

MARCH P & C MEETING

Our March P&C Meeting was very well attended last night. A number of vacant positions were filled. Mr Ross Jarden was elected as President of the Brookfield SS P&C Association. Mr Gerard Bayden-Clay was elected as Vice President. Thank-you very much to these people for their generous support of our school. Our P&C Association contributes in many very significant ways to our school. This support is very much appreciated by all our children, staff and families. Thank-you Elizabeth Bullock for a most informative presentation on the wide variety of curriculum programs and effective teaching practices used to meet our students needs.

P & C ELECTION STALL



Our school hall is used as a Polling Place for federal, state and local elections. Voting at the school offers our P&C an opportunity to raise funds from the wider community as many people from outside the immediate school population come into our grounds to vote. Over the years a number of people have said they come to vote at our hall "just to buy the home-made cakes". Past Election Stalls have raised around \$5,000 for our school. This Saturday the Brisbane City Council will hold a local government election. It is once again an opportunity for our P&C to raise funds. We are asking for your help. Please bake cakes, slices, biscuits and jams for the stall. We also need helpers on roster on the stall throughout the day. Helpers will sell items from the stall, sausage sizzle and raffle tickets. Please give one hour of your day and come and help out at our school.

COMPUTER PURCHASES



This year we have made a significant commitment of funds to

computer technology for all classes. We have ordered 20 computers to replace a number of classroom computers that are now four years old. We have also ordered 2 interactive whiteboards for two classrooms, a data projector and screen for our library, 16 laptop computers for our library, and have budgeted enough funding to employ a Computer Technician for two days per week to repair and maintain our computer system. The total funding allocated to ICTs (Information Communication Technologies) this year is \$62,500 with additional grant money being used to pay for the laptops in our library.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thankyou to all families who have already made their voluntary contributions to our school. Each year we invite families to donate funds to help support hands-on curriculum activities for your children in their classrooms. An example of this is the purchase of paper and printer cartridges for computer use by our students. As you have read above, a significant amount of school funding is allocated to purchase and maintain computer technology. Your contribution of funds helps us to pay for the consumables your child uses when working with the computers. All our staff and children really appreciate the funds parents contribute to our school.

GEMS TRAINING DAY

Last Thursday teachers, deputy principals and principals from across our District came to Brookfield to attend a training day about catering for difference in our classrooms. The day was conducted by consultants employed by Education Queensland. One of the activities during the day was for the visitors to come into classrooms at our school and observe teachers and children as they participated in lessons specifically designed to cater for the range of difference in each child in the classroom. Eleven of our teachers had groups of ob-

servers visit their rooms. The lessons they observed were across curriculum areas including Math, English and SOSE. Ask your children about the type of work they were doing when the visitors came to their rooms. Feedback from participants on the day was quite outstanding with some writing comments on feedback sheets to each class teacher and to the school in general. Across the board these teachers (many of whom are also parents) commented that the children at Brookfield are very privileged to have the quality of teachers that they do. They noted that the teachers here were positive and extremely focused on all the children and the leadership of the school obviously endorsed and supported this work. Congratulations to all our staff. Thankyou for your ongoing hardwork and commitment to the children at our school

BROOKFIELD P & C ELECTION DAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE/CAKE STALL 15 MARCH

We are seeking donations of cakes, slices, fudge etc to sell on the stall this Saturday. If you can help, please bring your donation (wrapped in plastic) to school this Friday afternoon between 2.30pm-3.30pm or anytime Saturday after 8.00 am. The stall will open at 9.30 am and run to 3.30 pm. We also need helpers on the stall to sell cakes and help with the BBQ - if you can spare 1-2 hours it will be greatly appreciated. The stall will be located near the Assembly Hall. If you can help please call Julie Baglot 0438 200 770 or Liz Cuffe 0416 006 587 so we can finalise a roster. THANK-YOU

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs Dianne Whitby, Teacher Aide in our library, will be taking long service leave for Terms 2-4 this year. Mrs Whitby has worked at Brookfield SS for the past 12 years. She is an extremely hardworking aide who has given many hours of her own time to our school during these years. Mrs Whitby's latest achievement has been the complete relocation and refurbishment of our school library. The new library is bigger and more colourful and will soon include 16 laptops and a data projector for student use. Mrs Whitby has planned and organized this work over the past 18 months resulting in a wonderful facility for all the children in our school. We wish Mrs Whitby all the best for her long break. She will be traveling overseas, doing some voluntary charity work and spending time with her family. She has well and truly earned this long break! Enjoy! Mrs. Leanne Bassett will replace Mrs Whitby during her absence.

CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING



Students born 1995, 1996, 1997 (3km) and 1998 (2km) can continue training at the following times: Monday Lunch, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Students wishing to run these distances in the school carnival, need to be participating in a Cross Country fitness program either at school, home or club. Thankyou to the teachers who have volunteered to support the children in their training.

MUSIC



There will be NO Intermediate Strings rehearsal Tuesday next week due to the Year 5 Camp. Intermediate Choir on Monday will still run a fun, informal rehearsal for those Year 4's who are interested. If Year 3 students could bring their instruments on Tuesday as well as Wednesday Mrs Hemmings will take them for a catch up lesson.

SPECIAL MENTION

A few weeks ago Sophie Apps (7A) attended the annual music camp organised by the Queensland Youth Orchestras. The camp brought together 76 Junior String ensemble players ranging from 10 to 15 years of age, where they auditioned for a second time for orchestral positions. Sophie was delighted to have her role as 'Concert Master' confirmed. She is very proud to represent Brookfield State School as well as Queensland.

BROOKFIELD SS SUPPORTS EARTH HOUR



Climate changes is one of the most significant threats to life on earth. The impacts of global warming have already had an impact on Australia's climate. The Bureau of Meteorology recorded 2005 as Australia's hottest year on record, with an annual temperature 1.09 degrees Celsius above average. The worst droughts in Australia have all taken place in the last 20 years. The 2003 drought cost Australians 70 000 jobs and \$13 billion. Some of the impacts on Australia of temperature increases above 3 degrees Celsius include:

- * Between 30 and 65 rainforest animal species will be lost from the World Heritage listed Queensland Wet Tropics, leading to mass extinctions
- * Widespread coral mortality on the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef and its replacement with algae and seaweed communities
- * Fresh water resources available to supply Melbourne will likely fall by 50 per cent
- * More extreme weather events likely to increase rates of death and injury from floods, especially in Australia's north states. Meanwhile bushfires will occur in greater frequencies and with greater ferocity
- * Annual heat related death rate for people over 65 is estimated to rise from 82 per 100,000 to 131 per 100,000

Our teachers cover sustainability concepts and environmental responsibility incidentally and through our Science and SOSE curriculum. This year we are asking our community to become involved in Earth Hour. Earth Hour is a symbolic event that brings together governments, business and individuals and asks them to act for the future of the planet. On March 29, we will be asking you to turn off your lights and turn appliances off standby for one hour between 8 and 9pm. We need your help. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CHANNEL 7 CHOPPER VISIT



Next Wednesday, to highlight our student's awareness and involvement in Earth Hour the Channel 7 helicopter will land on our oval. We shall greet it with our whole school assembled on the oval depicting Channel 7. The Channel 7 weather presenters will talk to our Year 7 leader's Environment group and classes about environmental sustainability. Thank-you, Mrs Melinda Kienzle for organising this exciting issue- awareness raising event.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

The ability to deal with disappointments aptly (emotional resilience) and move on in a positive manner is a skill essential to a happy life.

Emotional Resilience means...

Knowing how to stop myself from getting extremely angry, down, or worried when something "bad" happens. It means being able to calm down and feel better when I get very upset. It also means being able to control my behaviour when I am very upset.

Examples of Emotional Resilience

- * When someone treats me unfairly, inconsiderately, or disrespectfully, I can stop myself from getting too angry and lashing out
- * When I make mistakes, do not understand something, get a bad school report, or am teased or ignored, I can stop myself from getting very down
- * When I have an important test or activity to perform, I can stop myself from getting extremely worried

Here are some effective strategies you might like to try with your child:

Keeping things in perspective
Employing positive rather than negative self-talk, Relaxation, Finding something fun to do, Finding someone to talk to.

Suggested positive phrases include:

It doesn't matter what they think I know I am as I am a good person.
I'll do better next time. I know that I'm okay.
People can agree to disagree.

Be tolerant of others. There's not always one solution. Sometimes you just have to work tough and do things that are hard.

BROOKFIELD STATE SCHOOL DISCO



The first whole school disco will be held on Friday night the 28th March. This is a fun night and enjoyed by all. As there is generally a large number of students attending the disco it is expected that the children stay in the hall or on the hall verandah. They are not to play on the grass outside. Students will need to be dropped off and picked up from the hall verandah. Teachers will be present to supervise the disco and if any parents would like to assist please see Miss Armstrong. The cost of the disco will be \$6 which will cover entry, a drink and a packet of chips. P-3 is from 6-7pm and 4-7 is from 7:30-9pm. Please note that we do not have access to any medication, so if your child requires an Epipen or needs to take medication on the night please bring it along with you.

ensuring it has adequate labeling and dosage details. A staff member will hold this medication for the duration of the disco.



Curriculum & Learning

FOCUS : **Differentiation in Action - Content**

How can we adjust the content to cater for the learning needs of so many individuals? Some need lots of support structures, while others are already past the suggested year level content.

This is the constant challenge for Brookfield State School staff.

A *sequence of teaching strategies* assists teachers to differentiate the content. Students with similar learning needs are grouped for parts of this learning process:

- 1st Pretesting** – finding out *what* students already know
- 2nd Modelling** – direct teaching of the skills needed for high quality learning, through exposing the children to excellent learning products, superior thinking processes, great language, outstanding work habits
- 3rd Practising (differentiated)** – providing a range of activities to match the levels of learning for the class. Teachers may identify 2 – 6 learning levels, then design activities to appropriately support **and** challenge students as they practice at their level. Students are grouped with intellectual peers. Everyone is working on the same skill area, yet they use different tasks. A culture of sharing best practice between classes, reduces the work load of preparing a range of activities. Learning Support staff, Jenny Aitken and Elizabeth Bullock, provide additional resources and classroom support for differentiation.
- 4th Reflecting** – thinking about, sharing and responding to learning.

EASTER EGG CHOCOLATE DRIVE



Thank you to all the families who have returned the chocolate drive money. If you have not already done so, please return all unsold chocolates and all money for your 1st box of chocolates to the office! We can't accept any chocolates returned from your 1st box after this Friday. We do have a few more boxes of chocolates left to sell. If you are able to sell another box please contact the office or Teresa King 0421 919246 and another box will be given to your family to sell.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB



Just a reminder that the last date for placing orders for Issue 2 of bookclub is this Friday the 14th March. Any problems contact Deb Allman on 33741923 or 0439 755942.

FREE PROGRAM SUPPORTS FAMILIES FOLLOWING DIVORCE



The University of Queensland is offering a free 12-week parenting program designed to improve outcomes for children following divorce. The program targets separated and divorced parents who have children aged 2-14 years, who have separated or divorced within the past 24 months, and who are having difficulty managing conflict with their ex-partner, coping with feelings, or managing child behaviour problems. For details, contact Family Transitions Triple P (07 3365 7303, k.nicholls@psy.uq.edu.au).

SHELL DONATIONS

Thank-you for your shell donations for our junior playground. More shells still needed.

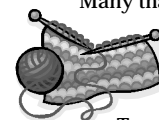


3 Seat Sofa Combination Day bed and 2 seater with Adjustable headrest . Made in Spain. Recovered 3 years ago in Italian fabric, yellow tones. Great for sun room, beach side apartment or formal living area. Moving to Sydney, desperate sale - \$450. Contact school office on 3374 7333



Abbey Stefanaras
Isabella Brownhall
Lachlan McGowan
Nicola Boyce
Jon Staby
Summer King
James Stanfield
Emily Sale
Georgia Mallet
Rory Kerr

CRAFT NEWS



Many thanks not only to Nicki Whitehouse, Sarah Edwards, and Donna Powell (no longer with our school) but also to Tessa (6a) and her sister Tara for making beautiful Mother's Day cards. If you are interested in joining the Craft Group please contact Tina 3374 0598 for details. All welcome. This week Nicki has offered to host the group 9.30am – 12.30pm . Nicki can be contacted on 3374 0991.

BURGER BAR



We raised a fantastic \$721.50 on Friday night at the happy hour bar. It was great to see a lot of new faces. Thankyou to all our fabulous volunteers including a couple of the kids - Georgie Donaldson and Kenzi Wareham! Thankyou Noela and Bruce Donaldson, Andrew Miller and Francia Delcid-Miller, Oliver de Nicolai, Julie Baglot, Jo Grainger, Deb Allman and Monique Mackellar. Remember it is on the first Friday of every month!

