

A Sound Mind In A Sound Body

Wednesday February 11, 2009

Deadline:
Tuesday 12pm
Tennis Court Hire:
3374 3675

Principal:
Helen Kenworthy
Deputy Principal:
Karen O'Neill
P & C President:
Ross Jarden

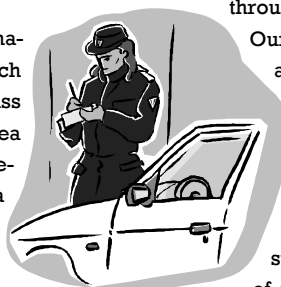
Class Changes Year 4 and 5

With the Day 8 Enrolment Audit now behind us, we have made changes to class groups in the Year 4 and 5 area of the school. Thankyou to all our children and parents who are working through an adjustment to these changes. Ms Wendy Woods asked to take the 4/5 multi-age class. We have created a class with a group of high achieving students. Ms Woods is very excited about opportunities for extension, particularly in mathematics and we know the children will really enjoy this new class group.

A number of our wonderful year 5 students were moved into classes with Mrs Sheridan and Mr Dillon. Mrs Kenworthy and the Year 4 and 5 teachers worked together for many hours discussing individual children and who should be placed into each class. Discussions about friendship groups, learning ability, love of maths or writing, interest in sport or art, etc were held when sorting out the changes. The classes have now been formed. Thankyou Wendy Woods and all our teachers for the effort involved in organising these changes. It is always difficult to cope with change, especially after spending a few weeks in a classroom with a new teacher and then having to move and settle in again. Some children take longer than others. Give the children time to adjust and focus on the positive aspects of the change. Such change is also a learning experience and will help your child cope better with transition into high school when they reflect on how they coped with changes like this one.

Carpark Behaviours

A big thankyou to all drivers who have read the information leaflet sent home in last week's newsletter which outlines parking rules and expectations for Stop, Kiss and Go zones. The police have been patrolling the area and observed a marked improvement in parking behaviours around our school. Remember, try to come a little later for pick-up of your child when most of the traffic has gone and always put the safety of children first.



Brookfield SS Parents and Citizen's Association Meeting

Last night our Brookfield SS P & C Assoc held its first meeting for 2009. The meeting was very well attended. Agenda items discussed included revegetation of netball court area; P & C functions for 2009; enrolment numbers; class changes; committee positions; and more. All members of the Brookfield community are welcome to attend our school P & C meetings. These are always interesting and informative

meetings where you can learn all about what is happening at your child's school. Our next P & C meeting will be held on 10 March at 7.30 in our Administration Building. This will be an AGM followed by a normal monthly meeting.

Voluntary Contributions

Once again this year we are seeking financial support from families at our school to help cover the cost of consumable items used by your children in their daily learning. While it is not compulsory for you to pay these costs as they are "voluntary contributions" we do really appreciate the support of the large percentage of families who do make the payments. With today's newsletter you will receive a yellow sheet outlying the voluntary contributions. The funds raised through these contributions assist our school in off setting these costs so other school funds can be used to purchase additional computers, data projectors, screens, equipment for Phys Ed, balls and equipment for lunchtime use, reading books and math equipment, etc. We are also installing foam soap dispensers and hot air dryers in toilets this year in an attempt to stop children spreading soap all around the toilets and throwing wet paper onto the ceilings. Such items are expensive but worthwhile for our school. The State Government provides funding based on the number of children enrolled at our school. In 2009 our Core School Grant is \$59,000. Other funds to support computer technology, pay staff wages and fund programs for children requiring additional support for their learning are also provided throughout the year.

Our Voluntary Contribution request totals to a very small amount per child in comparison to the \$12,000 or more per year per child charged by many private schools in Brisbane. Please assist us by supporting our request for voluntary contributions towards your child's learning.

As with every year, we are aware of the challenging financial times our economy is currently facing. Pay-off systems are available for all families to assist with payment of any costs for your child at our school (excursions, voluntary contributions, etc). Assistance can be arranged for families experiencing financial difficulties please contact Mrs Kenworthy at our office for a confidential appointment.

Year 7 2009

This year our Year 7 students have been given a number of special activities and privileges at our school in recognition of their final year of primary schooling. Along with the leadership program that is currently in process, the children have been given

their own special area in which to sit for their eating period. Year 7 children will also be scheduled on a roster as "Peer Coaches" in the Prep and Year 1 playground to spend time with the younger children, act as role models, mediate in minor conflict situations and assist with organising games and activities.

Our Year 7 children will also have a special Year 7 shirt "Class of 2009" with their names listed on the back. Mrs Kaye Smith-Roberts has kindly offered to organise the shirts for the children. In an effort to develop each child's interpersonal and life skills as well as build resilience our boy students will participate in a Rock and Water Program while our girl students will participate in a "Friends for Life youth Program".

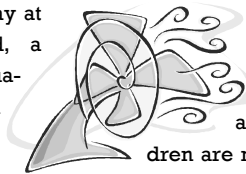
Year 6 and 7 will travel to Canberra this year as part of their studies on Parliament and the Judicial System. This trip is held every two years and is a wonderful, exciting and extremely worthwhile learning experience. A number of events are held at the end of the year for our Year 7 children as they graduate from primary school. These include a day at Bundaleer Water Park in Brookfield, a Graduation Cake, a special Year 7 Graduation ceremony and their own school disco. A great year ahead.

Year 3, 5, 7 National Testing Program

All schools in Queensland are currently working hard on a program to review teaching and learning practices and implement strategies to improve Queensland's overall performance in the National testing program - NAPLAN National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy). As indicated in last week's newsletter, Brookfield State School's performance in this program is very high with results in almost all areas above the National mean score. However, our staff is very keen to review our current practice and identify ways we can improve on our already good results. This week Mrs Kenworthy will attend a NAPLAN data and strategies workshop at the Brisbane Convention Centre; our Year 3 teachers have worked with Mrs Karen O'Neil to plan strategies for unit planning, teaching of writing with an emphasis on teaching the narrative genre and understanding and implementing our school Spelling Program. Mrs Drew (7B) will work with

Mrs O'Neil to assist our teachers in training children to become "test literate". This strategy is designed to assist children in knowing how to read and interpret test questions, problem solve, understand how to work with multiple choice questions and use a formal test booklet. In some communities in Qld such formal test booklets and the formal language used in the tests is extremely challenging for the children.

As part of our three year review started last year, our Literacy and Numeracy review groups will look at the questions on the NAPLAN tests that our children scored correctly and those where the most errors were made. This information will also show us areas of strength and weakness in the overall performance of our students so that we can focus our teaching on better learning in these areas. We feel it is very exciting to look at all we are doing well and then to use this data to inform our teaching. As a whole staff, we will continue to use such data to inform our practice over the coming years.



Hot Weather

In this particularly hot weather we have made adjustments to ensure the children are not over heated. Our wonderful P & C Assoc has payed for air-conditioning throughout our school and teachers will turn the air-con on at the start of the day to ensure the most energy efficient use of this equipment. Air-conditioners run in classrooms at the recommended 24 degrees. Our PE lessons will be held in shade, covered areas or classrooms to reduce the exposure to high temperatures. Class teachers have instructed children to sit quietly in shade areas during lunch breaks and avoid running around in the heat. You are asked to ensure your child has a full water bottle each day. Children are allowed to use water bottles in the classroom. We aim to ensure your children are kept hydrated.

Victorian Fires

The tragic fires in Victoria have no doubt disturbed every family in Australia. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those involved from the fire fighters and volunteers working so hard and so long to fight the fires, to the families who have lost property and most of all to the families who have lost loved ones in these terrible fires. Our school leaders will get be-

hind an appeal for support of these families and the flood victims of North Queensland next week. We will let you know when to send a donation.

Have you worked out an evacuation plan for your family if there is a bush fire in Brookfield?

School Fire Drill and Lock Down

This week all classes have rehearsed what to do in case of a fire in our school. This Fire Evacuation Drill involves children moving out of class to a safe assembly area. We also practiced a Lock Down procedure where children get down on the floor under desks and out of sight in case of a chemical spill in the area, or some other danger in the school grounds. All class teachers outlined the procedure during the first week of school. This week we have undertaken a drill. The constant ringing of the school bell signifies a Fire Evacuation and the repeated, broken ringing of the bell signifies a Lock Down. Practice of a fire evacuation procedure in your home is strongly recommended by the Qld Fire Service. You should also check batteries in smoke detectors and fire alarms and check grounds surrounding your house for debris that may be a problem in a fire.



Swimming Carnival

All students going to the District Swimming Carnival need to return their permission slip ASAP. Please report to Mr Skehan at the carnival so that he can mark your name on the roll. Remember - warm up is at 8:30 and the carnival starts at 9am sharp. Good luck to all swimmers at the carnival.

Term 1 and 2 Interschool Sport

Trials were held last Friday. Teams will be finalised in the next couple of days and students will be notified of their selection early next week.

Music News

This year is up and running. (It feels like more of a sprint than a jog at this point!) Our instrumental ensembles and Junior Choir have begun and our Senior/Intermediate Choirs begin next week. All interested children are wel-



Parent Phone Lists

We **DO NOT** want our phone number to appear on the Brookfield State School Phone Lists.

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

come to join our singing groups. All they need to do is come along to the appropriate rehearsal. Please find below a timetable for your weekly planning.

| | | |
|------|---------|--|
| Mon | 8 am | Senior Strings (Hall) |
| Tues | 8 am | Intermediate Strings (Hall) |
| | 8 am | Senior Choir (O Block) Years 6 & 7 |
| Wed | 8 am | Intermediate Choir (O Block) Years 4 & 5 |
| | 8 am | Senior Band (Hall), Years 6 & 7 |
| Fri | 8.15 am | Junior Choir (Hall) Years 1, 2 & 3 |

Auditions for Senior Vocal group will be held further into Term 1. We look forward to seeing you all bright and early for rehearsal.

Uniform Shop

The following stock is now available.

- Large chair bags,
- Interschool shirts,
- Medium hats and size 8 girls skorts.

We are putting together the roster for the year at present. If you are keen to volunteer at the school, but have limited free time, uniform shop may be for you. It is only 90 minutes (8.00 - 9.30am) every 3rd Friday morning, (less often if we get more people). We are in lovely air-conditioned comfort and it is a great way to meet parents at the school. Get a group of friends to work together, have a cup of tea and a chat. Please contact Kaye Smith-Roberts kayesr@optusnet.com.au or 3374-1623.

Junior Choir This Friday

Junior Choir is open to all interested students in Years 1, 2 and 3. Rehearsals begin this Friday at 8:15 a.m. in the hall. If you have any questions please see Mrs Kienzle.



Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 catalogues and info sheet have now been distributed. If you have either not received or have misplaced them, spare copies are at the office or you can call Deb Allman on 0439 755942. Orders are due back by next Wed - 18 Feb. Thanks to everyone who has



WORK FROM HOME

- ✓ FULL TIME OR PART TIME
 - ✓ BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
 - ✓ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
 - ✓ BE YOUR OWN BOSS
 - ✓ NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
 - ✓ FULL TRAINING & SUPPORT AVAILABLE
 - ✓ POTENTIAL FOR BIG INCOME
 - ✓ VISIT MY WEBSITE: WWW.SECRETABUNDANCE.COM.AU
- OR CALL: YVETTE ON MOB: 0406-082223



kindly offered their support and if anyone else wants to be on my "Help-list" please give me a call.

Seeking Snails!

Some of the Grade 3s are currently doing a science unit entitled "Schoolyard Safari". As part of the unit we would really like to have a close look at snails. As snails are not in season right now, they are somewhat hard to come by - so - if you happen to have any snails at your place, we will gladly rehouse them for you. We are hoping that if everyone has a look in their gardens we may be able to come up with enough.



Phone Contact Lists

Each year Brookfield State School produces a booklet of parent phone numbers in class lists. This booklet is for you to use to contact other families of children in your class. Please let us know if you **DO NOT** want your phone number to appear on the phone lists by completing the tear off section of today's newsletter and returning it the office by the end of February. Thank-you to Brookfield Veterinary Clinic

Chess Club

Chess coaching (and chess competitions) will again be available this term. There will be two classes, a Junior class for Grades 1 - 3 which will start at 11.00am on Wednesday's, and a Senior class for Grades 4 - 7 which will also start at 11 am but will be on Tuesday's. Unfortunately Nikki Jones is still unwell, so



Player Needed For Soccer Team!

We need 1 extra player to join 6 boys from BSS Year 3 in U8s Kenmore FC. Contact Marita on 33740518, or mlstinton@bigpond.com

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Lily Wan Lum | Georgia Mallett |
| Nicola Weyer | Ella Sampson |
| Hannah Doret | Alex Bowman |
| Oliver Tewksbury | Max Woltmann |
| Riley Woltmann | Phoebe Williamson |
| Charlotte Kennedy | Imogen Lynch |
| Noah Smith | |
| Tarquin Davenport-Manners | |



both Junior and Senior classes will be conducted by Patrick Byrom. He is an accredited Level One Chess Coach (Chess Association of Qld) with thirty years' experience.

Our Senior Chess group is very low on numbers. If any students in grades 4 - 7 would like to join, please put your name down at the office.

Burger Bar

Even though the evening started slowly, everyone had a great time at the Happy Hour bar on Friday night. We made \$792 with the wonderful help of Catherine and Andrew St Baker, Fiona Edgecombe, Dee Morrison and Phillipa Devlin all helping out on the BBQ. A big thank you also to Tracey Rubens for organizing the raffle and Laurie Brown helping sell tickets with Tracey. If anyone would like to help on any of the burger bar nights or donate items (movie tickets, wine, facials, massages, etc) for the raffles, please phone Monica Wareham on 33742009. Remember the burger bar is on the first Friday of every month and it is a fundraiser for our school.

Challenged by your child's asthma?

The University of Queensland is conducting research evaluating a parenting program which aims to reduce behavioural problems associated with asthma and to improve the general usage of asthma medication in children.

Parents will take part in five group sessions and four phone consultations which will focus on strategies for improving medication adherence and reducing behaviour problems. This program will be offered free of charge to parents of children aged between three and six years who have asthma and behaviour problems.

To register your interest in participating in the program, or for more information about the project, please contact Caroline Gregory via telephone: 07 3365 9186, or at cgregory@psy.uq.edu.au.

Tuckshop Roster

Monday 16/02- Stephanie Adams, Georgia Jarden, Miranda McDonald, Kimberly Murphy, Monique McKel
Wednesday 18/02- Marita Stinton, Jillian Dickson, Lisa McGHlinchy, Wendy Mollah, Elaine King
Thursday 19/02- Francina Delcid Miller, Ann Junger, Lisa Harragon, Jennifer Edwards

Home Baking Roster

Monday 16/02- Tracey Bremner, Rebecca Reeve, Peta Oelkers
Wednesday 18/02- Suzanne Horsley, Lisa Frazer, Robin Kerr
Thursday 19/02- Francina Delcid-Miller, Ann Junger, Lisa Harragon, Janet Sale, Camps Pattullo

Donation Roster

Monday 16/02- Tamar McCullough, Karen Faux, Peta Oelkers
Wednesday 18/02- Suzanne Horsley
Thursday 19/02- Ann Junger, Champs Pattullo

