoys this style of music we recommend they see Mrs Reynolds as soon as possible.

Music Captains

Congratulations to our Music Captains for 2015 who have recently received their badges – Alita M, Tara O and Travis W. The music staff members are looking forward to working with these students during the year.

Year 4 Junior Choir Leaders for Semester One have now been finalised. Well done to Lutau B, Ella G, Millie P, and Makayla W who were selected after applying for the job in writing. These students will assist Mrs Grant during rehearsals and performances.

Twilight Concerts

Our students are given the opportunity to showcase their talents at our end-of-term Twilight Concerts. The first of these will be Wednesday 1 April at 5.00 p.m. in the school hall. Groups involved will be: Years 1, 2, and 3, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Ovation and the Concert Band.

Annette Grant

(Music Co-ordinator)

Chappy News

Last week I attended the year 6 school camp that was held up at Alexandra Headlands. We all had a great time participating in the surf life saving beach activities, ten pin bowling and Mr Moore’s Mock Olympics.
Easter Holidays - SU Qld offer a wide range of various SU holiday camps every school holiday period. For more information on camps offered in the upcoming holiday period head to www.sucamps.org.au.

P&C REMINDERS

Please remember that the Fun Run will be held next Tuesday afternoon 17 March. Please return all money to the School Office by Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Also the first Scholastic Book Club being run through the P&C will close tomorrow (Friday 13 March). Could all orders please be returned to the Office on Friday.

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Please note that the program is only available to students with a landline.
Please contact me if you would like any more information on this program.

Kind regards
Rachel Lake
Program Coordinator - Learning for Life | The Smith Family
38 Hope St, South Brisbane Q 4101

PO Box 10500, South Brisbane BC Q 4101
ph 07 3115 6203 / mobile 0438 193 998 / fax 07 33376424
thesmithfamily.com.au

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.
THE "CARS" RACE!

ALL "CARS" ARE STEADILY MOVING ALONG ALTHOUGH THE PURPLE CAR (YEAR 5) APPEARS TO BE HAVING ENGINE TROUBLE. THE GREEN CAR (YEAR 1) HAS EDGED ITS WAY IN FRONT OF THE BLUE CAR (YEAR 2) BUT ONLY BY A NOSE.

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 PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AS THIS ENDANGERS THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THIS MATTER.

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

Become_a_Foster_Carer.pdf

Child and Adolescent Oral Health News

The Child and Adolescent Oral Health Program will be offering treatment to the students of this school soon. Prep students have been issued with a consent/medical history form. If you wish your child to be treated please return the fully completed consent form (4 pages) to your class teacher by 1/4/15. Due to the demands on our service parents who return consent forms late will not necessarily have their children treated on site and may be offered treatment at another site. Once dental staff receive a completed form your child will be examined. If your child requires further dental treatment, a 'consent to treatment' form will be issued for your signed consent.

Students from the other year levels will be offered treatment after the Prep students are treated.

For any enquires please contact staff on 3869 2427.

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 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.

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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