

School Leaders' Badge Presentation

Our special assembly for the presentation of badges to 2008 School Leaders was held last Wednesday afternoon. This was an absolutely delightful assembly. Special guest Squadron Leader Phil Parsons attended along with proud parents and family members of the 13 school leaders.

Our ceremony was chaired by Vice School Captains Claudia Leggett and Bradley Saunders. Mrs Kenworthy spoke about the developmental stages children go through as they grow and how from 12 years old they develop knowledge and skills that enable them to be leaders and mentors of others.

Squadron Leader Parsons talked about leadership, the definition of leadership and the characteristics of a good leader. He also talked about his career in the Australian Airforce, his experiences flying F111 aircraft and training other pilots and presented our school with two copies of a book about the Airforce and flying. Squadron Leader Parsons then presented badges to each school leader. This involved congratulating each student and presenting the badge to his/her parents who then pinned the badge on their child.

Our School Captains, Isabella Harrison and William Toft, concluded the assembly with speeches about their roles and goals as leaders at Brookfield State school this year.

The assembly was followed with an afternoon-tea for leaders, their parents and special guest Squadron Leader Parsons. This afternoon-tea was provided by families of our Year 6 students as a way of congratulating our school leaders and wishing them the best for 2008.

A special thankyou to Mrs. Sandra Dara who co-ordinated the afternoon-tea and to all the Year 6 parents who baked



cakes and assisted with the afternoon-tea. One of our school leaders, Kelsey Shaw (Mackellar House Captain) was unable to join us last Wednesday as she was at Chandler Aquatic Centre representing Brookfield SS in the Regional Swimming Carnival. While Kelsey did extremely well in the carnival (see Sports article elsewhere in this newsletter) it was disappointing that she could not be with us. Kelsey was presented with her leadership badge on assembly this morning. Kelsey's parents, Janet and Gary Shaw attended assembly and Mrs Kenworthy congratulated them and presented Kelsey with her leadership badge.

Congratulations to all our school leaders, we look forward to a wonderful year with you supporting all the children at our school.

March P&C Meeting

Our March P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 March. A focus of this P&C meeting will be on providing educational and curriculum information to interested parents and community members. We have invited Mrs. Elizabeth Bullock as guest speaker on the evening. Elizabeth is Curriculum Co-ordinator at Brookfield SS and has worked as an Extension Teacher across all classrooms at our school for a number of years now. Elizabeth will outline how our teachers plan their units of work so that they provide a range of teaching strategies and activities for each individual child in their class. She will explain how we have been working over the past 5 years to ensure our teaching practice is up to date and at the leading edge of current practice. Across our school all teachers are working towards providing the best learning opportunities for each child in their classes.

Mrs. Bullock will present from 7.30pm to 8pm and we will then follow this presentation with our March P&C meeting. If you would like to attend, please complete the RSVP slip included in today's newsletter.

Our P&C Association will include a guest speaker in the agenda once per term. The aim is to provide opportunities for you to learn more about programs and educational initiatives at our school.

Executive Director of Schools Visit

Today, acting Executive Director of Schools Mr. Ross Mackay visited our school. Ross is acting as EDS while Mr Pat Heenan is away working for Education Queensland in Dubai. Ross asked to visit Brookfield SS to discuss with Mrs Kenworthy what we are doing at Brookfield that has resulted in our school being one of Education Queensland's "high performing schools". Ross talked about our school performance data which shows Brookfield performs in the top ten State primary schools in Queensland in student results achieved in the Year 3, 5, 7 Testing program. He noted at Brookfield our students' results are higher than all the local private boys', girls' and co-ed schools in the surrounding area in Year 3 and 5 Tests with only one local co-ed school achieving similar to slightly higher results in the Year 7 Test. Brookfield's results in School Opinion Surveys for 2007 were also extremely high with opinion from staff and parents being significantly higher than "like schools" and the "State" benchmarks.

Ross was very impressed by the work our teachers are doing. He also congratulated our students on their excellent work ethic and outstanding behaviour. He noted that parent support of our school was significantly higher than other schools through volunteer support in the school and financial support given by parents and the P&C Assoc. Congratulations to everyone

involved in our school, you should be very proud of your efforts.

National Young Leaders' Convention

Today twelve of our Year 7 students and Mrs Drew (Yr 6/7) attended the National Young Leaders Convention at the Brisbane Convention Centre at Southbank. Our School Captains and Vice Captains attended along with eight other students who show leadership qualities but were not successful in gaining a formal leadership position this year.

The students met at Indooroopilly Railway Station and caught the train to Southbank where they spent the day listening to a range of guest speakers who talked about their achievements and leadership. The guest speakers came from a variety of backgrounds and can include athletes, physically impaired people, business leaders, etc. Hundreds of schools students attended and the large convention theatre was packed. It was a fabulous experience for our students and we look forward to publishing some of their stories and reflections in next week's newsletter.

Early next term we will hold a full day leadership program in our school hall. This program will include all the students in years 6 and 7 and involve them in looking at themselves and their own behaviour and how this impacts on others. At the conclusion of the day, teams of students will work together in their leadership groups and plan their goals for the year.

Deputy Principals' Meeting

Mrs. Sue Biffin, Deputy Principal, will attend a District Deputy Principals' Meeting on Thursday this week. The program will involve curriculum leadership and review and opportunities to network with colleagues.

New Play Area

Work on the play area beside our Tuckshop is moving closer to completion. Currently the sandpit cover, stage area and some parts of the cubby house are being painted bright colours to enhance this play space. Hardy plants and woodchip will be spread throughout the area and some walking paths will meander through the space.

We are also adding some bright colours to the walls and doors of our Prep rooms to make them brighter. The tiles which celebrate the beginning of Prep at Brookfield SS will be added to outside areas on the



building after some colourful strips of paint are applied.

Can You Help?

We would love the donation of some shells to add to the area. If you have shells that have rounded edges and surfaces (not sharp sides that scratch little hands) please send them along to our office. We are also looking for a "Life Buoy" the type of life ring found on boats that can be thrown to someone in the water. If you have one you don't need we would love to use it to enhance our nautical theme in the area. Thankyou to Sue Biffin (Deputy Principal) for organising the completion of this work. Also to parents and staff who have given advice and ideas and to S&E Landscaping of Pullenvale who are doing the work and have given us some great ideas.



Parent Craft Group

Brookfield State School has a wonderful group of supportive parents who help our school in so many different ways. One of these groups is called the Parent Craft Group. This is simply a group of parents (mainly mums) who meet on Fridays at a parent's house for coffee and to do some craft. The craft might be cutting and gluing greeting cards, sewing cross stitch or appliqué, stuffing toy dolls, etc. You don't even have to know how to sew!!! If you would like to give our Craft Group a go and see if it's something for you, please phone Tina on 3374 0598. It's a really lovely way to get to know some other parents as well as give something to our school (and cost you nothing except your time). The profit from craft sold at school stalls goes to our P&C Assoc to purchase resources for our school. Thanks Craft Group!!



Year One News

The Year One students from 1A, P/1C and 1/2D have been getting together on Friday afternoons for a fantastic session of cooperative learning. The focus of these sessions is to foster friendship relationships across the classes through Multiple Intelligence activities. When participating in Multiple Intelligence activities, students are able to choose their preferred style of learning (Smarts). Here are some examples of the wonderful things the students have done so far.

Music Smarts - sang and created musical accompaniments

Spacial Smarts - cooperatively created a city using wooden blocks



People Smarts, Body Smarts - designed and created a boat with boxes then developed an imaginative dramatization

Maths Smarts - sorted and shared cars and matched them to numbers on the number board

Visual Smarts - used beads to make patterned necklaces and bracelets

People Smarts, Word Smarts - worked as a team to negotiate a storyline with a group drawing.

The students can't wait to get with their Year One friends and have fun learning together!

Met West Swimming Championships

Congratulations to all the swimmers who competed in last weeks Met West Championship which was at Chandler. A special



congratulation goes to both Kelsey Shaw and Chloe McDonald for being selected in the Met West swimming team to compete at the State Championships at Chandler on the 26th-28th March. Kelsey came 3rd in the 50m breaststroke and 4th in the 100m breaststroke. Chloe came 4th in the 50m butterfly. Both girls will swim these respective events at the State Championships. Brianne Shaw came 5th in Freestyle and 6th in Butterfly overall.

Interschool Sport

Interschool sport starts this Friday. The venues, teams and coaches are listed below:

AFL	Coach Mrs Jodie Drew
	Venue Akuna Park Kenmore
Netball	Coach Mrs Hilary Sheridan
	Venue Chapel Hill SS
Soccer	Coach Mr Yehuwdiy Dillon
	Venue Gem Rd & various
Tennis	Coach Ms Wendy Woods
	Venue Brookfield & various
Touch Football	Coach Mr Kieron Skehan
	Venue Bellbowrie Recreation Reserve

Interschool sport will run from Friday 7 March to Friday 30 May, a total of 9 weeks. Please note Friday sport will not operate on the following Fridays - Friday 21st March (Good Friday), Friday 11th April (School Holidays) or Friday 2nd May (Year 6/7 camp). Buses depart every Friday at 12.30 pm and students should be back at school by 3pm. The cost for all students participating in interschool sport is \$106 -(which covers transport costs). However there is **no cost** for students playing tennis as they rely on parent transport to and from their weekly venue.

Curriculum & Learning

FOCUS : Differentiation

As a parent visiting your child's room, you will have noticed a wide range of learning opportunities. This is just the tip of the iceberg of rich learning tasks being designed by Brookfield State School teachers and support staff.

Our school vision is to cater for the varied learning needs of all our students. **Differentiation** is the educational term that describes the approach to teaching and learning, where teachers adjust their curriculum to suit the particular mix of students in their class.

At any one time, the children will be engaged in a range of learning tasks appropriate to their need for challenge and support. Whole class learning acts as a modeling or reflecting opportunity, where students develop or revisit ideas. Practicing the learning usually occurs during cooperative and independent learning sessions.

Over the past 3 years, all teachers have been engaged in professional development to improve their skills in **differentiating** learning:

- identifying **student learning profiles**
- designing challenging and supportive learning activities
- incorporating higher order thinking skills
- developing independent and cooperative learning habits
- promoting student reflection on their learning
- developing student ownership of their learning

Our classrooms are exciting places, where learning is designed

GEMs Day

This Thursday, our school is delighted to be asked to host a training day for teachers from schools across Brisbane, who are developing their skills as Gifted Education Mentors (GEMs). Elizabeth Bullock (Brookfield's GEM) will work alongside the EQ trainers to share our school's experiences and teacher expertise in adjusting the curriculum to cater for the varied learning needs of all our students. Throughout the day, the visiting teachers will take opportunities to observe the teaching and learning in our classrooms. They are looking forward to seeing how our everyday programs cater effectively for a wide range of learning needs. The visiting teachers will be parking in the upper carpark prior to 8:30 and leaving after 3:30. In the morning, our Year 7 students will escort the teachers through our school to the hall.

CRAFT GROUP NEWS

Fridays Craft Group session proved to be not only extremely enjoyable but also very productive. A huge thank you to all who attended - Nicki Whitehouse (Meg and Morgan), Sarah Edwards, and mum Sue (Jacob and Sophia), and a special thank you to Sharon Wallace who also hosted the morning, Dianne Fullilove who brought us more lovely items from Sydney and Pam Miller - these mums no longer have children at Brookfield School but attend our friendly group when they can. This Friday we will be meeting at Tina's where we will be making Mothers Day Cards. - All welcome. Contact Tina on 3374 0598 for details.



Bulk Payment Offer



Inserted in today's newsletter on orange paper is a "Bulk Payment Offer" for Semester 1, excursions and activities. Please look for this!

Thank you.

Happy Birthday!

Olivia Wallace
Renee Lake
Tom Simes
Anna Bruck
John Bradtke
Thomas Bradtke
Sam Matuschek
Georgie Adams
Tom Watson
Annie Lovett
Michael Dorr

Scholastic Book Club

You should by now have received your copies of catalogues for Issue 2 of Scholastic. Could you please ensure that orders are placed in the specified box at the office by **Friday 14 March** at the very latest to ensure that orders are received before end of term. Please remember that payment is by either credit card (pre-authorised by calling number provided on form) or by cheque or postal order made payable to "Scholastic Australia"

NO CASH PAYMENTS

Any questions please call Deb Allman on either 33741923 or 0439 755942. Thanks.

FREE SPORTS COACHING.



Not sure what sport to play? Visit your local park and try these sports.... Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Baseball, AFL Football, Soccer, Volleyball and Basketball. The Brisbane City Council, in partnership with Coolsports, has organised FREE "come-and-try" sports in your local parks for children aged 3-12. There are two coaches, one for the little kids and one for the big kids. EVERY DAY UNTIL EASTER FRIDAY. Monday's at Moore Park (Russell Tce, Indooroopilly) Tuesday's at Rafting Ground Playground (Moggill Rd, Pullenvale) Wednesday's at Cubberla Creek Playground (Sutling St, Chapel Hill) Thursday's at Anzac Park (Wool St, Toowong) Friday's at Elizabeth Bruce Playground (Bamboo St, Inala)

Look out for the Coolsports Coach. All sessions are run from 3.30pm to 4.30. No need to book, just turn up after school!

DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WITH A DISABILITY OR A FAMILY MEMBER OVER 60?

Home Assist Secure, an initiative of the **Queensland Government**, is committed to helping people over 60 and people with a disability to remain living in their own home for as long as possible. We provide free information and referrals for minor modifications, home maintenance, security, falls prevention initiatives and, in some cases depending on eligibility, a contribution to labour costs.

For more information about how Home Assist Secure can help you phone 3878 8058.



Queensland Government
Department of Housing

