Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you to many of you who have participated in our current rounds of parent/teacher interviews. What a great turnout of parents. Anyone who missed out this time will have further opportunities to book an interview with your child’s teacher when you are able to. Use email or simply call and speak with the teacher when you are ready to organise a convenient time. Your interest will add volumes to your child’s perception of school as extremely important.

Thank you to the children for committing themselves to learning this term with the vast majority improving their learning and demonstrating excellent behaviour. Thank you to our staff for their continued dedication, passion and support of our students and their learning. Parents, your continued presence will inspire and add to the supportive culture of our school and certainly highlight the learning partnership we share for our students.

Holiday Break and Term 2

With the holidays starting at the end of next week, we would like to wish everyone a safe and holy Easter. Enjoy the holidays and the time together. School will close from the 3rd – 17 April and will reopen for Term 2 on Monday 20 April.

ANZAC Day will fall this year on a Saturday. There will be no public holiday. Our school ANZAC Parade will take place on the first Friday of Term 2, 24 April commencing at 9:00 o’clock. All parents are invited to attend this ceremony.

Farewell BRSS Community and Students

I will be taking leave for the next two terms, Term 2 and 3 of our school year. There is a very big possibility that I will retire at the end of that period of leave. We are endeavouring to fill the school with a permanent Principal as soon as possible. At this stage I am not sure who will be acting in the position as it is a Regional decision. I will let all parents know as soon as I hear of this decision before the end of the term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents, staff and students, past and present for the way you have supported me in my role as Principal of our school. I have loved and enjoyed every moment of my 7
years in this community as Principal. I will certainly miss everyone at BRSS. Thank you and my very best wishes to each and everyone of you.

**BRSS Behaviour Awards**

The Bracken Ridge State School Behaviour Awards will be presented on parade this Friday to all students who qualified under the criteria and will be receiving Gold Awards. Parents are welcome to attend. Silver and Bronze awards will be presented in the classrooms during the day. The Reward day for the children will be on Tuesday, 31 March which will be a series of rotational activities. Prep will have their reward on Monday, 30 March which will be water play activities.

**Student Council Badges**

Badges will be presented to Student Council Class Representatives for Year 4 and 5 at tomorrow’s parade. These are students selected by their teacher and classmates to represent their class on the Student Council. Some wonderful events have been planned by the Student Council during the year to benefit the students of BRSS.

**School Cross Country**

Our school cross country will take place next Wednesday, 1 April starting at 11:50 a.m. for Juniors at McPherson Park. Preps will compete on the same day as the rest of our school. The order of races will be as follows:

- 7 yrs Boys/Girls (2008)
- 6 yrs Boys/Girls (2009)
- Prep 5 yrs Boys/Girls (2010)
- Prep 6 yrs Boys/Girls (2009)

Seniors will start at 1:40 p.m. at McPherson Park in the following the following order:

- 8yrs Boys/Girls (2007)
- 9 yrs Boys/Girls 20060
- 10 yrs Boys/Girls (2005)
- 12 yrs Boys/Girls (2003)

Presentations will take place at approximately 2:30 p.m.

**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 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.

[Research](www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/) shows that higher rates of attendance at school are related to higher achievement.

**Parent Enquiries**

I strongly urge parents with some key issues about student learning, student behaviour, excursions, sports, school/class activities and learning enquiries to address these to the Principal or the classroom teacher concerned. We would like to think that our open door policy is such that parents are welcome at any time to discuss any issues that is concerning them. If parents are at all worried with speaking to the classroom teacher, then please make an appointment to speak with Ben our Deputy Principal or with the Principal. Make an appointment via phone or email. If it is a private or sensitive issue, ask to speak directly to the Principal. If it is a lost notice or permission slip, please ring through to our school office and we will only be too happy to answer your questions. We value your input and your communication after all it is your child's learning and welfare that is our number one concern.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday.

Best wishes for the future.

Mai Lupo
Principal (for a few more days)

**Deputy Principal's Column**

**Watch over our school during the holidays**

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school.

If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88 or the Police.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queenslandschools. This year vandalism has cost our school dearly. It has made our school a less inviting place for our students and staff and has set a bad example for the children.
If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police deal with it. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer Bracken Ridge State School community!

If you would like to know more about the School Watch Program, please call Education Queensland’s School Security Section on 07 3237 0874.

Parking Before and After School
I would again like to convey thanks to the majority of our parents and families who continue to ensure the safety of our students through observing speed and parking signage around the school, especially at drop off and pick up time.

Unfortunately there has been a couple of instances where parents or family members picking children up are not adhering to signage and thus are putting their children and others at risk due to the speeds they are travelling or where they are parking. There has also been more than one instance of drivers not adhering to directions of our Crossing Supervisors which certainly puts at a heightened risk the Crossing Supervisors as well as people crossing the road.

I would particularly like to encourage all parents to take extra care when parking around our crossings and nearby the school, as this is where there is a high volume of children crossing and walking or riding.

With extra care and vigilance around these areas as well as with the help from our Crossing Supervisors, this should help minimise any risk of injury or a more serious accident.

Ultimately we want to ensure the safety of all children as well as parents and families, especially during the busy times of pick up and drop off. Everyone has a part to play, whether it’s crossing the road in the right place, wearing helmets, dropping off and parking in the right areas or adhering to the speed limits.

Tips for the best possibly start to the school day
Research has revealed that up to one in five Aussie kids skip breakfast. So how do we address this alarming trend? A greater understanding of why breakfast is important for children (and adults alike) may help promote better nutrition and health outcomes for all.

Breakfast is important for kids because it can help them:
• meet their daily nutritional needs, including the required intake of vitamins and minerals, that are essential for growing bones and muscles,
• improve their attention span and academic performance in the classroom,
• improve their behaviour at school because their tummies are satisfied, and
• keep their weight under control and their blood cholesterol and glucose levels in check.

Most families are pressed for time early in the morning, with parents and kids scrambling to get ready for work and school and other commitments. This shouldn’t mean breakfast is sacrificed in the rush.
Suggestions for nutritious breakfasts include:
• cereals topped with fruit and milk,
• toast with peanut butter, honey, marmalade, Vegemite or jam,
• a boiled or poached egg and toast,
• a fruit-filled breakfast bar and yogurt,
• fruit and yogurt or a fruit smoothie, or
• a bowl of porridge with sultanas"

I encourage all parents to insist that their children eat a nutritious breakfast before coming to school.

National Anti-Bullying Day & Harmony Day 2015

National Anti-Bullying Day and Harmony Day were celebrated last Friday 20th of March.

The National Day Against Bullying provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying. No Way! and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

Harmony Day celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity.

The continuing message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. It’s about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This gives everyone opportunity to share with others the importance of diversity in a workplace, school and community through action, performance, fashion and food.

We held a special whole school assembly to acknowledge and celebrate Anti-Bullying & Harmony Day and students dressed in orange as a show of support.

During the assembly the messages were very clear and focused around the importance of kindness and acceptance, rather than bullying intolerance. The role of the bystander was also a key part of the anti-bullying focus. The message was:- A bystander is someone who sees or knows that bullying is happening. If someone you know is being bullied they need your help. Others respect you if you stand up for someone who is being bullied.

It was a great assembly, well received by all who attended and thank-you to Miss Reynolds, 6B and a few class members of 6A for the beautiful song they sang featuring the anti-bullying message.

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>

**Holiday Message**

As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and community members for their support. As I’ve mentioned previously, the school not only enjoys support from parents and the community but also from a number of local businesses and community organisations.

On behalf of all staff and students, I would like to say thank you. I hope everybody has a very safe and enjoyable Easter Break and we look forward to building on the momentum of Term 1 next Term.

Thank you and I look forward to sharing more next Term.

Thank you and I look forward to sharing more next Term.

Ben Laws.

**INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY**

The Inter-House Cross Country is being held on Wednesday 1 April for students in Years P-6. Parents are most welcome to come and join us at the Cross Country and cheer on our competitors.

A copy of the program has been included below for your information, we do remind parents that the times indicated are approximate only.

All children in Years P-6 will participate in the Cross Country running in a variety of distances appropriate to their age group. We once again remind all students and parents that children will be running in their “Age Group” (i.e. all boys born in 2005 will run against each other in the same event, all girls born in 2005 will run against each
other in the same event etc. The only exception to this rule is Prep. Prep children will run as two age groups Prep 5 yrs (2010) and Prep 6 yrs (2009). The children have been developing their fitness and practising their running as part of the “Smart Moves” program throughout Term 1 and can participate in a variety of ways. They can choose to race competitively, try to beat a friend, or attempt to meet a personal goal (eg. make the entire distance without walking more than 30 seconds etc.). In line with Athletics, maximum participation is encouraged with points being awarded to all children who participate, therefore the House that wins the Inter-House Cross Country trophy will be the House that exhibits the best team performance, not the House that has only one or two fast runners.

Our younger students will be walked around the course in the days before the carnival so that they can become familiar with their course.

Students are reminded if they are an Asthma sufferer and self administer their medication that they are to bring their medication with them. Parents please assist us by reminding your child about this requirement. Students have also been advised to take a large water bottle with them so that they can have a drink after they have finished their event.

Bracken Ridge State School
Cross Country Wednesday --- 1 April 2015

Morning Program

10:50am Children in Years P-2 have Year of Birth written on back of hand.


11.55am Official welcome by Mr Lupo

12.00pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 yrs Boys/Girls</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>500m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>500m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep 5yrs Boys &amp; Girls</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>500m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep 6yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>500m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.50pm Presentation of Age Medallions, pack up and return to school.

Afternoon Session

12.45pm Children in Years 3-6 have Year of Birth written on back of hand.
1.20pm Bell Sounds Students in Years 3-6 (including 2007 Year 2’s) Assemble at back gate in House Groups.

1.30pm Children in Yr 3-6 Assemble at McPherson Park in House Areas.

1.35pm Official welcome by Mr Lupo

1.40pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12yrs Boys/Girls</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2000m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.30pm Arrival of Lower School and Presentation of Age Medallions, House Trophy, pack up and return to school.

**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](http://www.sucamps.org.au).

**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 your child 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 your child.

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

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.

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**THE “CARS” RACE!**

THE “CARS” RACE IS EXCITING. THE PURPLE CAR (YEAR 5) IS FIGHTING BACK WITH A LOT OF RENEWED ENERGY AND IS QUICKLY CATCHING UP TO EVERYONE. IT IS NOW NECK AND NECK WITH THE GREEN (YEAR 1) AND BLUE (YEAR 2) CARS. STILL A LONG WAY TO GO TO THE FINISH LINE!

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.

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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 regarding Brisbane North Physie, please see attached. [Physie.doc](#)

For information regarding Zumba Brisbane North, please see attached. [Zumba.doc](#)

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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.

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**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