FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The P&C meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Staffroom at 6.00pm

Volume 15
Principal’s Report

10 September 2013

Dear Parents,

Every minute of every day counts - Did you realise that arriving just fifteen minutes late each day adds up to missing two and a half school days in a term? It is in those first fifteen minutes that the program for the day is established with the students, and students organise themselves for their learning. Our “get ready for learning” bell is at 8.45am and it is at this time the non-instructional duties of the day are undertaken ready for uninterrupted instructional/learning time.

Whole day absences must also be kept to a minimum. Under Queensland law, parents and caregivers must send children to school every school day unless there is an acceptable reason such as: illness, doing work experience or competing in school sporting events.

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must let the school know why the absence has occurred within two school days of their return. If possible, it is best to advise the school beforehand. Avoid keeping your child away from school for reasons such as: birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care, such as hair-cuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Establishing good routines around school can assist with regular school attendance. These include: have a set time to go to bed, have a set time to get out of bed, have uniform and school bag ready the night before, have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast, set a time for daily homework activities, speak about school positively, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term from Prep.

If you are experiencing difficulty in sending your child to school, contact the school for advice and support.

High School Placement Offers - Our local high schools are currently finalising placements for Year 7 (Bray Park SHS) and Year 8. If you have enrolment forms for either of the high schools, please return them as soon as possible. Enrolment packs are still available from the Administration Office at the high schools. Parents wanting to enrol students for Year 7 at Bray Park SHS are advised to complete and return enrolment forms as places are rapidly filling.
**Prep Enrolments** - With only two weeks remaining in the term, I am keen to have as many Prep students enrolled ready for Pre-Prep next term. If you have not returned your enrolment form as yet, please contact the Office to make an appointment for an interview and enrolment forms can be finalised at the time of the interview. If you know of parents with Prep aged children, please encourage them to enrol here at Bray Park State School before the end of term so the children can experience Pre-Prep throughout Term 4.

**Support for our P&C** - Many thanks to all of the parents, students and staff who helped out at the election sausage sizzle. Your continued support is needed in rebuilding our school and community engagement. The next P&C meeting is Wednesday 11 September at 6.00pm in the staffroom. We welcome new members and love to have your input into school activities.

Thank you to Melissa Searle for joining the Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support Team as our parent representative. Melissa contacted Australia Zoo and set up adopting a koala from the zoo’s hospital and the zoo has agreed to name the koala Sarara. Last Tuesday, Phil O’Hanlon from Australia Zoo spoke on assembly about the work of the zoo’s hospital and our Student Council presented Phil with a donation of $350 to support the work of the zoo. All funds raised at last week’s Crazy Hair Day will go toward the adoption of Sarara.

Have a great week.

**Maree Mortlock**
**Principal**

**WARNER VILLAGE - MY SCHOOL RULE COMPETITION**

Warner Village is running a competition for primary schools in the local area to share in a prize pool of $8 000. Each school will have its own entry barrel located near Woolworths at Warner Village. Parents and friends of our school need to shop at Warner Village and they will receive a voucher for every $10.00 they spend. The vouchers will need to be placed in the school’s barrel. The more times parents visit the centre the more chances they get to support our school. The school with the most points vouchers per number of students in the school will win the first prize. So shop at Warner Village and gather points for our school.

**LATE SLIPS**

If your child arrives to school after the 8.50am bell, they are required to report to the office for a Late Slip. Please remind children that they need to go to the window across the front of the office for the Late Slip. Lately many children have been coming in the main office door and at times lately there has been up to 8 children in this area. This causes a lot of congestion in this area and makes it difficult for visitors to the school to access the office.

**BOOK WEEK**

The Library would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the school community for supporting our Book Week activities this year. Dress-up day was a lot of fun.

We had a terrific Book Fair and sold over $2000 worth of books. That means we gained over $600 worth of books in commission. Mrs Butterworth will be very busy getting them ready for borrowing over the next few weeks.

The competitions were well supported and the prize winners were:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Colouring Competition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep &amp; Yr 1</td>
<td>Seline Spann 1A</td>
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<td>Brock O’Rourke PB</td>
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<td>Year 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Sarah Blaikie 3C</td>
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<td>Holly May 2A</td>
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<td>Year 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Daniel Smith 5B</td>
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<td>Abbey Sumner 4C</td>
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<td>Year 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Jazmin Wilson 6A</td>
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<td>Kasey Hunt 6A</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acrostic Poetry Competition</th>
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<td>Prep &amp; Yr 1</td>
<td>Prep 2 Class Entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Tavana Myava’a-Savage 2A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chantelle Debnam 3C</td>
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<td>Year 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Megan Hicks 4B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vaishnavi Dalvi 5B</td>
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Premier's Reading Challenge - The reading challenge finished on Friday 6th September. Please make sure you have your reading record sheet returned to either your class teacher or the library by the end of the week.

End of Term Returns - Please have a good look around at home and in the classrooms for any library books that may have been misplaced this term. We gratefully accept them back in the library.

Thank You - Thank you to the Griffiths family for the generous donation of a sofa. We now have quite a collection of comfy seating in the library!

**GET YOUR HOT HOT POPCORN!!!**
The Student Council are holding a popcorn day on the last day of Term Friday, 20th September. The cost will be $1 a bag. The natural popcorn (no salt, oil or flavourings added) will be sold in sandwich size bags. Student leaders will visit each classroom in the first session to sell the popcorn. All money raised from this event will go to the Australia Zoo Animal Hospital.

**MUSIC NEWS**
Instrumental music recruitment has started for 2014. If your child is in year 2, 3 or 4, they will have recently participated in a listening skills test in their music lesson. Children who do well on that test will be offered the chance to audition for a place in our school instrumental program next year. Early next term our instrumental music teachers will test children for suitability on different instruments and a formal offer for a place in the program will be made. If you would like your child to be considered in the program, please come and talk to me.

On Thursday afternoon our concert band and string ensemble are hosting a "Meet the Instrument" concert for our Junior students - if you would like to attend to check out particular instruments you are more than welcome.

**Ally Gray**
Music Teacher

**CHAPPY’S CHAT**
I’d just like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who came along to support our chaplaincy program at the Trivia Night on Saturday 31st August. It was great to see so many staff, parents and students there. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise **$1491.65**!

I’d also like to acknowledge the local businesses who donated prizes: Samantha’s Hair Design, Lawnton / Lynette Dzian Remedial Massage, Warner / All Things Sweet Bakery, Lawnton / Strathpine Hyperbowl / House and Garden, Strathpine / De Sorella Hair and Beauty, Lawnton / Strathpine Florist Flowers and Gifts / Noodle Box Strathpine / Warner Tavern / TMH Salon Bray Park / Bazza’s Bakehouse Bray Park.

Your child may have also received a flyer about a school holiday program called SHACK happening in the first week of the school holidays. Our chaplaincy service is teaming up with Rivers Baptist Church to run a holiday program for kids in years 3-6. If you’re interested in this program you can find more information at [http://www.sucamps.org.au/shack](http://www.sucamps.org.au/shack)

Chappy ☺

**STUDENT BANKING**
There are some changes occurring to the Commonwealth Bank’s student banking processes for 2014. The token system will become electronic from next year. This means that all current tokens that students have must be redeemed this year, with a maximum of only 9 tokens able to be carried over to the new system in 2014. Also, the Dollarmite moneyboxes will no longer be available in 2014. If you would like to receive a moneybox you will need to use your tokens for this during 2013. Previously the bank only allowed for one moneybox per student. As the moneyboxes are being discontinued, the bank is allowing students to claim more than one if they wish. The current prizes available are Calculator, Wallet, Torch, Knuckles Game, Handball and moneyboxes.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Positive Parenting for Mums, Dads and Couples**
Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre is holding a Positive Parenting for Mums, Dads and Couples training. Join Ross Adams (Family Therapist) and other parents in a relaxed, friendly, safe and confidential space to explore and develop positive parenting and communication skills within the relationships you have with your children and teenagers. Topics covered are; Building love and respect in the family, Understanding children’s behaviour, Setting firm boundaries and follow through, Fostering positive self esteem, Positive role modelling & problem solving techniques, Dealing with overload or stressful situation and much more! The course will be held on the 16 October - 13 November 2013, on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm until 9.00pm. It will be held at Undurba State School Community Hall, Ogg Rd Murrumba Downs. It costs $25.00 per person and $40.00 per couple for the entire course. For more information please contact the Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre on 3889 0063 or visit [www.prnc.org.au](http://www.prnc.org.au)

**‘Looking In Looking Out' training**
The 'Looking In Looking Out' training is a 6 week group for parents and carers who are interested in exploring ideas around self esteem and ways to make changes towards having a healthier self esteem. This is a craft-based group. The aim of this group is to provide a safe and creative environment for people to explore and understand their self esteem covering such topics that include; What is self esteem, Where do we get our self esteem from, Ways you can increase your self esteem, Assertiveness and How to maintain a healthy self esteem. It will be held on the 16 October - 20 November 2013, on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am coffee for a 10am start until 12.30pm. The course will be held at Undurba State School Community Hall, Ogg Rd Murrumba Downs. It costs $5.00 concession and $10.00 non concession and includes morning tea for entire course. Child minding available on request.
IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FINCARE $$$ - Whilst doing Tax returns over the past 5 years we have noticed that many people don’t know about their ability to claim the Education tax refund for 2009, 2010 and 2011. This is still available to about 25% of Parents, MAYBE YOU!! Do you think you could make good use of up to $2500 [Average] BEFORE CHRISTMAS? The Caregiver needs to be in Receipt of FAMILY TAX BENEFIT PART "A". For information call 1300 694 531.

A fun activity for the family this weekend

Brisbane City Council is hosting a physical choose your own adventure story around the Brisbane CBD and South Bank using QR codes. It’s free and you can win prizes! Rather than reading the Choose Your Own Adventure in printed book form, our project will be placing QR codes around Brisbane city and South Bank that you can scan with your smart phone. Then once you read the next part of the adventure you can choose from several options to continue your story. Each new part of the story takes place in the location of the QR code, showcasing Brisbane landmarks in a whole new way!

The adventure will start from a single point in Reddadcliff Place (opposite Queen Street Mall) starting on the first day of the Brisbane Writers’ Festival (4 September to the 15 of September 2013) and then branch off into three separate stories. Will you choose become the apprentice of death, the sidekick of a rather dim Hero or fight off a zombie invasion?

Suitable for younger families with parental supervision.
- Zombie branch recommended reading age: M 15+.
- Hero branch recommended reading age: G.
- Death’s Apprentice branch recommended reading age: PG

Go to www.streetreads.com for more information.

Reading Comprehension Strategy

Self-Monitoring

Self-monitoring is knowing when what you are reading makes sense and when it does not. It is when you are mentally interacting with what you are reading.

For students to be self-monitoring:
1. They need to be aware of what they do understand.
2. They need to identify what they do not understand.
3. They need to use appropriate strategies to “fix up” the problems in comprehension.

There are several self-monitoring strategies for students to use. They include:
- Identifying where the difficulty occurs
  What part of the selection didn’t I understand?
  What word or words confused me or were unfamiliar?
  What didn’t make sense to me?
- Restating the difficult sentence or passage in their own words
  What do you think they are trying to say?
- Looking back through the text
  Did the author mention this before?
  What did he say about it?
- Looking forward in the text for information that might help them to resolve the difficulty
  Are there any charts or graphics that might help?
  Oh, the next section tells me more about that, I need to read on.

The three main prompts to use when reading to encourage self-monitoring are:
- Does that make sense?
- Does that sound right? (Does it sound right for how it would be said in the English language?)
- Does that look right? (Does what I read look right for what is actually written on the page?)

Self-monitoring is being aware of your own thinking when you read.

A really important part of self-monitoring is knowing when you have stopped understanding what you have read. It may be that you are not sure of what a word, sentence or even a paragraph means.

If you can recognise when this happens, you can use a strategy such as rereading to fix it.