

Issue No: 20

Wednesday June 25, 2008

Principal: Mrs Helen Kenworthy
A/Deputy Principal: Mrs Sue Biffin
P & C President: Ross Jarden
Deadline: Tuesday 12pm
Tennis Court Hire: 3374 3675

Farewell Mrs Biffin

This week we farewell Mrs Biffin (acting Deputy Principal). Mrs Biffin is off to Samford State School next term where children in Years 6 and 7 will enjoy her enthusiasm for teaching. Thank you Mrs Biffin for your time at Brookfield State School and for all you have done for the children, parents and staff at Brookfield SS. We wish you every success for the future.

Year 4 Camp

Our Year 4 students and staff have participated in their first overnight camp this week. The students travelled by coach to the Camp Northpine near Petrie on the north side of Brisbane. This camp is designed for children to experience life in the past. The park is set up as an old fashioned village with shops, a school building, other old buildings, farm animals, a bandstand, etc. The children visit the bakery, with a huge wood fire oven, where they watch the baker make bread and make damper themselves which is cooked in the wood fire oven. They participate in a range of other activities and a night walk to spotlight koalas. The camp supports all the learning the students have been doing in their Local Area studies this term. A very big thank you to parents who attended to support the children and staff, Mr Rene Kienzle & Mrs Jill Simes. Many thanks also to our wonderful teachers Ms Sally Woods, Mrs Mandy Salisbury and Mr Yehuwdiy Dillon who took the children on camp, planned the activities and got very little sleep all night keeping an eye on the excited and sleepless children!

Eddie Smith's Farm

Over the last three weeks students in our Middle School have visited Eddie Smith's Farm in Upper Brookfield. Eddie and her son John live on one of the original farms in Brookfield. This farm also boasts the only remaining area of untouched, original vegetation. The students explored Eddie's Smith's home and learned about her life-

style. Eddie's home contains many photos and items of the past. She made homemade scones for the children and talked about her memories and experiences in the Brookfield area. The children climbed the hill to the top of Eddie's property where they enjoyed views of Moreton Bay and the islands. This has been a wonderful experience for all our students and we thank Eddie Smith for her generosity and willingness to welcome our students into her home and life.

Happenings Around Our School

Outside School Hours Care

A range of activities has been undertaken around our school facilities in recent weeks. The first has involved improvements to our Outside School Hours Care room. The access stairs have been made safer with yellow edges and a new handrail installed. The plants have been removed from along the front of A Block to allow more light and airflow into the OSHC room. New plants will be added soon and the concrete wall along the front of OSHC will be painted the same light yellow as our school buildings. This will lighten and brighten the rooms. OSHC staff are also organising for new, wider doors to be installed on the building.

Our Outside School Hours Care staff provide a wonderful service to all families in our community. They are a self funding subgroup of the Brookfield P & C Association. OSHC is run by Robin Lawford who has a wonderful rapport with all the children and the families and offers a great program for children who attend. Thanks Robyn and all the OSHC staff for your hard work and the fabulous service you offer to our families!

Oval Markings

Our wonderful Grounds Staff (Malcolm Segar and Malcolm Lehman) have worked extremely hard to mark out all the running tracks and field event areas for our upcoming school Athletics Carnival. The oval looks wonderful and many children have been practising during PE lessons and dur-

ing their lunch breaks. Thankyou both for your effort. (Malcolm Segar leaves us this week for the whole of term 3 to undergo knee replacement surgery, all the best Malcolm!)

Playground Maintenance

Our playgrounds have recently been made safer with the installation of new (or additional) woodchip into the base of each playground. The junior playground at the front of the school had the old woodchip removed and new material added. It is now deep and softer so the children can land safely.



Prep Tile Wall

Our beautiful tile wall planned by the late Mrs Pam Swales is enjoyed by everyone who visits our school. Sadly over the past weekends someone has been in the school grounds and tried to remove tiles. This has resulted in damage to two of the tiles. We are very fortunate that vandals do not visit Brookfield so we are seeking your help to report anyone you see in the school grounds on weekends. If you know anything about this damage, please let Mrs Kenworthy know.

Student References

Recently as Principal of our school I have received a large number of requests for written references to support student applications for enrolment at other schools in Brisbane. While I respect that different people make different choices about schooling for their children, it is an anomaly for me to be writing in support of a child leaving Brookfield to attend another school that offers the same year levels as Brookfield SS. I whole heartedly believe that Brookfield SS offers a top quality education for our students and I work extremely hard with all the school staff to ensure this. Our

Thank You Brookfield State School...

New parents and visitors to Brookfield State School have often commented to me about the warm and happy feeling of this school. I have been proud to be a member of the team over the past 6 months. The team consists of many very dedicated teachers who promote the love and magic of learning, supportive and 'willing to help' parents, helpful and caring office ladies, helpful teacher aides and ground staff who all take pride in their work and a dynamic leader whose passion and energy drives the Brookfield vision. As a well known African quote says, "It takes a whole village to raise a child".

Thank you for making me feel so welcome, my time here has been very rewarding on many levels and I will always have very fond memories of Brookfield State School. **Sue Biffin**

results are consistently above State and Like School standards and our school results are in the top 10 State schools in this State. We are regarded as a "high performing school" by the Minister of Education.

I have made the decision not to write any further references for students wishing to enrol at other schools. Our school report card is very detailed and informative and provides much information about each child's academic progress, their behaviour and their teacher's judgement of the child overall. Copies of the most recent Student Progress Report can be obtained from the school office to support your child's application and interview.

Free Dress Day

This Friday is the last day of Term 2 and all children are invited to wear "Free Dress". This means they do not need to wear their school uniform and may instead wear clothing of their choice (please remember to wear safe footwear, a hat and ensure shoulders are covered by sleeves to prevent sun damage to skin). Students from upper year levels will come around the school to collect a gold coin donation on the day. This donation will be used to support a charity sponsored by our students so wear Free Dress on Friday, donated a gold coin and have fun!

Student Report Cards

Reading the Student Report Cards over the past few days has been an absolute pleasure. Thank you to all our staff who put in many, many hours of work to fully report on each child's progress. It is an enormous effort and the information and detail on each report is outstanding. When students enrol from other schools it is interesting to compare the effort of Brookfield teachers and the amount of information included on our reports. Our staff indicate your child's standard of performance and then provide detailed information about what has been taught during the semester, the standard of your child's work and areas that need additional support. The reports are prepared

by parent teacher interviews that provide more detail about individual children's work standards.

The reports currently being prepared are extremely detailed and informative and an indication of the enormous amount of time and work the teachers across our school have put into teaching and knowing your child. Thankyou to all our classroom teachers and specialist teachers in Music, Computer Lab, PE, Science and LOTE.

Student Report Cards will be posted home at the end of this week. Year 2 Reports will be sent at the beginning of Term 3.

Safe Holiday Travels

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday. Take care on the roads. We look forward to seeing you all safely back with us on Tuesday 15 July.

Pupil Free Day

Monday 14 July is a Pupil Free Day. Our staff will be involved in CPR Training, training on the new software for use in our school library and workshops on "Hidden Histories" a focus on indigenous education.

School resumes for Term 3 on Tuesday 15 July.

Lost Wedding Ring

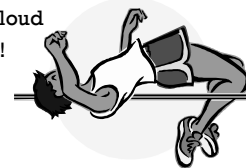
One of our teachers, Mrs Fiona Ryan, recently lost her wedding ring at our school. On the day she lost the ring she had been conducting Science experiments on our oval. The ring is yellow and white gold inset with diamonds around the band. Mrs Ryan has offered a very generous reward for anyone who finds her ring. We hope someone does!!!

School Athletics Carnival

Year 4-7 students who are in the finals for field events will be involved at various times during the day on Tuesday 15 July.

Whole School Athletics Carnival - Prep to Year 7 will be held on Wednesday 16 July. 9am - 3pm. Wear - Sports House shirts. Bring - water, food, money for tuckshop, a towel to

sit on, sunburn cream and a huge smile and loud cheering voice!!!



OneSchool

As a result of recent media stories, there may be some confusion about a new database which digitally stores the records of Queensland state school students - this database is known as OneSchool.

It is important to note that staff from other schools cannot access information about students.

Only one student ID photo can be stored in the system and the inclusion of this photo is a school-based decision.

OneSchool contains only those pieces of information which are usually kept in every student's existing file and simply replaces previous state school systems which needed updating, including paper-based files and a 13-year-old computer system.

Through the OneSchool internal database, our teachers and principals are able to quickly, reliably and securely access the information they need to meet the needs of the young people entrusted to their care.

Parents and carers also need to know these facts about the OneSchool program:

- examples of student work are not stored in the system
- OneSchool has been thoroughly tested by national experts that specialise in security and is safer than existing systems
- the database has been developed in full consultation with the Queensland Teachers Union, the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Associations, the Isolated Children's Parents Association, and principals' associations.

In Queensland schools, the safety and security of students and staff remains a top priority and OneSchool will provide a flexible, safe and comprehensive re-

cords management system for now and in the future.

If you have questions about the OneSchool database, you can contact Education Queensland's OneSchool Team on (07) 3457 6111 or see our school principal.

The Brookfield Challenge

The challenge this year was to rewrite a well known fairytale changing the resolution and the characters. If that doesn't stretch those brain cells you must include the key phrase 'you must always try your best' and ensure the whole performance is less than 10 minutes. Not to mention all props and costumes must be made from only items on the allowable list.

The Brookfield Challenge program continually evolves to help develop attitudes and skills that are important individual, social and professional characteristics that you can apply throughout your life.

The Brookfield Challenge is based on the Opti-MINDS concepts which is totally about the PROCESS and individual empowerment – what you discover for yourself and about yourself along the way. This ensures that at the end of The Challenge- EVERYBODY will have gained and therefore EVERYONE is a WINNER!

The Brookfield Challenge Aims:

- to foster creative responsiveness – a “CAN DO” culture
- to provide challenge, enrichment and stimulation
- to foster flexibility, innovative thinking and functioning
- to promote complex thinking and creative problem solving strategies
- to encourage reflective thinking and self-directed learning
- to facilitate empowerment and responsibility
- to promote an understanding and appreciation of self and others
- to celebrate difference
- to develop effective communication and collaborative thinking skills
- to foster cooperation & teamwork
- to promote enterprise and initiative
- to stimulate a spirit of exploration, investigation, experimentation, and a love of learning
- to promote UNASHAMED EXCELLENCE!

Science Club

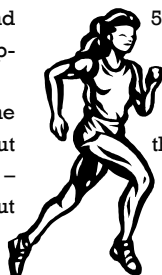
Tomorrow is our last Science Club afternoon for Term 2. Our young, enthusiastic, keen

science students have enjoyed a wide range of experiments throughout term. Thank-you to our Science Team teachers -Dr D a v i d Leavesley, our QUT's science in schools mentor and (father of Kit), Mr Dillon and Mrs Biffin. Keep watching this space for exciting science opportunities next term.



Run Club

Congratulations to all our Run Club members for a great effort this term. A special congratulations to Luke Bowman from Prep A (who has earned 5km, 10km and 15 km certificates!!!) and to the other certificate holders. If you haven't got a certificate yet, you might be getting close so make sure you keep coming along (Preps and Year 1s earn a certificate at 5km, others at 10km). New runners



are always welcome! We'll start again in the 2nd week back after holidays. Make sure you check the Banter 1st week back for days and times.

Sports Day Tuckshop

A reminder to all families, that our annual sports day tuckshop will be operating down on the oval on Wednesday 16th July. There is no need to pre order food items, purchases can be made on the day. We will be having a BBQ, with the following items available for lunch: Hamburger \$3, Sausage in bread \$2 and Sushi (usual varieties) \$2.30. Other snack items will be available, including fresh fruit, home baking, biscuits, chips, drinks and iceblocks. As sports day is a “Red



Food” day, no home baking guidelines apply and we welcome baking donations from as many parents as possible. Donations may be brought either to the tuckshop or directly to the oval on the day. A mobile Xpresso van will be onsite from 9am offering coffee for sale.

We are still looking for parents to assist with serving and BBQ duties. If you are able to help for part of the day, please contact Kim Bishop via email on kgbishop@bigpond.com or leave your details at the office. We are also seeking some large esky's for food storage on the day. These can be left at the office.

Brookfield Outside School Hours Care

Term 2 is wrapping up and we have had a fantastic time at BOSHC. With a big increase in numbers this year with lots of new families and lots of Preppies, we have been kept very busy!

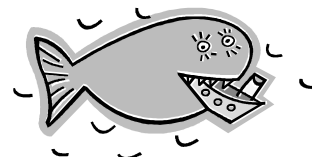
Vacation Care is fast approaching and programs were distributed in classrooms last week. Please be quick with your bookings for the school holidays. We have some exciting excursions planned and lots of fun activities!

Over the past 2 terms, BOSHC has been working hard to make significant improvements to our facilities. With the support of the P&C and Brookfield State School, BOSHC is currently in the process of updating:

- Cupboards/Shelving within the OSHC building
- Creating more natural light with the removal of hedges and replanting ground cover plants, as well as replacing dead bolted doors with glass fire proof doors
- Improving our Inclusion Support Plan to cater for children with disabilities
- Improving the coverage and drainage in the sandpit
- Improving entry and exit points by installing handrails, painting lines on steps and ensuring the doorways are wheelchair accessible
- Ensuring all Electrics are safe and compliant with Child Care Regulations
- Making sure the building is habitable, safe and secure.

We must thank all families and staff who contribute to our centre. We owe our success to the wonderful parents and children in our school community and we greatly appreciate your support. We wish everyone a great holiday.

Any queries please contact Robyn on 3374 2107 or bssoshc@bigpond.com.



P & C News

2008 Trivia Night

At the recent P & C Meeting the date for the 2008 Brookfield State School Annual Trivia Night was finalised. Please mark your diaries – Friday 24 October. Tickets will be on sale in September. We are looking for a few helpers to join Ross Jarden, Liz Cuffe and Gillian Keir to plan and stage this year's event. If you can spare a few hours to help get the evening organised please send Liz your details by email cuffemail@bigpond.com.

If you would like to use this great weekly newsletter to advertise your business/service, please complete the form we have at the office for the 2009 edition.

Burger Bar

Don't forget the Burger bar is still on during the holidays from 6pm at the show-grounds on the 4th July. Bring the kids down to run off some of their holiday energy!!!!

Helpers needed to:

- Coordinate Prizes
- Set up
- Scoring on the night
- Collecting quiz sheets
- Cleaning up! (always popular, get in early).

UNTIL NEXT WEEK.....