

## EASTER BREAK



We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Easter break. The children are full of stories of trips away to the beach and holidays at home with family and friends. I had observed that children and staff were tired by Easter and know that the break from school routines would have been most appreciated by all. We return now for two weeks before the end of term. In many rooms children will be presenting final research reports and home reading tasks. It will be a busy two weeks.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Our end of Term school holidays will be from Saturday 5 April to Sunday 13 April. A Pupil Free Day will be held on Monday 14 April and children will return to school on Tuesday 15 April.

## STAFF CHANGES



Mrs Debbie McLean continues on Long Service Leave until the end of Term. Mrs Dianne Whitby finishes at the end of term to take three terms of Long Service Leave and will be replaced in her role as Teacher Aide by Mrs Leanne Bassett. Ms Jane Martin (2B) takes Long Service Leave for Term 2 and will be replaced by Ms Melissa Ashton. We trust all these staff will have enjoyable and restful leave and wish them safe times.

## SCHOOL DISCO



Our whole school disco will be held this Friday night 28 March. Students in junior grades are invited to attend from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

Parents/caregivers are asked to deliver the children to the verandah of our school hall and collect them from the hall. Strict supervision and controls will be in place throughout the evening and children will not be allowed to come and go from the hall. Children in older year levels Yr 4 to 7 will attend from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Parents/caregivers are once again asked to deliver children to the verandah of the hall and collect them from the same location. Only children currently enrolled at Brookfield SS can attend the disco. The disco is called a "Rainbow Disco" and children are invited to dress in rainbow colours. This disco is being organised and run by students in our middle school Events Group. Thankyou to Ms Armstrong (3A) for leading the group. Thankyou in anticipation to the many school staff who regularly give up their evening to come and supervise the disco.

**MEDICATION REMINDER: Although a first aid kit will be available, if your child requires medication please be advised that we are unable to access medication from the office on the night. Parents are responsible for any medication needed on the night.**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL POSITION



The position of Deputy Principal at Brookfield State School was advertised on the Education Queensland website last week. We are pleased that the position has been given approval to be filled via a merit selection process rather than a 'relocation' from elsewhere in the State. Applications are invited to be submitted to Education Queensland and are due by Thursday 3 April. We are anticipating a very large pool of applicants for this position. A selection panel consisting of Mrs Helen Kenworthy (Principal), Mr Ian Hall (Principal Graceville SS) and Ms Vicki Sparkes (Principal Petrie Terrace SS) will select the most suitable

candidate. This will involve some absence from the school next term as Mrs Kenworthy works through the process. The successful applicant will take up duty from the beginning of Semester 2.

## YEAR 5 CAMP



A group of happy but very tired students returned from Year 5 camp on Wednesday afternoon. The camp is at Midginbill Hill west of Murwillumbah in Northern NSW. The children and staff had spent an enjoyable three days in activities designed to build team relationships and leadership skills amongst the children. Activities included team building/trust games like the human ladder, problem solving team games where groups of students had to work out how to get the whole group over/through a physical obstacle while at the same time following certain rules. It is wonderful to stand back and say nothing and watch the students work together to solve these challenges. Many times the students are surprised that their preconceived ideas/perceptions of another child are inaccurate. The camp also includes archery, canoeing and a night hike. The night hike is wonderful given the distance from a major city and the small amount of artificial light in the sky, there are sooooo many stars to see in the sky. It's quite overwhelming! A huge thankyou to Ms Wendy Woods, Mr Tony Pritchard, Mr Yehudiy Dillon and Ms Denise Wayne, school staff who attended and Mr Craig Overend and Mrs Liz Maxwell, parent volunteers who gave up their time to help on the camp. A most successful and enjoyable experience for all.

## EARTH HOUR



Last Wednesday we enjoyed a visit by John Schulter and the Channel 7 helicopter.

Once again this event delighted all the children. Our students formed a 60 shape

on the school oval to represent 60 minutes of lights off in an effort to reduce the impact of electricity production on our planet.

Rebecca from World Wildlife Fund then talked with John Schulter and our Environment Group students from our Middle School. As well as children from our 1/2 multi-age class. The footage shown on the news on Wednesday night was really lovely with our 1/2 children singing their "save our world" song.

This Saturday night all families are encouraged to turn lights off and all appliances off 'standby'. This is just the beginning of an education program to encourage reduced use of energy in our homes and raise awareness. John Schluter talked to the children about how successful Queenslanders were at saving water and how the strategies we have put into practice in our community will result in life long changes to the way we think about and use water. Our children will never take water for granted again. The hope for ongoing "Earth Hour" days is that we will instill in our children a similar conservative nature about the use of energy in our homes. We see it as the beginning of this learning and understanding journey.

## BROOKFIELD CROSS COUNTRY



Please note a change in the date of our school Cross Country Carnival. The Carnival will now be held on Thursday 24 April (not Tuesday 22 April as previously notified). This change has been made due to a clash of dates with regional selection trials for AFL. Our Cross Country Carnival will be held from 9am after children report to class and move to the oval with their class teacher. It should be finished by 12.30pm. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend and support the children.

Our school Anzac service will be held on Monday 28 April following the long weekend.

## HARMONY DAY

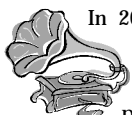


Our school will celebrate Harmony Day on Thursday 3 April. The day will involve all our

children in a number of activities. During the morning session the children will move from room to room and participate in activities with different teachers. In the middle session the children will design and make Harmony Day postcards which they will write on and post to a friend, cousin, etc to spread the word about world harmony.

In the afternoon session each class will make paper chains with messages about world harmony, the chains will be joined together and hung around our school hall. We are looking forward to another very worthwhile day of activities and events that focus on anti-bullying as well as understanding difference, tolerance and other values that support all that we do at Brookfield SS.

## MUSIC PARENT COMMITTEE



In 2002, a committee was formed from parents with children in the Instrumental Program. The purpose of this group was to give parents a voice within the program as well as to assist with the administration required in such a large program. Our first meeting will be next Tuesday, April 1 2008 at 3.15pm in the staffroom. All parents are most welcome to come along to find out about projected 2008 happenings. We are a very informal supportive group, with no office bearers or official positions. We look forward to seeing you there.

## PREP NEWS



Prep A has been busy creating a doctors and vet surgery. Brookie Bear visited our doctor surgery with a prickle in her foot. In block corner we have seen some of the most creative constructions like airports and emergency services buildings with rescue boats. The students have enjoyed maths and we have been exploring.... sorting, patterns and concepts such as same, different, big and little. The students have become authors making a big and little book.

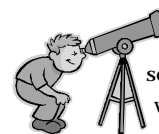
The Possum Prep class have settled into school and have demonstrated that they already have all the school routines down pat by welcoming a new teacher into their class and showing her the ropes! Over the past weeks we have had a tank of tadpoles in the classroom. This allowed children to study the life cycle of the frog and we have been watching with interest as the tadpoles have slowly turned into frogs! Children have been investigating insects using magnifying glasses and reading information books. Some children have even made their own information books about a favourite insect. Our show and tell has

focused on drawing pictures of birds and reptiles. Children have been detectives during show and tell sessions listening for important clues and guessing what is inside the show and tell bag.

Children are developing their auditory and oral language skills through variety of activities including barrier games and sequencing activities. In music we are beginning to tune our ears to hear loud and soft and high and low and in Maths we have been working on numeral recognition. It has been a busy time filled with learning and fun!

The students in Prep C have settled into the routine of school exceptionally well. I have had reports from a couple of parents that offered days at home have been declined in favour of going to school. A major focus of our integrated curriculum was designing and creating a Vet Surgery. This required investigation into the equipment, personnel and animals that were needed, construction of the play space and materials. The play that followed was rich with oral language, negotiation of roles and sharing of knowledge and information. We are currently completing the compilation of our class pet book that will be available for students to bring home and share with their family. The introduction of Literacy Groups has also been successful, with prep students participating in activities designed to meet their current and emerging literacy needs. We are enjoying shared reading experiences and many students are beginning to make links between spoken and written language. Most importantly we are learning and having fun.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Super Science Sessions (SSS). Our school science will commence first week of Term 2. The aim of our club is to give our like-minded students opportunities to engage in and enjoy scientific enquiry through a range of hands on experiments. If you would like your child to be involved, please send your Expression of Interest Form to the school by Wednesday April 2, 2008.

## REMINDER ABOUT EARTH HOUR



On March 29, 2008 please turn off your lights and turn appliances off standby for one hour between 8pm - 9pm. Earth Hour raises peoples awareness of Climate Change, so act now for the future of our Planet. REMEMBER YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY.

