

Friday 22 May 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have run out of newsletter covers so this one is in simple back to back format.

Kate Street Parking: Last Friday I had a meeting with 2 Brisbane City Council officials. They informed me that there had been complaints from neighbours about cars parking across their driveways. They also informed me that cars should not be parking in front of the Kate Street gate entrance. This is our emergency entrance and exit. Officers from the council will be checking parking around the school streets and drivers will be fined for any breaches.

Movie Night: This has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Money will be reimbursed to families who have already paid.

Australian Early Development Index: (AEDI): Our school, along with all other schools in Queensland and Australia will participate in the national implementation of the AEDI.

Why is Australia implementing the AEDI? Research shows that investing resources and energy into children's early years, when they are developing rapidly, will bring life-long benefits to them and to the whole community. The AEDI is a measure of how young children are developing in different communities. This information enables communities and governments to pinpoint the types of services, resources and supports young children and their families need to give children the best possible start in life.

What is the AEDI? The AEDI is population measure of young children's development across five areas:

- * Physical health and wellbeing
- * Social competence
- * Emotional maturity
- * Language and cognitive skills
- * Communication and general knowledge

What does it mean for your child? Across Australia, between May and July 2009, teachers of children in the first year of full-time schooling (Prep in Queensland) will complete an online checklist for each child in their class. The checklist comprises a series of questions about each child's development across the five areas mentioned above. The checklist gathers general information about children's development. It does not seek to rate your child's development or learning. AEDI results are grouped together according to the suburb or district in which the child lives not by the school they attend. The information provided about your child is anonymous. No child will be identified through the AEDI.

How will the information be used? Government and community organisations will use the information gathered to assist planning for social and community services in the early years.

Parents with children in Prep who do not want the information about their child to be collected please contact the school before Friday 28 May. Teachers will be entering student data from Monday 1 June.

ICAS Test: The first will be on Wednesday 27 May in Computer Skills. Children involved will be completing the test in the library or staffroom. There was an error on the term calendar. The ICAS Science test was listed for 10 June, however we are not hosting this one.

Under Eights' Day: This will be on Monday. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. We will have a jumping castle and a performance by Timbarra Productions called 'Pirates.'

You Can Do It: You Can Do It! Education's main purpose is to support communities, schools, and homes in a collective effort to optimise the social, emotional, and academic outcomes of all young people. Its unique contribution is in identifying the social and emotional capabilities that all young people need to acquire in order to be successful in school, experience well-being, and have positive relationships including making contributions to others and the community (good citizenship). This term classes will be introducing students to units of work called "Ready, Set, You Can, Do It! Year 6/7A have made a colourful wall display of a success tree with statements describing success. The children recounted and discussed a successful event they had experienced. The children also made apples and found and wrote synonyms of the word "success" for their tree.

RACQ Road Safety Team Visit: As part of the Active School Travel Program, RACQ's Crash Test Dummies 'Skittles' and 'Bingle' visited our school on May 18 to teach students how to be safe pedestrians and passengers. From Prep to Year 7, students' physical and behavioural development, as well as the way they use roads, changes. As such, each presentation had a different, age appropriate focus. Each 'Streets Ahead' presentation was interactive and engaging, and encouraged children to be actively involved to demonstrate and practise correct road safety behaviours. Skittle and Bingle made road safety fun and interesting for your children, making it easier for them to learn how to be safe road users and to remember key concepts when in real-life situations. Why not ask your child what the favourite part of the presentation was for them?

Active School Travel Results: This week was won, once again, by 6/7A.

Crossing Supervisor: Would any parent who lives close by like to be a crossing supervisor? At this stage it would be mainly for relieving with a view to more work in the future. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please let me know. Training is provided. A medical certificate is required.

Parent Café: Our next parent café is on Friday 29 May. Please come along for morning tea and a chat after assembly.

Loud Shirt Day: This is also next Friday. We ask that children pay a gold coin to wear a loud shirt to raise money for Deaf Children Australia. The louder (brighter) the better!

Instrumental Music: Just a reminder that Mr Siwers will not be teaching or conducting rehearsals during the week June 1 to June 5 due to his attendance at District Music Camp.

Healthy Lunchboxes: Just a reminder that students are encouraged to bring lunches that contain healthy food. There is strong evidence to suggest that nutritious food helps children maintain attention which has an impact on learning.

Regards: **Brendon Madden**

For Your Diary

Mon	25 May	Under Eights' Day – Prep to 2/3OK
Wed	27 May	ICAS – Computer Skills
Fri	29 May	Parent Café after Assembly
Fri	29 May	Loud Shirt Day
Mon	1 June	Yr 6 Puberty Night
Mon	15 June	P&C Meeting 7.00pm

Information Headquarter News

Premier's Reading Challenge: It has started! Each student has received a record sheet – so get reading. To add to the excitement, each Thursday lunch students who bring in their record sheets will earn tickets to go into the draw to win a Nintendo DS for their class (for the week). The first draw will be this week on Assembly. One of our students was so motivated he went home and read 9 books in one night.

Book Fair: The book fair will still be going ahead. Since the Movie Night has been cancelled we will be holding it in the library at lunchtimes. Parents are invited to come and view.

Leigh Hobart

P&C News

Apologies for the cancellation of tonight's Movie Night but our projectionist became unexpectedly ill. You may have noticed an additional P&C voluntary contribution on this term's invoice of \$10. This is because the yearly contribution has been raised to \$60 and only \$50 was placed last term's invoice. Our next P&C meeting is on 15 June because 18 June is a public holiday.

Jimsie Varghese

Tuckshop Roster

Tues Homebake: 26 May: Bronwyn Drinkwater, Megan Roberts
Tues Helper: Thuy
Thurs Homebake: 28 May: Susie Byrnes, Natasha Johnson
Thurs Helper: Thuy
Tues Homebake: 2 June: Julie Osborne, Caitlin Neville
Tues Helper: Thuy
Thurs Homebake: 4 June: Susie Byrnes, Tessa Ronan
Thurs Helper: Thuy

Prep

Nerida Swetman

This week we welcomed Althea, a wonderful new student to our class. We also said goodbye to our travel buddy Charleville Bilby. Students created a book for Charleville to take home. We included pictures of special times as well as information about the people at Toowong who help us. Last week Payam's mother visited us to talk about the work doctors do. Some of us listened to our heart beating with a stethoscope. After this special visit we discussed how we could help keep ourselves healthy and prevent the spread of germs by washing our hands, using a tissue and covering our mouth when we cough or sneeze. We have also had fun making patterns using beads, play dough and paint.

P/1CS

Michelle Coleman/Amanda Stewart

In our unit the last few weeks we have been looking at texture and what things are made from. We discovered that objects can be soft or hard, bumpy or smooth, and some things are even squishy! We are very excited because this Monday is our "Under 8's Pirate Day". We have been practising our pirate songs and can't wait to see the Pirate Show and the Pirate Jumping Castle. Don't forget to wear your pirate clothes that day, and please keep your fingers crossed for excellent pirate sailing weather!

1/2B

Elitia Brennan

We have been really enjoying the creativity of making our own puppets. We have made finger puppets, paddle-pop stick puppets and last week we worked on our paper hand puppets. Could I ask that parents please send along an odd sock as our next project is a sock puppet! We welcome Peter to our class. Peter has come from Korea.

2/3OK

Bronwyn Kelly/Elaine O'Dea

What a strange week. First the strike and then all that rain! Although we love it, we are hoping all the rain has gone by next Monday because that is Under 8s day at school. The children will work and play with all the other lower grade classes for the full day and the program looks like being great fun. We have organised for a theatre company to present a pirate show. This presentation is very interactive and the children are allowed to bring pirate clothes or accessories from home to wear during the performance but . . . absolutely NO swords or other weapons! The children will also have access to a bouncing castle as well as a wide range of hands-on craft and science activities. If that is not exciting enough, next week we also start our dance unit under the expert eye of Tori. This will take place every Thursday afternoon for the next few weeks and we suggest that the girls may like to wear bike pants on those days as there will be plenty of high kicks!

3/4MN Mary Anne McIntyre/Tracey-Lee Nicholas

The NAPLAN is over but we are still in the middle of testing and assessing for report writing. There will be parent/teacher meetings during the last week of term. The children have a maths investigation to work on this week. Year 3 students are using a calendar page of their birthday month and Year 4 are using a card game of the times of the events in their day. The children have this weekend to finish this and bring it to school on Monday to present or play the game. This week we have started our Art lessons with Fran Hamwood. We are developing our drawing skills by learning more about perspective. In Science we have nearly finished learning about each of the simple machines. We'll be ready to make a complex machine incorporating simple machines when Reverse Garbage comes on Tuesday 9 June at 1.30pm. Parent help would be appreciated as little disasters joining materials can frustrate and limit the success of the machine. The children have great fun.

4/5D

Emma Dixon/Olivetta Harris

We have a number of possible fashion designers to watch out for! Monday we made bags. The children had to choose materials found around the home and design and make a bag that was able to carry something specific. The final products were amazing. We had bags you could wear, fashionable evening bags, backpacks and beach bags. There were multiple pockets and beautiful decorations. They were just fantastic. We must thank Donna for her help as there were a lot of needles to thread! We have finished writing our narratives and now we are working on the second part of the assessment. Children have to tell their story orally and are able to make and use props to make it more creative and exciting. These presentations will take place on Monday so make sure there is some practice taking place on the weekend!

4/5FM

Elizabeth Fletcher/Cameron Miller

We have been working on our narratives about Flight. In Art we are making a book cover for our stories using a choice of either symmetry, tones or texture. A lot of the children in our class are going to Creative Generations to sign the *National Anthem* and *Climb Every Mountain*. On Tuesday we got to play games and watch *Flubber* in the library because the teachers were on strike. On Wednesday we got to stay in the classrooms because of the rain. It was fun because we got to play games and eat our lunch in the classroom. Those of us in the choir also got to practise.
by Leif and Tarja

6/7A

Keiran Abel

This week we have been getting our hands dirty conducting experiments about the strength of plaster. We will be using the photos we took to create a mini MythBusters episode. Two student teachers, Miss Beaufoy and Miss Wollstein, have been working in our classroom. We had fun participating in 'the Compass Olympics' and creating timelines about our past and future that the student teachers taught us during maths. *by Charlie, Hamish GR, Jack N and Khoa*

6/7BN

Saleigh Noble/Leah Barnett

In our class we have just started Art lessons by drawing boxes! We have been learning about perspective and how to make our box look 3D. On Tuesday we had a day off because the teachers were on strike. It will be the Book Fair next week which will be a good opportunity to buy a book for the Premier's Reading Challenge. Yesterday we did a Torch test which was a little confusing because it was hard to figure out what to put in the spaces.
by Rhiannon and Sophie