22 October, 2015.

Principal's Column

It's hard to believe that we have now completed the first three weeks of Term 4. It is continuing to fly by rapidly! For our Prep students, they have almost completed their first year of formal schooling, and our Year 6 students are in the throes of their final weeks of primary schooling - significant milestones in their lives.

As the year wraps up, it is crucial that we have information from you regarding whether:

• Your child/ren are not returning to Bracken Ridge State School in 2016;
• You have a child who is turning 5 by June 30, 2015;
• You have another primary school-aged child/ren that you would like to enrol at Bracken Ridge State School in 2016.

This information is vital so that we accurately plan classes. Please notify either Carol Fisher or Elwynne Buckley in the office as soon as possible if you are moving away from Bracken Ridge, or wish to enrol a child for the 2016 school year.

Staffing Update:

• Welcome to new staff member for 2016, Johanna Long. Johanna is currently teaching at Berrinba East State School and will starting at Bracken Ridge next year. Johanna joined us for the Student Free Day on Monday and was able to meet the staff and
• Welcome back to Kate West from Long Service Leave. We welcome back Jill in Week 6 while Jill was away.
• Welcome back to Jill Borrowdale from Long Service Leave and thank you to Alison Gillies for filling in while Jill was away.

Learning Walks:

Ben and I will start to recommence learning walks in your child’s classroom over the next few weeks. During our visits to classrooms, we will ask students the following questions referring to their English task from Sharratt and Fullan’s work:

1. What are you learning?
2. How are you doing?
3. How do you know?
4. What do you need to do to improve?
5. Where do you go for help?

When we visit, we will interview 5 students. We will write their responses and provide this to the class teacher as feedback to discuss their next step in addressing student learning in their classroom.

Data Meetings:

This week, the Leadership Team worked with all class teachers to review students’ reading data. We were able to celebrate the success of many students whose reading levels have improved between Terms 3 and 4 as indicated by their reading running record. This was due to their teacher’s explicit teaching of the strategies the student most needed to improve their reading as indicated by the data. Teachers worked collaboratively with the Leadership Team to develop a Term 4 Reading Action Plan, focusing on how they are going to further develop and improve students’ reading during the next 5 weeks.

Mindfulness at Bracken Ridge State School:

You would know from our Facebook updates, that Bracken Ridge State School are Mindfulness Matters 2.0 jars at Grill’d Everton Park this October in recognition of World Mental Health Month. Please spread the word.

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word to your members and friends and encourage them to help support the school.

The Mindful group with the most tokens at the end of October will receive Mind resources which include a Smiling Mind Webinar for members & Mindfulness materials!

A HUGE thanks to Sara Reynolds for organising for our school to be included on one of the jars.

Mindfulness tips for adults and children:

**TIP #1 - ARE YOU STILL BREATHING?**
The best way to start being more mindful is to learn to check in on yourself and focus on your breathing.

It's pretty simple, just take a few moments to ask yourself: notice how it feels in your body - can you feel it in your chest, or your stomach, or your shoulders? for 30 seconds is all it takes to give yourself a mindful moment.

**TIP #2 - GRATITUDE**

Gratitude is an important part of being mindful. Today take a moment and reflect on what you are grateful for - family, your sporting prowess... whatever it is take a moment to acknowledge these great things in your life.

Collecting Students in the Afternoon:

Just a reminder that in the case that the usual person is not picking your child up in the afternoon, please contact either Carol Fisher or Elwynne Buckley in the office on 3869 7888 so that they can inform your child directly. Please reinforce the message with your child that unless they have received a message from the office telling them otherwise, they should not leave the school grounds unless leaving with a person who regularly picks them up (a parent, grandparent, Jabiru carer, etc.).

Melissa Burke

**Deputy Principal’s Column**

**Staff Professional Development**

On Monday whilst the students enjoyed an extra day at home with their parents, our staff were quite busy at school undergoing Professional Development.

Staff were involved in sessions which looked at the teaching of Reading, the Essential Skills for Classroom Management, Helping to Refine Skills in Management and Understanding of Student Behaviour. Teachers also began a discussion looking at the work of Lyn Sharratt and Michael Fullan, particularly looking at their work around what they call their 14 Parameters.

This quote from Sharratt and Fullan’s Book, ‘Putting Faces on the Data’, sums up the thinking behind the parameters.

“In effect the nitty gritty of deep and sustainable collective capacity-building... the specific reform strategies that – in combination (and greater implementation of the 14 parameters) – “cause” (p. 10).

This is really exciting work to be engaged in and further supports our school’s Explicit Improvement Agenda and the work we have been doing in regards to improving student performance in reading and problem solving.

Our Teacher Aides also participated in a range of professional development opportunities.

I believe that all activities undertaken on the day certainly help enrich the work our Teachers and Teacher Aides do at the school, and I would like to thank all staff for their participation.

**Before School Procedure**

Recently there have been some concerns involving student behaviour. It is very important that the children who arrive from 8:00 a.m. onward from 8:15 a.m. everyday, the school has staff members on duty at this time as well as to help minimise any behaviour incident.

It is also very important that children are not arriving at school before 8:00 a.m. and if they are, they need to attend Before School Care due to safety concerns.

Children are able to wait in the Year 1 Area (Under A Block) as long as they are in the direct supervision of a parent. Children should not be going to the tuckshop before school i first bell at 8:40 a.m. rings.
The school certainly does appreciate all parental support with the above requests. The overall intention is to ensure the safety of all children as well as a smooth transition into the classroom so that children and teachers are able to focus on learning.

**EVERY DAY COUNTS**

- ...because children achieve better when they attend school all day.
- ...because going to school means a better chance at life.
- ...because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.
- ...because going to school is a legal requirement.

**What the Law says...**

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and have a reasonable excuse.

You must not keep your child away from school for minor reasons.

Under the law, schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers for any unexplained absences.

**What you can expect from the school ...**

- Monitoring of student attendance;
- Following-up any unexplained absences as soon as possible;
- Effective teaching strategies to engage your child in learning;
- Strategies to help you to encourage your child to go to school.

**World Teachers Day**

World Teachers Day 2015 is being celebrated next Friday October 30th. In our rapidly changing and interdependent world, teachers not only have to ensure that children become responsible local and global citizens, informed decision-makers about health, the environment and other challenges. UNESCO has revealed that “a global total of 10.3 million teachers should be recruited by the end of 2015 just to meet the goal of universal primary education.” We have only 27 of the 10.3 million registered teachers working in our school. However they are certainly doing their share of preparing our future leaders, doctors, teachers, engineers, tradespeople, entrepreneurs, truck drivers, chefs etc. who will be looking after us and our legacies when we can no longer do so for ourselves. So please take the opportunity to celebrate it with your child’s teacher as they certainly do have your most precious child in their hands.

I look forward to catching-up with everybody in the next newsletter.

Regards.

Ben Laws
Deputy Principal

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**Tuckshop News**

If anyone is interested in volunteering in our school Tuckshop, please put your name down with Libby at the Tuckshop. Many thanks.

**P&C News**

- Scholastic Book Club for Issue 7 will close tomorrow.
- Grass Roots – If you are looking to book a holiday, please check this website and check out what they have available. For anyone who books a holiday with www.quickbeds.com/?grassrootscode=1692
- Education Experience fundraising catalogues are available in the school office or you can also go to the website to have a look through a catalogue. Remember it is never too early to start Christmas shopping. www.edex.com.au/fundraising
- If you have any questions or comments on any of the above P&C information, please feel free to contact me Bronwyn at brssfundraiser@optusnet.com.au or 0402459164 at any time.
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 School Chaplaincy. Steadfast Realty 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 them at no extra cost to your

A wonderful parent from our School Community has organised a Drought Angels in Chinchilla. A number of cars and trailers will be transporting any donations to Chinchilla on the 21st November, 2015. She has kindly offered to join in transporting our donations on behalf of Bracken Ridge State School.

The Drought Angels are a program of the Chinchilla Family Support Centre who are a Not-For-Profit Organisation. They help and support our Queensland farmers struggling through this crippling drought. Many families with reports of families living on Weet-Bix and rice to get about this cause, please visit their Facebook Page.

Items for Collection include:

- Non-Perishable Food Items with long expiry dates.
- Personal Toiletries for Men, Women and Children.

We would love to see our students and families really get behind this collection and show our support to the struggling farming communities. Our aim is to fill at least one of the trailers full of items etc. from our school community. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be delivered to the school office.

BRACKEN RIDGE STATE
Parents & Citizens Association

Year 7 Bursaries

Our Vision is... "Strive Through... Commitment, Cooperation, Common Sense"

The P&C Association offers a number of bursaries to students joining the school community as Exemplary achievement in the areas of Academic, Sporting and The Arts across these areas.

If you are interested in applying for a bursary, complete the application available from the school website or school office, and return all documents to Bracken Ridge State High School, Administration Office, in an envelope clearly marked 'BURSARY APPLICATION' no later than Friday 13 November.

Successful applicants will be notified by 30 November. The panel's decision will be final.

Mr M Norton, P&C President / Mrs R Garrick, Principal
Book Fair and Book Week

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the library this Term on Monday October 26 and Tuesday October 27. We will be selling books at the following times:

- 8.00 - 8.40 a.m.
- 1.25 - 1.40 p.m.
- 3.00 - 4.00 p.m.

There will be a Book Week Colouring Lucky Draw for all students which was handed out at the end of last term (to be returned to the library by the end of the second week) to receive a $10.00 voucher to spend at the Book Fair.

Happy Reading!

Will-I-Bee Focus: Doing, Being and Looking Our Best at Bracken Ridge State School

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Hello there. Here in our hive we all work at buzzing around doing our best, being our best and looking our best. I can see that lots of my friends at Bracken Ridge State School are always trying to do the right thing, behave and wear their uniform with pride. As long as you try your hardest, you are being the best person you can be.

FROM THE BEST BEE I CAN BE!

Your Friendly Mascot

Will.I.Bee.
Will.I.Bee@gmail.com

Grassroots Program

Promote the code to your sponsors and supporters to use when booking their business or personal travel.

Bracken Ridge State School P&C Association, Grassroots Code: 1692

Here is your unique Grassroots Code and link:

Bracken Ridge State School P&C Association

1692

www.quickbeds.com/?grassrootscode=1692
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.

PARENTS PLEASE PHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 3869 7888 OR EMAIL CAROL FISHER cfish63@eq.edu.au

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.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS ANY TIME AS THIS ENDANGERS THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN. YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THIS MATTER IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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1 Binburra Street

If you would like the school newsletter or cfish63@eq.edu.au or phone the school office available via our School Website. If you require a paper copy, it can be collected from the office on request.

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