Dear Parents/Carers,

As a staff we have just finished a series of planning meetings that will allow us to continue the improvement of all students’ academic development. Each teacher is now working on a 5 week cycle to enhance student improvement. We are doing this through the funding and resourcing from the Great Results Guarantee money that has allowed me to employ Mrs Tankey to focus specifically on identifying the great practices that are occurring and applying them to the whole school.

I am away this week participating in a Professional Development opportunity on Students with Disabilities. The State government has a renewed focus on these students and this is the beginning steps of regeneration.

**Good luck to all the athletes this week.** Prep students will be participating in their first Athletics Carnival, Year 6 and 7 students in their last Primary school Carnival and to all the AFL players both boys and girls.

**Sports Day** - The day will begin at 9.00am sharp with a march past with all houses participating, followed by 200m finals. We then have our sprint heats starting with children born in 2009. Sprint finals next, followed by ball games and relays. Presentations will be approximately 2:15pm. **Unfortunately times for children’s events can’t be given so come for the whole day and enjoy the events. The office will be closed while sports carnival is on.**

Attendance for this year so far: 92.03% total attendance. 39.38% of students at 95%-100% attendance. As I asked earlier this year I am aiming to get to 97% attendance for the year.

**Attendance really matters and we need your help.**

**STRATEGIES TO KEEP YOUR STUDENTS ATTENDANCE ABOVE 97%**

**Regular school attendance - Information for parents and carers.**

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important? **Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.**

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school? Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school. Principals decide if the reason given for your child’s absence is acceptable.
Avoid keeping your child away from school for:
Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.
What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time? **You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.**
Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school? **Yes, you must let the school know the reason why your child has been absent from school within three school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.**

**Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?**
- won't get out of bed in the morning
- won't go to bed at night
- can't find their uniform, books, school bag
- slow to eat breakfast
- haven't done their homework
- watching TV
- have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- it's their birthday

**If so, a set routine can help**
- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

What should I do if my child won’t go to school? **You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.**

### Why read 20 Minutes at Home?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student A</th>
<th>Student B</th>
<th>Student C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>5 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 minute per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3600 minutes per school year</td>
<td>900 minutes per school year</td>
<td>180 minutes per school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 800 000 words per year</td>
<td>282 000 words per year</td>
<td>8 000 words per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scores on average in the 90th on Standardised tests</td>
<td>Scores on average in the 50th on Standardised tests</td>
<td>Scores on average in the 10th on Standardised tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Prep, by the end of year 6, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days and Student C will have read for 3.

Want to be a better reader? Simply read.

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**Regards**  
**David Routh**  
**Principal**
Dear Parents and Carers,

Week 8 of Term 2 is here already. Your child or children may well be talking of their assessment tasks for one or more subjects as the teachers are busy finalising their data for report cards for semester one. More likely though they will be talking of who is going to come up tops on sports day!! Mr Lane sure can pick the day, the weather report is suggesting rain at this stage! Need rain? Get Mr Lane to program some sport.

All teachers have been engaged in meetings to improve the reading levels of targeted students. This does not mean that others are left out but it means that we have identified some students who, with a little extra work, may lift their level. Some teachers have chosen lower achieving readers to boost, others have a middle level reader to lift to a higher level and yet others chose higher level readers to develop the depth of their knowledge and understanding. All students need your input. They need you to make sure reading is important. They need you, not to just listen, but to ask questions to check their understanding, to ask what might happen next, to ask what would happen if this or that happened instead of the actual story line. They need you to show that reading happens every day in many places. In the world of change as your children grow, reading is going to be high on the list of the skills that matter.

In this newsletter, the principal’s page has the statistics around reading every day for differing times and the results are dramatic. Please have a look at it if you missed it last time. Like all skills it needs to be practised. It is interesting as different teachers across all the classes meet similar deficiencies in children’s ability to comprehend.

The early stages of reading are about the basics of sound and letters and the use of picture clues to aid understanding. As the children acquire the necessary skills that enable them to decode the letters and words on the page it is the understanding of what is read that becomes the focus. The decoding process is not just sounding out! It doesn’t always work. Take the word ‘WAS’ it does not sound out and that is why there are lists of sight words. These are common words that just have to be known to allow fluent reading, not all of which can be sounded. Decoding takes more than that and the younger students have a great little book mark that helps remind them of the steps that can be taken.

As children become readers they need to be asked those questions to ensure understanding. I heard an older student last week, who read a passage beautifully but was unable to successfully demonstrate understanding of what was read. Even answers that were there in the text were missed. This is where we target specific skills to develop strategies for locating the answer. Reread, scan, skim to find the relevant information skills being developed daily. You can assist by doing the same at home.

On a different note, there are still a lot of really poor choices in lunchboxes. If a child has a chocolate and a sandwich in front of them, which do you think will be eaten first?? Nineteen out of twenty will have the chocolate or the lolly or whatever! When some children have those foods there is a reaction and they demonstrate less ability to concentrate, sit still or focus and in some cases behave appropriately and this affects them, the class and the teacher’s ability to get the job done. Your co-operation in this regard would really be appreciated. If it is not there it can’t be eaten.

Thanks in anticipation,

John Hancock
STLD:HOC

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Sight and Hearing Testing – Prep

Students were seen today for Sight and Hearing testing. Some of these students will need to be tested at a later date due to colds/flu symptoms. Any parents who wish their child to be seen and who missed handing their form in please contact the school. Date is to be advised.
Respectful  Responsible  Safe

Bodhi Mitchell

Jack Jenkins

Eddison Rodgers

Mia Poustie

Student of the Week
Serenity Charles

Hannah Thompson

Armani Fraser

Tom Rolph

Student of the week
RESPECTFUL            RESPONSIBLE            SAFE

Luca Bowe
Abbie Burton
Codie French
Eve Wakefield
Assembly Awards

Week 6

Tyron Owen  Always displaying a positive attitude
Krystal Johnson  Working responsibly by completing all tasks
June Martin  Super reading
Levi Fraser  Not being afraid to make mistakes when learning something new
Belle Impey  Caring about her friends
Darcy Turner  Great contributing to our festival painting
Connor Healy  Great work in maths
Liana Cooper  Great work in maths
Grace Wakefield  for significant improvement in reading
Sankalp Nandamuri  Always being respectful
Seth Egan  Great maths work
Micheal Vieritz  Being safe and walking on concrete
Tom Moody  Writing an awesome paragraph summaries
Annabelle Wheeler  Attempting work before asking for help
Jacob Spiteri  Great listening skills
Millie Wright  For student of the week

WINNERS!
Bundaberg School Boys Rep Footy
Jackson Skinner, Connor Yeats and Lachlan Hazell

Week 6

Libby Keevers  Working quietly and responsibly
Levi Fraser  Not being afraid to make mistakes
Caryss Parry  Taking responsibility for her learning
Riley Thompson  Responsible behaviour
Jacob Wardlaw  Excellent results in reading
Ryan Sevenson  Excellent hand writing
Charli Dare  Courteous and polite on the phone
Tex Harris  Student of the week
Tyson Jenkins  Making an effort during handwriting
River Wakefield  Being a respectful, responsible learner
Poy Chan-Yu  Working well in class
Cooper Keleher  Responsible behaviour
Charlie Bradley-Tasser  Excellent results in reading
Zeke Fisher  Working well in maths
Tarnia Watts  Learning my phonograms
Mack Harrington  Being a responsible learner in class

Presentation for this event was held last night with Lachlan Hazell receiving Most Improved for the Year.
UNIFORM SHOP

Open Thursday 2.30pm for sport shirts.

Office and uniform shop **closed** on Friday 13/6/13.