Principal’s Report

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to all students, parents, staff and volunteer helpers to the commencement of the 2014 school year. A special welcome to all of our new families, staff and students who have relocated to our wonderful school. I know you will enjoy your time here at Bray Park State School.

Parking

Parking is always an issue at the busy ‘drop off and pick up’ times. Please be patient and safety aware whilst dropping off and collecting children in and around the school grounds. The area along Hopetoun Street is a two-minute drop off and pick up zone. The Administrative Car Park in Hopetoun Street is a staff only area but houses one Disabled space and an Emergency Vehicles bay. Please avoid this car park area. Further parking for parents with students with a disability is available off Sparkes Road. Parents must display the 2014 parking permit issued by the Office. Our local Police Beat Officers regularly patrol the areas in and around our school to ensure the safety of our students.

School Uniform

As it is the commencement of a new school year, it is timely to remind parents of our School Uniform Policy. The school uniform comprises our Bray Park State School polo shirt, black shorts or skort, white socks and black shoes. Shorts must be mid-thigh to knee length. Denim shorts or jeans are not acceptable. A broad brim black hat is required for all outdoor activities. Plain sleepers or studs are permitted for pierced ears and a simple watch may be worn. For reasons of safety, other jewellery items are not permitted. Make-up is not permitted. The wearing of our school uniform creates a sense of community where we all feel that we belong. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform each day. Please see the insert for images of our correct school uniform.

Every Day Matters

A very important message for the beginning of the year – every minute of every school day matters. It is so vital we have students here on time every day that they are well enough to attend. Something special occurs in every classroom every day. As much as your child would like to tell you at times that they learnt “nothing” today, that simply doesn’t happen. Every day teachers are expecting learning to occur and we are expecting your child to be here every day to be a part of that learning.
**Believe, Achieve, Succeed**
I am a firm believer in children working towards, and achieving, their full potential. Research tells us that here at school our teachers contribute 40% to student achievement and 10% can be attributed to school, peers and Principal. By far the largest impact, 50%, on student achievement is the influence from the family. The value you place on your child’s education is paramount in determining his or her success. Our school motto, Believe, Achieve, Succeed flows into the home – if you Believe that your child can Achieve, then they will Succeed. Talk to your child about what they have been doing at school. Show an interest in their homework tasks. Always speak positively about school subjects (even if you didn’t like a particular subject!).

**Day 8**
Day 8, which is Thursday 6 February, is the day in which our final staffing will be determined based on our enrolments on that day. If you know of any family that has moved to the area and has not enrolled, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Classes will remain in the current formation until Day 8 when we can assess class sizes and make more informed decisions. With most classes currently at maximum capacity, there is no room for movement across classes and therefore requests for movement are unable to be met at this point in time. Parent information evenings will be scheduled after Day 8.

**School Facilities**
We wish to advise that the following school blocks will be painted externally over the next two months; Administration, C, D, E, F and Tuckshop. Work Health & Safety guidelines will be strictly adhered to with safety fencing to be erected around the perimeter of each building, and teacher/student and parents will have uninterrupted access to the classrooms. We realise the timing of these activities is unfortunate and should not interfere with teaching activities. Should any parent have any concerns can there please contact our Business Service Manager, Mr Keith King.

I look forward to working with you and your child throughout 2014.

Have a great week.
Maree Mortlock
Principal

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**P&C NEWS**

**Tuckshop** - A reminder that the tuckshop is open at first break only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. First day for tuckshop will be tomorrow **Wednesday 29th January**. Donations of the following would be greatly appreciated – ritz biscuits, tinned pineapple pieces, tuna, jelly crystals, dishwashing liquid, brown paper lunch bags and paper kitchen towel. As the year starts please remember that some menu items may not yet be available as deliveries will be occurring throughout this week.

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**Uniforms**
Last year an online ordering option was made available for the purchase of uniforms. School uniforms can be ordered online via [www.schoolshoponline](http://www.schoolshoponline). The web link is available via the school web page [www.brayparkss.eq.edu.au](http://www.brayparkss.eq.edu.au) Orders are then processed and either delivered to the child’s class or to the Admin staff for collection by parent/carer. Orders can still be left with the Admin staff but will only be processed on Mon/Weds and Fri. As the new school year starts some delays may occur as the Admin staff tends to other matters, so we ask for your understanding and patience at these times.

**Bookshop**
For those still requiring booklist items, these are available from our local supplier ‘My School Gear’. Orders can be placed via [www.myschoolgear.net.au](http://www.myschoolgear.net.au) or alternatively please phone Russell on 3881 3100 and he will advise you of stock availability and prices. The link is also available via the school web page or paper copies of the booklists are available from the Admin office.

**Volunteers**
The P&C is involved with various fundraising activities throughout the school year and is always looking for helpers to assist. It’s the help and commitment from the parents and carers within our school community that makes it all possible so please let the office know if you are able to assist in any way - big or small. Without enough support some activities may not be able to go ahead.

**P&C General Meeting**
The February P&C meeting will be held in the staffroom on Wednesday the 12th of February at 6pm. This will be the first meeting for the year. Please come along and support the work of the P&C. New and old members always welcome.

**P&C AGM**
The AGM will be held in the staffroom on Wednesday the 12th of March at 6.00pm. The P&C Executive Committee positions will become vacant at the AGM so if you are interested in an Executive position on the P&C please obtain a nomination form from the Admin office.

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**STUDENT ABSENCES**
Parents and Carers are requested to phone the Student Absence Line on 07 3480 7633, to advise the Office if your child is going to be away from school. Messages can be left on this service at any time, 24hrs. We have begun generating letters to parents and carers for all unexplained absences from school. Thank you to everyone who has returned these to the Office. This assists us greatly with ensuring all our records for your child are correct. Thank you for your cooperation.
MUSIC IN 2014
Welcome back everybody! 2014 is shaping up to be another great year for our music program.

Instrumental Music - Mr Lanham and Ms Cahill will be at our school on Thursdays (Mr Lanham) and Fridays (Ms Cahill). On those days they will run ensemble practice and teach instrumental lessons with small groups of children. Instrumental invoices and loan forms will be sent home this week. Please return these as soon as possible. If you would prefer to set up a payment plan please contact Mr King in the school office to sort out details. Instrumental lessons will start in week 2.

Choirs - We will again be running a junior and senior choir in 2014. Choir rehearsals are going to be held in the music room before school – lunchtime rehearsals just don’t give us enough time. Junior choir (prep – 3) will be held on Tuesday mornings at 8 am, and Senior Choir (4-7) will be held on Wednesday mornings at 7:45 am. Both choirs are open to any child who wants to sing.

Ally Gray
Music Teacher

UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS
The New Year is a perfect time to ensure all personal details are current with the school. If any of your details have changed, please advise the Office of these as soon as possible. It is essential that we have telephone contacts for all parents/carers and also emergency contacts numbers for every student at our school.

SCHOOL BANKING
The Commonwealth Bank are still testing their new school system so, hopefully student banking can commence in Week 3. For any students who would like to participate in student banking and you don’t already have a CBA account, just visit your local branch with a copy of your birth certificate to open an account. There are great prizes to claim each term for every 10 deposits you make into your account. Our student banking day will be THURSDAY so please bring your bank books to the Office on Thursday mornings. For Prep students you can give your bank books to your teacher, and they will be brought over to the Office for you.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
From time to time, students require medication to be administered during school hours. The Department of Education and Training has a strict requirement for all medication brought to school, to be accompanied by a signed “Request to Administer Medication at School” form. This form MUST be signed by a Parent/Carer and the student’s Treating Doctor to enable the medication to be administered at school. Staff cannot administer medication to your child without this form. This is a safety measure to protect students and ensure that the correct medication is administered.

A “Request to Administer Medication at School” form can be collected from the school office or downloaded from the school website (www.brayparkss.eq.edu.au). To find the form on our website, go to Our School/Rules and Policies/Request to Administer Medication.pdf

All medication must be in the original packaging, labelled with your child’s name and required dosage. It will be stored securely in the Resource Room and administered there. Please don’t hesitate to contact the Office if you have queries regarding this procedure.

SCHOOL PAYMENTS
In previous years we have operated the payment window, (on the school side of A Block) however this is no longer in use now. Could all payments please be brought into the office and placed in the appropriate post box.

Please ensure all payments are sealed in an envelope or zip lock bag to ensure no coins go astray. Please mark the envelope/bag with your student’s name, class and type of payment.

Payments will be processed on Monday’s, Wednesday’s and Friday’s, and receipts returned to class teachers to distribute to students. The Office often does not have a lot of change in the mornings so please where you can, provide the correct money. Change of greater than $5.00 will not be sent back to classrooms, this will need to be collected from the office please. Thank you for your assistance.