21 May, 2015.

Principal's Column

We are now halfway through our busy term! Our students have been working hard finalising assessments for their current unit of work, while our teachers have been focussing on marking and reporting. A HUGE thanks to our dedicated, professional teachers who are simultaneously teaching and writing report cards.

NAPLAN:

Our NAPLAN testing proceeded last week without incident with 100% of students participating in the tests. We were able to provide a supportive, caring environment for students through flexible and small groupings. The NAPLAN testing would not have proceeded so smoothly if not for the support of our teachers, teacher aides and administrative staff. A special thank you to Mrs Elwynne Buckley for ensuring that our Year 3 and 5 students received a free breakfast on the morning of the tests.

Connecting with community:

· On Sunday, our Senior Choir will be performing at the annual Backyard Bonanza at McPherson Park. Our school will also be hosting a promotional tent and Chaplaincy display. A HUGE thanks to Mrs Annette Grant, our Music teacher and Mrs. Sara Reynolds, Year 6B Class Teacher for preparing our students for the performance, and to Ms J-E Harris, Mrs Elwynne Buckley and Mrs Carol Fisher for organising, coordinating and manning the school’s promotional tent. We look forward to seeing you there on Sunday to support our students and the school.

· Over the next two weeks, both Mr Ben Laws and I will be visiting our local early Childhood Providers to promote the School and discuss ways that we can work more closely with our local centres.

Thank you:

· This week, we celebrated Chappy Week! A HUGE thank you to our lovely Chaplain, Miss Rachel for organising a Chappie Week, in celebration of the wonderful work that she does for our school. This week, we were treated to competitions, an extra special KRAVE, a Prep Meet and Greet, and a staff morning tea. My
thanks also to Mrs Carol Fisher for her support of the Chaplaincy program through promotion of and fundraising for the program.

· Today our P-2 students, teachers and families celebrated Under 8’s day. Under 8’s Day provides a great opportunity to celebrate early childhood and learning. A HUGE thanks to Ms Jane–Elizabeth Harris and Ms Lynn Firth for organising a wonderful morning of fun activities for our under 8 year olds and our families.

· Thank you to Bronwyn Brown and her band of merry helpers for a wonderful Mother’s Day stall! Our students enjoyed picking a special gift for their mothers, grandmothers, aunties, carers or other significant women in their lives.

Deputy Principal's Column

Student Attendance

The Education Act requires parents to ensure that their school-aged children attend school each school day. As is the importance of student attendance, a state-wide initiative has been developed called Every Day Counts.

The initiative is designed to change parent, community and student attitudes to 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.

Some interesting facts . . . . . . . . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is....</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
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Research shows that higher rates of attendance at school are related to higher achievement.

It is therefore very important if your child is absent from school that parents and care-givers provide a reasonable excuse for this absence. Stating that your child was away from school is insufficient – a reason is required. A phone call to the school or a letter to your child’s teacher will be sufficient. Teachers are then able to mark their class rolls accordingly which in turn leads to this data appearing on student Semester 1 & 2 Report Cards.

Cancer Morning Tea

Planning for the Cancer Morning Tea on Wednesday 27th May (next week) is well underway.

Do try to come and help raise money for the Cancer Foundation. Please ask family and friends to join you and see your child perform with their classmates. As mentioned previously, this year all participants will be supplied with a morning tea (similar to last year). The cost will be $5.00 with tickets available from the office.

For catering purposes, it would be very much appreciated if all tickets could be purchased by Monday 25th May.

If you are able to support with the purchase of ingredients for baking in preparation for the day, or donations of any prizes – please see Bronwyn Brown. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Change of Tuckshop Closure Days

In week 6 (the week beginning 25th May) there will be a change of tuckshop closure days due to the Cancer Morning Tea. For this week only the tuckshop will be open on Monday 25th May and will be closed on Wednesday 27th May.

Change of Details

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergencies, we do need to contact a parent as soon as possible. It is imperative that we have the most current contact phone numbers, address and email contacts for parents. If you have had a change, please notify our school office as soon as possible. We thank you for your help in this matter.

Interschool Sports

Tomorrow Inter-school and Rec sports will begin for Term 2.

All children who do not participate in Inter-school sports will have opportunity to be involved in Rec sports which will mostly be held at school.

We do need all paperwork back and payment made (if possible this week) so that children are able to participate in their chosen sport.
**Backyard Bonanza**

Please come and support our students who will be performing as part of the school choir at Backyard Bonanza on Sunday. The school will also have a stall on the day promoting our school.

The P&C are operating stalls at the Backyard Bonanza as well trying to raise valuable funds for our school.

Backyard Bonanza is a great community event and given the proximity to Bracken Ridge State School, it would great to see lots of our school community attending and supporting everyone involved.

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

Ben Laws

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**Will.I.Bee’s Blog**

Hey Kids, Mums and Dads! It’s me…Will.I.Bee!

I’ve been watching you all from high up in my hive and I’ve been seeing so many wonderful things happening at school! Last week I saw Sally in Year 1 doing her best in Maths, Nathan in Year 3 speaking politely, Mary in Year 4 solving a problem with her friend using the High 5, and Peter in Year 6 walking safely around the pool! Well done guys!

This week I want to remind you of the importance of using the skills your great teachers are teaching you at school and how mum and dad can reinforce them at home.

Today I want to start with safety and how being safe at school is just like being safe at home. Like school, you shouldn’t be running around on concrete or running up and down stairs…you might get hurt or you might hurt someone you love!! Oh…and be careful jumping around at home like down the back stairs or over the lounge…you might twist an ankle that might stop you enjoying school sport. And, like school, stay away from places where mum and dad say is a “no go area” like the shed or a draw in the kitchen where dangerous things are kept. Try not to bee too silly on your bikes and scooters on the week-end and make sure you wear a helmet. You just might need your brain to be working at school on the Monday!

Mums and Dads be sure to use positive words when you see your littlies doing things safely - saying things like “Great- you are being safe” and “That was a really safe way that you checked for cars before crossing the road to the shop” or “I liked the way you made a safe choice to walk away when you were arguing with your sister”.

Remember to catch your kids doing the right thing as it can make the biggest difference.

That’s it for me this week. Keep an eye and ear out for me. I’ll be flying around the school and your place to keep an eye out for how you’re going!!

Will.I.Bee@gmail.com
SPORTS DAY REMINDERS

It is that special time of the year that our students are busily preparing for the annual InterHouse Sports Days. So please check your diary and lock the dates in as we would love to see you come along and add your support.

Friday 12th June --- 400/800m Events (children in Years 3-6)

Thursday 18th June --- Junior Sports Day (Prep-Yr3)

Wednesday 24th June --- Pentathlon (children in Years 3-6)

*Please note this year students that are currently in Year 3 will be competing in both the Junior and Senior Athletics Carnivals this year.*

More information will be posted in upcoming newsletters as we get closer to these events.

4A NEWS

On Tuesday this week, 4A had a visit from Moira Bligh and Aunty Ruth Hegarty, an Aboriginal Elder and Author. Aunty Ruth spoke to the children about traditional Aboriginal life. The children learnt many interesting things.

"I learnt about Aunty Ruth's land and how they lived. I also learnt how to count to 5 in her traditional language." - Ayak

"I learnt how to say hello and goodbye in traditional Aboriginal language." - Braidyn

"I listened to a Dreaming story that explained why the koala has no tail." - Siobhan

"I learnt that Aboriginal art can used to tell people stories and information." - Connor
P&C NEWS

Backyard Bonanza is on this Sunday 24th May at McPherson Park between 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. The P&C will be operating the Laughing Clowns as well as Car Parking on our School oval (weather permitting). The Tuckshop will be operating the Hot Chip Stall. It would be wonderful if we could have some help as we really need volunteers for the day to help with the set up and running of these stalls. If you are able to help please contact Bronwyn Brown on 0402 459 164. Set up is from 6.30 a.m.

The Cancer Morning Tea is on Wednesday 27 May between 9.00 a.m - 11.00 a.m. Tickets are available from the school office for $5.00 each. We are still looking for some donations suitable for raffle prizes so if you have anything you would like to donate, please drop these at the office by Monday 25th. We also would be grateful for some baking for the day. If anyone is able to help, please contact Bronwyn Brown on 0402459164. Also it would be great if we could have some help to wrap up the prizes. Please come in on Monday the 25 May and look for us in the tuckshop or in the D block Activity Room.

Any volunteers or donations for these events would certainly be greatly appreciated.

Scholastic Book Club Order forms have been sent out this week. Please return your orders by 5th June or if you can please order online at your convenience as this makes our job so much easier.

CHAPPIE NEWS

Thank-you to Phil Henley from Steadfast Realty Qld who has generously donated $315.00 to help subsidise Chaplaincy.

Over the next few newsletters, I will be sharing some snippets of a 2014 Chaplaincy Data Research document that was undertaken in partnership with McCrindle Research. This has some great information and facts on Chaplaincy. For the full document you can head to: www.suqld.org.au/snapshot.

SU Holiday Camp - In the next school holidays there will be a great SU Camp called 'Winter Mapleton Adventure Camp' happening in the second week of the holidays (6th - 10th July). This is a camp for Years 5 - 7’s and includes activities like - canoeing, rock climbing, archery, nerf wars, a carnival, sports, games and lots more. Over the years we have had many students attend this camp, and they have all had a great time. For more info or to register for this camp please head to www.sucamps.org.au and look for ‘Winter Mapleton Adventure Camp’.
PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

DUE TO A LOT OF ACTIVITIES HAPPENING THIS TERM, THE STUDENT COUNCIL DISCO HAS
UNFORTUNATELY BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL TERM 3.

Youth Excel

Small Group Programs – TERM 2

Where: Youth Excel – 138 Old Gympie Rd
       (cnr Nellies Lane), Kallangur 4503

Cost: These programs are FREE thanks to
       the generous sponsorship of Inclusive Kids.

RSVP: Friday 18th May.

Numbers are limited so please book early by phoning (07) 3482 3466. All other details below....

Pre-Teens Girls Excel

Creating Confidence in Young Women (10 – 12 years old)

Facilitator: Chantellaine Cruickshank

Date: Each Thursday for six weeks from 21st May (21st, 28th, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th)

Time: 4pm – 5pm

Pre-Teens Girls Excel Content

Lesson 1: Introduction to Girls Excel
Lesson 2: Handling Friendship Dramas
Lesson 3: Loving Who I Am
Lesson 4: Being Brave (even when I’m afraid)
Lesson 5: Choosing Support People for Life
Lesson 6: Learning to Apologise

Numbers are limited so please book early by phoning (07) 3482 3466.

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR SCHEME

From Monday 20 April 2015 the school crossings will operate from 8.00 a.m. - 8.45 a.m. in the mornings and
from 3.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. in the afternoons.
OFFICE NEWS

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT NEW MUSIC SHIRTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE. COST IS $26.00.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PURCHASE A "CARS' READING BOOK IF THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE.

ALL YEAR LEVELS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT A COST OF $5.50 EACH.

STUDENTS ARE USING THESE BOOKS IN CLASS.

THE "CARS" RACE IS EXCITING. STILL A LITTLE WAY TO GO TO SEE WHO WINS!!

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.

PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO 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.
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07 3869 7800

the.principal@bracridgss.eq.edu.au

http://www.bracridgss.eq.edu.au

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