FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The next GENERAL meeting of the P&C will be held on Wednesday, 11 February 2015 at 6:00pm.

Volume 1
Principal's Report

27 January 2015

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to all students, parents, staff and volunteer helpers to the commencement of the 2015 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.

Class lists
Day 8, which is Thursday 5 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 or over 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. It is not school policy for parents to request a class teacher for their child. Parent information evenings will be scheduled after Day 8.

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 skirt, 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.

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.

Change to play breaks
This term we will be trialling a change to play breaks where students will play first then have eating time. Our timetable will have “healthy” snack at approximately 10.00am then play at 11.00am. Eating time will commence at 11.25am. With students eager to get out to play after two hours in class, the change should see more students finish their food instead of rushing off to play. The same routine will apply at second break.

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PO Box 181, Lawnton QLD 4501
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Fax: (07) 3480 7500
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Website: www.brayparkss.eq.edu.au

Great state. Great opportunity.
**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!).

**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 2015 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.

I look forward to working with you and your child throughout 2015.

Have a great week.
Maree Mortlock, Principal

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

Welcome back for another year of exciting reading adventures! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break.

A few housekeeping items to get us started for the year.

- Please return any library books or home readers that you may have found over the holidays. We have about 200 items still outstanding from 2014! We will hold an amnesty on fines for these books. We really would like them to be returned.

- Borrowing for students in years 1 to 6 will begin in week 3. Prep will start borrowing closer to the Easter holidays.

- All classes have a weekly borrowing time, so please check with your classroom teacher to find out when it is.

- EVERY student requires a library bag to transport books to and from school. This bag can be an old pillow slip, a plastic shopping bag, a plastic pocket folder, a book bag purchased on the book list or any other bag that will protect our library books from harm. NO BAG = NO BOOK

- Loans are for two weeks at a time and overdue notices are issued to classrooms on a weekly basis.

- Lost or damaged books will incur a $10 replacement fee.

We look forward to many great reading moments with the students this year.

Ms Moritz and Mrs Butterworth

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**SARARA SAYS......**

Well g’day my little lovelies, it’s back to school today, I can’t wait to see you all as you work and play. I’ve missed you in the playground, from high up in my tree, (So if you see me snoozing, be sure to wave at me!)

Now as you all know, I have a job at school, I’m your special mascot, to remind you of the rules. The first ‘rule of the week’, is one that makes school great, So be sure you follow it, starting from this date.

To be a responsible student, there are class rules to know, From how you speak to others, taking turns to have a go. The routines that you follow and where you put your books, The way you move around, from desks to learning nooks.

Our classrooms are learning places, where happiness must be found, So take the time to know the rules, and share them all around. When everyone is responsible, and rules are followed through, Our school becomes a great place, for not just me but you!

And when you leave the classroom, follow routines well, Like when you use the toilets (with a reminder from the bell). Be responsible as you toilet, wash your hands with care, Then move to have a drink, to the bubblers that we share.

Be careful with water, don’t spray it far or near, For people may slip and fall, and land upon their rear! They may bang their head on concrete, and suffer dreadful pain, So the very best thing to do – is simply to refrain!

So be responsible every day, in the classroom and outdoors too, Let’s make Bray Park a great school, for our families, me and you. It’s great to have you back, enjoy your learning place, And I’ll look forward to sharing more in this little space.

Until next time
Toodle –loo from me to you.

**Sarara**

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**DSTA NEWS**

It’s great to be able to start the year with a big “Congratulations” to six of our Defence students. Last September the DCO magazine “Defence Family Matters” held an art competition for children aged 8 and under. They were asked to draw their favourite place.

Six of our students were chosen to have their artwork published in the magazine’s December issue. The article said, “The response was impressive - what a bunch of talented kids we have in our Defence Community! We had so many submissions we can’t publish them all here, so we’ve picked our favourites.....”

Those students whose artwork was published in the magazine are: Caleb Callaway, Jacob Callaway, Makayla Battle, Alexander Weigold, Lexie White and Kirsten Hicks. Congratulations again!

Mrs Catherine Hicks
Defence School Transition Aide
P.E. NEWS
Hi all and welcome to the first term of 2015. I hope that the first week of lunch making and getting to school is relatively easy for you all!

Just quickly wanted to introduce myself, my name is Mel Riley and I am looking forward to working with the students in P.E. in Term 1. I have come across from Petrie State School where I have been teaching P.E. for the last 18 months. Hopefully over the next 10 weeks I will have an opportunity to get to know the school families as much as possible.

Apart from Gala Day, our biggest sporting event, this term will be Cross Country. I hear from Mr Flannery that Bray Park State School really enjoys sport participation. In order to prepare for this event we will be having a running club each Tuesday morning from 8.15am from Week 2. This will allow all fitness levels and skills to increase. I am looking forward to a great term.

Yours in Fitness and Sport
Ms Mel Riley
PE Teacher

STUDENT DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM
The Dental Van will remain here at Bray Park until approximately mid Term 1, 2015. For parents of new students to the school, if you would like your child/ren to attend the Dental Van, please see the Office for a Medical Consent Form. Each child requires their own form. Dental Staff will communicate with parents/carers once an appointment time has been set for your student/s. Parents and carers are requested to contact the Oral Health Program staff on 0408 779 592 if you need to cancel or reschedule your child’s appointment.

UNIFORMS
Uniforms can be purchased from the school Office on any day between 8.30am – 3.00pm. These can be paid for via cash or EFTPOS/Credit Card. Orders can also be placed online via our school website www.brayparkss.eq.edu.au at any time. For online orders we will contact you via phone when ready for collection.

CLOTHING DONATIONS FOR SICK BAY
Stop, stop, stop!!! Don’t throw away those old uniforms that look a bit faded or are now too small. We want them!!! 😊

Any second hand uniforms are greatly accepted for our school sick bay. They are regularly needed for those little accidents and emergencies that occur during the day. Please bring any wearable uniforms to the Office that you are happy to donate. Thank you!

PAYMENT DATES TO REMEMBER
Senior Shirts - Final orders and payments must be received by Friday 30/1/2015. For students who ordered shirts last year and paid only the deposit, the full balance payment is required by Friday 30/1/2015 or unfortunately your shirts cannot be included in the order.

Year 6 Camp – Final payments are required by Friday 6/2/15 for all students attending camp this year.

STUDENT ABSENCES
If your child is absent from school please phone the Student Absentee Line – 07 3480 7366 and leave a message with your child’s name and class, and a reason for their absence.

At present the ‘Register Absences’ function via the school website is not working, we are unable to access the emails at the moment that are generated from this when a absense is entered. The link is still on the website, as it cannot be removed, however if parents could please not use this function for the time being and please phone the Absentee Line or drop into the office if you need to advise of our child being absent.

We will advise everyone once that website function is able to be used again. Thank you for your cooperation.

VACANCY – SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS
Casual positions exist for School Crossing Supervisors at multiple schools throughout the region. Please tell neighbours, friends and family of these positions available. Please help us to help our students.

School Crossing Supervisor positions are for up to 5 days per week on a roster. Remuneration $27.49 per hour.

Please Contact the Brisbane North Road Safety Office for more information on Phone: 3863 9873, or email to Email: zillmere_road_safety@tmr.qld.gov.au

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS
The beginning of a new year is a good time to update your contact details with the School. It is essential that we have current contact details for parents and carers of every student at our school. It is also important to provide an alternative emergency contact in the event that you are unable to be be reached quickly.

Please come into the office and complete a ‘New Details Form’ or email new details to office@brayparkss.eq.edu.au

USE OF BUS ZONE & PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
Parents and transport providers including external minibus drivers are, to be reminded to follow bus parking regulations to ensure children’s safety around school drop-off and pick-up zones.

Cyclists on zebra and children’s crossings: From 1 January 2015, a cyclist will be able to ride across a zebra or children’s crossing as long as they come to a complete stop before doing so. They will then have to proceed slowly and safely, give way to any pedestrians on the crossing and keep to the left of any oncoming cyclists and people using personal mobility devices. This change will complement the ability of cyclists to ride on footpaths in Queensland. It will also make the rules for cyclists on crossings more consistent for the benefit of all road users and will speed up the journey for cyclists.
Tuckshop — A reminder that the tuckshop is open only on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at first break. As this is the first week back please note that some food items may not be available as we await deliveries from suppliers. Students will be advised of this at the time of ordering and given the option to order something else.

Two of our current volunteers in the tuckshop Dave and Diane, have very kindly agreed to help in the tuckshop for the next week or two as the P&C goes through the process of hiring a new tuckshop convenor. Please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time to help out in the tuckshop. Without regular volunteers the tuckshop cannot run as effectively as needed so please seriously consider volunteering an hour or two of your time to assist where you can. It doesn’t have to be every day or every week. With enough volunteers to form a regular roster your help may only be needed once a fortnight. Please leave your name and contact details at the office if you are able to help out.

Remember, the tuckshop operates to benefit the students of the school. Tuckshop volunteer forms are available from Admin and any help you can offer is greatly appreciated. Please return these forms to the school Office.

If you have any enquiries about volunteering please contact Tamara White (P&C President) via pandcmanager@brayparkss.eq.edu.au or alternatively phone the school on 07 3480 7333.

Tuckshop Convenor
(Partially Unpaid Casual Position)
The P&C Association is looking for a highly skilled and motivated person to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of our Tuckshop. The working hours will be 8am to 12 noon (3 hours paid daily plus 1 hour volunteer per day), on a Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

The successful applicant will possess:
• excellent organisational and leadership skills
• a background in food preparation
• ability to support volunteers, to drive an effective and efficient business in accordance with relevant policies and procedures as well as the school’s Workplace Health and Safety practices

Key duties of the Convenor include:
• Creating fresh, healthy and innovative menus that will entice both students and staff
• Ensure consistent recruitment and rostering of volunteers

• Leadership and management of a small team
• Ensuring food safety standards are consistently followed and all WH&S requirements adhered to
• Total stock management and accurate POS operation
• Cost analysis and budgeting
• Maintenance and implementation of all operational and administrative policies and procedures

Terms and Remuneration will be in accordance with the P&C & other Associations Retail Award – State. Employment is subject to a successful Working with Children Check.

Application Kits and Role description are available from:
Bray Park State School
Hope Town Street
Bray Park QLD 4500

Applications for this position close 3pm Friday 6th February 2015

Pink Stumps Day – McGrath Foundation
On the 21st February Bray Park State School is hosting a pink stumps cricket match to raise money for the McGrath Foundation. There will also be food / stalls and entertainment on the day.

BUT THIS IS NOT JUST A NORMAL CRICKET GAME! This is WAR!... STAR WARS to be exact. The Redback Garrison - 501st Legion ...

Darth Vader and the Emperor will be umpiring a cricket match between the Emperors XI and the Death Stars. What a great photo opportunity for the kids (and big kids) to have their photo taken with Storm Troopers whilst raising money for a good cause. Please share this around to any Brisbane friends and if you are interested in holding a stall on the day please contact me ... Tamara White 0402 858 306 or email bpspc@outlook.com

For up-to-date info join the Facebook page via the following link:-
https://www.facebook.com/pinkstumpsbraypark
Online Ordering – Tuckshop
Orders can now be placed online via the following link: https://tuckshop.schoolshoponline.net.au/brayparkss/index.aspx Please take the time to read the instructions (see separate flyer) and contact myself, Evanthia Smith (P&C Vice-President) if you have any further questions. Cut-off time for placing orders is 7:30am which should allow enough time for orders to show up in our system. In the event you encounter any unexpected difficulties please let me know and I would ask for your patience and understanding whilst I sort out the issue. I have been advised that PayPal payments may take up to 2-3 days to filter through so please keep this in mind when making payments this way. The link is also available via the school website www.brayparkss.eq.edu.au

2015 Senior Polo Shirts
Order forms were sent home with students toward the end of last year. If you haven’t already paid in full please do so by Friday 30th January. Order forms have been sent home with the Year 6 students that are new to Bray Park State School. Spare order forms are available at the school office. Sample sizes have been received and Mrs Smith will work with the class teachers to ensure all students try shirts on for correct sizing before firm orders are placed. Please note that the size of the shirt ordered will also allow for growth throughout the year.

Election Day Fundraising BBQ
As you know this Saturday 30th January is Election Day, and the P&C is holding its customary fundraising sausage sizzle. If you are able to assist on the day anywhere between 8am and 3pm it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form and hand it into the Admin Office. Alternatively you can leave your contact details with Admin and the P&C will contact you re: your availability on the day.

Booklists for 2015 – Please contact ‘My School Gear’ on 3881 3100 should you require any school booklist items. A percentage of ALL booklist sales will be donated back to the P&C which in turn benefits the students at our school.

Uniforms for 2015 – Unfortunately, due to an unexpected high demand we have sold out of Size 16 Polo Shirts and will not have more stock available until mid-late May. Alternatively we have in stock a few size ‘S’ in the old style material which may provide an alternative for those requiring a size 16 shirt.

Shop for Labels & Raise Funds – for those purchasing school labels for the new school year the P&C has been given the following fundraiser codes: ‘Stuck On You’ fundraiser code: Brayparkss ‘Bright Star Kids’ fundraiser code: Bray Park State School P&C

When you place the order search for Bray Park State School in the ‘nominate a fundraiser’ section located under the review and pay section. Enter the fundraiser code and 15% of the purchase will be donated to the school.

General Meeting – The first meeting of the P&C for 2015 will be on Wednesday 11th of February at 6pm. We look forward to welcoming you and seeing some new faces at our meetings.

Facebook – ‘Our Parents Page’ – Parents are invited to join the closed group ‘Our Parents Page. This group is only for parents who have children currently attending Bray Park State School. Please note that it is a parent-run page and is a place to get information or ask questions in regards to events happening within the school. The link is www.facebook.com/groups/149345138566500/ or alternatively search FB for ‘Our Parent’s Page’.

Upcoming P&C Fundraising Events
Listed below are some of the possible fundraising activities for this year. As these items are discussed at P&C meetings more information will be forthcoming when events are confirmed. If you have any ideas for fundraising please let the P&C know. We are always open to hearing other people’s ideas.

*Election Day BBQ
*Pink Stumps Day
*Art Show Fundraising Evening (to be confirmed)
*Easter Raffle
*Mother’s Day
*2015/16 Entertainment Book
*Bingo Night
*School Dance
*5c Fundraiser
*Father’s Day
*Family Portrait Fundraiser
*Cookbook
Investigative Learning in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2

Some key goals for children's learning are to promote in them the ability to think laterally and creatively; to be able to self-initiate, to explore the properties and elements of things, to problem solve, to take risks, to think deeply, to construct ideas and meaning, to utilise their own understandings and discover new ones, to become interested in endless possibilities and opportunities and to become increasingly intrinsically motivated to learn, to find out, to try, to have a go and to develop resiliency.

A highly effective way to meet these goals, to engage children in learning and to improve the outcomes from learning, is investigative learning. The investigative learning approach is based on rigorous evidence, research and theory. It is based upon brain research, neuroscience, child development theory and a range of cultural and social influences from family and the wider environment.

Investigative learning places the child at the centre of the curriculum and teaching strategies; it ensures authentic personalised learning. Formal, explicit instruction of academic curriculum areas is used, alongside much more active engagement of children working on their own investigations.

At Bray Park State School we have thoroughly researched investigative learning and have provided training for our teachers in the approach with one of its designers. We will be implementing it in all Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms in 2015. Parents will notice differences in the appearance of the classrooms from the start of the term as the new approach is put in place.

The investigative learning approach is highly structured and linked to the Australian Curriculum. Students will spend time in the mornings engaged in 'Investigations' and then during the remainder of the day they will have formal, explicit teaching in literacy and numeracy which is linked to the learning from the 'Investigations'.

An important aspect of investigative learning is to ensure that children have regular opportunities to construct, to create, to explore and to investigate in purposeful ways. The environment requires a great deal of planning by the teacher and is set up with clear intention and purpose. It is carefully and strategically arranged in ways that foster and develop skills such as problem solving, self-initiating, decision making, deep level thinking, risk taking and constructing meaning. With investigative learning, the nature of what resources are provided and how those resources are set up is extremely important.

If you have any questions about investigative learning please contact your child's class teacher or Sharon Hoisser, Head of Curriculum.
Investigative Learning

Can you help?

Our investigative learning approach in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 requires lots of everyday materials that you may have around your home. This week we are focusing on materials for our sensory learning centres.

We would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items:

- Plain flour
- Baby oil
- Cornflour
- Bicarbonate of soda
- Essential oils
- Shaving cream in a can
- Rice (raw)
- Small jars
- Pinecones
- Polished stones, smooth pebbles
- Gumnuts
- Seedpods
- Fragrant potted plants e.g. lavender, herbs
- Whole spices e.g. coriander seed, star anise

Please drop any items at your child’s classroom or the office. Thank you for your support. Together we can make learning fun, relevant and effective everyday!