A Letter to the Community

Dates to Remember in 2011

MAY
20 – Under 8’s day 8.30am – 12.30pm
22 – P&C Working Bee at the school
26 – Arts Council – 1.40pm Puppet Mania
30 - 200m events - Kooralbyn School

JUNE
2 – Christmas Creek Sports Carnival
3 - Christmas Creek Sports Carnival
5 – First Aide Course
6 – Teaching-learning Audit
7 – School Centenary Meeting
10 - 23 - Book Fair
13 – Public Holiday
15-17 – Junior Camp
16 – District Athletics
17 – District Athletics
22 – Parent Teacher Interviews
24 – Last day of Term 2
24 - Walkathon

JULY
11 – Student free day
12 - Term 3 first day back for students

SEPTEMBER
16 – Last day of Term 3

OCTOBER
03 - Term 4 first day back for students
17 – Student free day

NOVEMBER
2-4 - Senior Camp

TUCKSHOP
25TH MAY

HELPERS
Deb Binstead, Maxine Platell

CAKES/Slice
Kimberley Griffiths

Junior News

What a busy, busy week for the Preps to year Threes. They have been writing postcards and persuasive texts and getting organised for Under Eights Day tomorrow.

Last week the students were investigating and exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. In English the students were writing persuasive texts preparing for NAPLAN with Mrs Perkins.

In Maths this week the students are investing various problem-solving activities and developing necessary skills to successfully solve problems. The Year 3 students are learning how to plot data onto various graphs and the preps are learning about basic number.

In English the students are continuing on with personal writing. They are
currently writing postcards to their parents. They will be coming home in the next few days.
Next week we will publish the Preps letters that they have been writing in class with Miss Lane and Mrs Wieland.
Have a great week!

_Kasey Karin and Cathy_

**Year 6/7 News**

Monday of this week saw all of our class, except 4, head to Tamrookum State School to compete in the cross country. The children published their persuasive assessment pieces that afternoon when we returned.

Ball game practise is in full swing every morning as we lead up to the upcoming athletics carnival. Both senior teams are looking very good. Of an afternoon the whole school has been out practising sprints this week. Field event rotations have commenced also.

Our science unit is coming to a close. This week the children graphed the results from last week’s investigation on how the size of a jar effects the time a candle stays alight.

More next week...

Colleen Benstead & Maryann Watterson

**Christmas Creek Cross Country**

Congratulations to the 24 children who represented our school at the Christmas Creek Cross Country Carnival on Monday at Tamrookum State School. All the children did themselves and our school very proud. The following children did extremely well, winning medallions on the day:

3rd - Mitchell Cobb - 12yrs Boys
2nd - Mallora Bowie - 12 yrs Girls
2nd – Tori Mackay – 11yrs Girls
3rd – Marli Roche - 10yrs Girls
2nd- Mazie Russell - 9yrs Girls
3rd - Billy Bowie - 9yrs Boys

Marli 3rd in her race

Thought for the Week

_‘The talent is in the choices’._

Robert De Niro
**Mazie 2nd in her race**

**Billy with his 3rd medallion**

Well done everyone!

*Maryann Watterson*

**District Cross Country**

10 students have qualified to represent Christmas Creek at the District Carnival next Friday, 27th May, at Hills International School, Jimboomba. These children should all have the relevant paperwork for the carnival. Just a reminder that the $4 fee needs to be paid to the school and the medical forms need to be taken on the day and given to Gary Bolton, the team manager. If your child is not able to compete, but has qualified, please let me know so I can take them off the nominations.

Thanks,

*Maryann*

**Arts Council**

The Arts Council performance will be held in the school hall on Thursday, 26 May at 1.40 pm. The show is entitled, “Puppet Mania” and will be presented by David Hamilton’s puppets at school. Permission forms were sent home last week and are also attached to this week’s newsletter for anyone who has misplaced a form. Forms must be returned to school before students can attend this performance.

**Christmas Creek Athletics Carnival**

Notes will go out next week with information regarding the 200m events being held at Kooralbyn School on Monday, 30th May, and the Christmas Creek Athletics Carnival, being held on Thursday and Friday, 2nd and 3rd June. At this stage we are looking at whether it is feasible to run a bus or just to car pool the children on the days of competition. A decision will be made when we know costing and numbers needing bus.

**School Nurse Visit**

Forms for the School Nurse visit were due yesterday 18th May if parents of Prep students have not yet returned them —please ensure that you return them to the school office as soon as possible. This will assist us in arranging a suitable time for assessments.

A reminder that children in other year levels can also be assessed upon request on a separate consent form. Additional consent forms are available at the office for these students.
Bus Behaviour
At our recent P & C meeting, some parents expressed concern about children’s behaviour recently on our school buses. Could parents please speak to their children about proper behaviour on our buses? Aside from the way it affects other children, bad behaviour on buses is also a safety issue for our bus drivers.

Student Council
Norco Caps
The ‘Caps for Cash’ fundraiser has now finished and all caps have now been collected. A big thank you to everyone for helping the student council to achieve their goal in fundraising by collecting caps.

Friday Lunches
This Friday (20th May) we will not be having our usual healthy lunches, we will however be selling the healthy snacks for $2-00, and ice blocks for $1-00.

Thank you for your co-operation
Colleen Benstead (Yr 6/7 Teacher)

From the Library
The Lights, Camera Book-fair is coming. Be ready for this wonderful literacy event that brings students, teachers, families and the greater community to our school to access quality children’s books and learning materials. Keep checking your newsletter every week for more information.

Maryann Goggins

P&C News
Working Bee
Date: This Sunday, 22 May
Time: 9am – 12pm
We need as many hands on as possible to help tidy up and beautify the school grounds and gardens. Jobs include mulching, weeding, trimming, planting etc. There are jobs to suit all ages. If possible, bring along equipment such as rakes, shovels, secateurs, gloves etc. We will need to take rubbish to the tip, so if you have a ute/trailer that would be great. The P&C will provide a sausage sizzle for lunch. Please text or ring Sue on 0447 326525 before Saturday morning if you are coming to help with catering.

Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting
17-05-2011

Staff and Students
At the end of last term, we experienced a drop in our enrolments. Joel Binstead left the school to move to Brisbane with his mum, Tiffany Fay is attending special school in Beaudesert, and the three Klan children are doing home schooling for religious reasons. At the beginning of this term we welcomed two new children to our school’s Early Learning Centre, Mazie and Rachel Russell. It’s very pleasing to see how well the new girls have settled in. They have both made friends easily with our other students and seem to be right ‘at home’ here already. It was with great fanfare and much sadness that we said ‘goodbye’ to Mrs Jackson at
the end of last term. She is presently on long service leave until the end of this term and is intending to retire officially from teaching when her leave finishes. For this reason, before the Easter vacation, we had a special parade to say farewell to a much-loved and respected teacher who has served this school for 22 and a half years!! She has been the architect of many positive changes in the school throughout that time and her contribution to this school and the students over her many years of dedicated service would be very difficult to measure. Suffice it to say, we all miss her but wish her every happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

We have a new teacher in the Early Learning Centre. Ms Kasey Lane has replaced Mrs Jackson on staff and is now Mrs Perkins’ new teaching partner. Ms Lane has been warmly welcomed by the staff, students and parents and is rapidly coming to terms with the way things are done in the junior school.

At the present time, Mrs Jerome, our Japanese teacher, is on leave as her husband is still very ill, but slowly recovering. Mrs Meers is replacing her as our LOTE teacher until Mrs Jerome’s return to work – hopefully, next semester. Mrs Goggins, our library teacher, will be away on an overseas holiday from the 24 May to the end of this term. We’re all very envious but hope she has a wonderful time and has lots of stories to tell when she returns.

**School Band**
The school band performed very well on ANZAC Day. With some past band members from the high school, our band again proudly led the march in Rathdowney. Both Mrs Wieland and Mrs Benstead worked hard to ensure that the band looked and sounded good on the day. In addition to regular practises for weekly school parades, the band is also busy practising for the next public outing when it leads the march past at the Christmas Creek Athletics Carnival on the 3 June.

**School Events**
Zumba fitness classes are being held in our school hall every Wednesday evening from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. And Zumba toning classes are held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm that same evening. Community members are invited to attend these classes. The cost is $10 for a single lesson or $15 for 2 lessons.

Today, the final collection of milk bottle tops yielded another $155 for the Council. Many thanks go to all those who helped the Council by saving their bottle tops for us.

Currently, the Council are conducting another chocolate drive. Chocolates went home to families before the last school holidays and in time for Easter. The Council also sold chocolates at the disco on the Thursday before the holidays and at their stall at the Heritage Festival. Money raised from this drive will help to pay for the entries to the venues our junior students attend on school camp and also for the activities that the senior students will engage in when they’re on camp at Moreton Island in November. The Council also sold showbags at their stall on Heritage Day.

**Student Council**
The new Student Council is busy planning further fund-raising efforts. Friday’s healthy lunches are still proving to be a winner. The iceblocks are also selling well on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
The playgroup continues to meet at school on Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:00. It’s great to see all these new little ones enjoying the play and interaction with other children.

The school’s Centenary committee meets every month on the first Tuesday to prepare for next year’s centenary celebrations in May. This year will be a time for getting the school and grounds ready for this event. The school has a brand new exciting web site with a special page for centenary information. The school has employed a private company to maintain and update our website for us. This is especially important to us now as we are very keen to let people know about what is being planned for our school centenary celebrations next year. Having an exciting and current ‘new look’ web site is also important as we try to attract more enrolments to our school. Web sites are becoming the first point of contact for most prospective new families when choosing a school for their children.

Our hard-working P&C put on another wonderful disco for the students at the end of first term. Most, if not quite all, our students were their dressed in their best country and western gear!! We also whole-heartedly thank our terrific DJ, Darren, for keeping everyone involved and entertained. The mirror balls, lights and smoke machine all added to the fun on the night!

On the Thursday before the holidays, the school had a small ANZAC Day service with a special guest from the Canungra land warfare base to speak to the students about the meaning of ANZAC Day. Two Year 7 students read a big book explaining the meaning of ANZAC Day to the school, and the whole school sang a special song about the day at the end of which there was a minute’s silence and our school flag was raised and lowered by our Year 7 students while Blaire Robinson ably played the “Last Post” on her clarinet. Some parents also attended the school parade. It was a simple but very moving service. The school Band also led the march in Rathdowney on ANZAC Day. As some students were away on holidays, it was great to again have the past members of the school band to play along with the school band. Other students joined the march. Congratulations also go to the two students, Mahtika and Dean who read the Resolutions and the Requiem so well at the service after the march. You all did our school proud on the day!!

Three of our students were selected in the district teams to go to the regional soccer carnival on the Gold Coast this week. We wish them well as they play for their teams.

Mrs Easton and Mrs Watterson, together with the other teachers, have been busy preparing the students for the Athletics carnival in two weeks time. The Christmas Creek cross country was held at Tamrookum last Monday. It was great to see most of our students having a go and, of the 23 students who ran for our school, 10 students got places and are now selected for the Christmas Creek team to go to the regional cross country at Jimboomba later this term.

There will be another Arts Council production at school at 1:40pm on 26 May. The performance is entitled “Puppet Mania” and features the David Hamilton puppet show.

The school will undergo another Teaching-Learning audit on the 6 June. Ms Debbie Hails from Brisbane will be our auditor this
Normally audits are only undertaken every 4 years, but as Rathdowney is about to start a new strategic planning cycle, this audit will give us information to assist with our new school plan for the next 4 years. Information and costings for the junior school’s annual camp have been published in recent newsletters. We hope to have firm numbers of students and parents attending in the next 2 or 3 weeks so that we can notify the accommodation and other venues. The dates for this year’s camp are 15-17 June.

Staff Inservice
In March, the teachers attended two after-school seminars at Eden’s Landing State School to help us prepare our students for NAPLAN, more specifically this year’s writing task. The ideas and information we received was very valuable.
Miss van Bennekom will attend a principals’ conference in Browns Plains tomorrow.
This term, Mrs Cullen has continued to meet with senior regional finance personnel to prepare for the changeover to OneSchool finance (Release 3) Rathdowney is one of 37 schools state-wide that has been selected to participate in the first stage of the release. Our school went live last Monday, and so far there have been no problems!! Mrs Todd also received some in-service today to help prepare her for term 3 when she will relieve for Mrs Cullen as she goes on leave for the term.
In our weekly staff meetings, Mrs O is leading discussions on the Developing Performance Plans for Teachers. We have also been discussing better ways to differentiate learning for each of our students to better suit their learning needs.
A World Apart

On 21 and 22 May five locations in the Mt Barney valley invite you to experience "A World Apart". This family-friendly event allows you to sample unique local food and wine, and visit each venue at a leisurely pace. Your FREE ticket allows you to try local wine, Italian gelato, lillypilly jam on pikelets, and go on an alpaca farm tour, or a bushtucker tour and try some samples. Come and discover Mt Barney, and visit your backyard for a day!!

There will be additional food items and activities for sale on the day including authentic wood fired pizzas, Alpaca crafts, a German lunch and tractor rides, gourmet bushtucker BBQ fare, and local wine by the glass/case.

Those who visit at least 3 locations can enter the multi-prize draw to win over $600 worth of accommodation, experiences, and wine prizes donated by the participating operators.

No booking is needed, just follow the signs, and collect your free ticket at the first venue you visit.

If you have any further questions, then please email or ring me.

regards

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Parenting Children
With Eczema

ARE YOU CHALLENGED BY YOUR CHILD’S ECZEMA?

The University of Queensland is conducting research into parenting children with eczema. Parenting a child with eczema presents many challenges (everything from the daily application of creams and avoiding eczema triggers, to more general parenting tasks). The aim of this study is to understand the factors that make the management of childhood eczema particularly difficult, and to use this information to develop strategies that might assist parents in managing their child’s eczema.

If you are a parent of a 3 to 10-year-old child with eczema, we would love to hear from you!

By sharing your experiences (confidentially), you will be making a valuable contribution to the development of much-needed childhood eczema management strategies for parents. Results of this study will be made available to all participants.

To complete the online survey, please log on to: http://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/eczema

For further information about the project or to request a survey to be posted to you, please email Katie Sillar (katie.sillar@uqconnect.edu.au) or phone Amy Mitchell (07 3365 7305) at the Parenting and Family Support Centre in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072 (Fax: 07 3365 6724).

Thank you for your time and participation.

Alina Morawska, Amy Mitchell and Katie Sillar
UQ Parenting and Family Support Centre