

Friday 31 July 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

New Number: 3859 6111

Teachers' Strike: As you may have seen on the news recently, the teacher strike planned for next week will not be going ahead.

ICAS English Competition: The ICAS English Competition is scheduled for Tuesday 4 August. Nominated students will be sitting the test on this day. However students from Year 4/5, who are away on excursion, will do their test on Wednesday 5 August.

STEM Conference: Congratulations to those students who attended the STEM Conference at the University of Queensland last Friday. Mrs Hobart reported back that the conference was extremely interesting and that our students were very well behaved. The conference is a district initiative and gives students the opportunity to interact with experts in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Speakers included the likes of zoologist, Professor Craig Franklin and Dr Christian Witter of DERM who spoke about remote sensor and satellite technology. Students were also involved in self selected workshops run by specialists including marine biology, robotics, earthquakes and chemistry. The next stage of the conference is for students to determine a scientific project and present this during the final phase. What a wonderful opportunity.

WTB Track and Field Carnival: Good luck to those students attending the West Taylor Bridge Track and Field Carnival on Friday 7 August and Monday 10 August. After seeing some great competition at our school during the athletics carnival I am sure that they will do us proud.

P&C Meeting: Don't forget the P&C meeting scheduled for 7pm on Monday 10 August.

Exhibition Holidays: The public holiday for the exhibition is scheduled for Wednesday 12 August. Traditionally the Thursday is a Student Free Day. Due to workplace reforms the teachers at school have already worked this student free day at the beginning of the year so the school will be closed for Thursday 13 August.

CAS Students: Welcome to the Queensland Academy of Maths Science and Technology students who are doing their community service hours here at the school. Apparently this was a highly desired location with 60 students applying to help out at the school. We have twenty students from the academy coming to visit and assist teachers on Wednesday afternoons. This is a fabulous opportunity for teachers to have an extra set of hands in the classroom and for us to make links with our nearest high school. This program will run for 7 weeks.

Gymnastics: Prep to Year 3/4MN are enjoying their 5 weeks of gymnastics. Good to see the children learning new skills and trying so hard.

Active School Travel: Our winner of this week's interclass trophy goes to 2/3OK with 86%.

Tuckshop: We are very lucky to have Thuy doing such a great job in the tuckshop, however she cannot run it without a little help. If you can spare a few hours once per month on a Tuesday, please let me know.

Regards: Brendon Madden

For Your Diary

Mon	3 Aug	Evergreen theatre - Prep
Tues	4 Aug	ICAS test - English
Tues	4 Aug	P/1 to GoMA and Museum excursion
Tues	4 Aug	4/5 Classes to Commissariat Stores
Fri	7 Aug	WTB District Sports - ½ day
Mon	10 Aug	WTB District Sports - full day
Mon	10 Aug	P&C Meeting 7.00pm
Wed	12 Aug	Ekka Public Holiday
Thurs	13 Aug	Pupil Free Day

Information Headquarter News

Spellathon: Well done to all of the students who did so well with their spelling words during testing last week. Spellathon forms should be back with students by now and money collected. Once you have collected the money please give to the classroom teacher or submit to the office. The class that raises the most will be rewarded with a Super Dooper Pizza Party. Monies due by Friday 7 August.

Premier's Reading Challenge: Winner of the Nintendo DS this week is Helen Mols - congratulations! Don't forget that the library is open on Mondays and Thursdays at morning tea time (due to the building works). Bring in your Premier's Challenge reading sheets for tickets to go in the draw. If you have finished your original sheet bring it in for Mrs H to keep safe and we can give you another. Keep reading!

Jump Rope for Heart

Jump Rope for Heart is back on again this year. I'm sure you are very busy collecting money from sponsors and practising your fabulous skipping skills! Our Jump Off day will be Thursday 20 August. On this day the whole school will be involved in skipping activities. What a fit school we will be! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. Enjoy your skipping!

Amanda Stewart

Student Council News

We raised \$178 with our Stress Down Day last Friday. This money will be sent to Lifeline. Prior to this we sent \$400.50 to Deaf Children Australia, \$33.75 to Caritas Australia who are working to improve health in Bangladesh, and \$215 to Legacy from selling Anzac Day wristbands. Thank you for your support with all our fundraising.

Community Speech

Are you involved in Lions, Rotary or another community group or organisation? Our 6/7 class is learning about different organisations, how they help the community, and how democratic decisions are made. If you have 15 minutes to spare and could discuss your organisation with our students, please email Saleigh Noble on snobl28@eq.edu.au, or contact the office as we would love to hear from you.

Saleigh Noble

Tuckshop Roster

Tues Homebake:	4 Aug:	Julie Osborne, Caitlin Neville
Tues Helper:		Catherine Rees
Thurs Homebake:	6 Aug:	Susie Byrnes, Tessa Ronan
Thurs Helper:		Rayna
Tues Homebake:	11 Aug:	Melissa Watson, Liz Freeman
Tues Helper:		Vacancy
Thurs Homebake:	13 Aug:	Susie Byrnes, Melissa Freeman
Thurs Helper:		Rayna

Auslan Classes

Classes for parents and other members of the community are held here at school free of charge on Tuesday nights from 6.00 to 7.30pm. Please contact the office or email Michelle on mocon12@eq.edu.au for further questions or to RSVP.

Prep

Nerida Swetman

Working as research scientists, Prep students visited the Australian desert and rainforest. Students counted, measured and weighed animals. Some students wrote notes and reports to take back to base. Students have also been enjoying yoga on Friday afternoon with Ms Baker. Next week Evergreen Rainforest Theatre as well as Geckos Wildlife will be visiting us. Students will have the opportunity to get close to some native animals. Don't be late as you will miss out on all the fun!

P/1CS

Michelle Coleman/Amanda Stewart

We are getting excited about our excursion to the Gallery of Modern Art and the Queensland Museum next week. Please don't forget to bring morning tea in a labelled paper or plastic bag and your water bottle. We have been learning about how Aboriginal people live according to the seasons (and comparing how we live according to the seasons). Did you know that in the thunder season (or summer or wet season) sharks and stingrays are in abundance? We have also been learning about different weather events such as cyclones, tornadoes and droughts. Did you know that tornadoes have the strongest winds on Earth? Our 'You can do It' focus has been 'Olivia Organisation'. Please make sure the children are responsible for their own blue folder in the morning. It's not Mum or Dad's job to put it in the tray. Luckily most children have been organised. Well done! Don't forget to bring back your Spellathon and Jump rope for Heart forms and money.

1/2B

Elitia Brennan

Well, we've started making our hot air balloons and our travels across Australia are very near. Designing our hot air balloons was fun, and we've even learned the real names for some of the parts of the balloons. Did you know that the balloon part is called an 'envelope'? This week we've also learned about real and unusual things we might find in the sky, as well as weather events like tornados, storms, wind and hail. Just a quick reminder to bring back Spell-a-thon and Jump Rope for Heart forms. Homework returns and library borrowing are continuing each Thursday. Also, we are currently looking for parents who would be willing to help in the classroom. Please see Miss Brennan if you would like to volunteer!

2/3OK

Bronwyn Kelly/Elaine O'Dea

What a fantastic time we had on our excursion yesterday! It was a very full day but we learned heaps and had lots of fun and excitement. The children demonstrated wonderful behaviour which made us all very proud. Many thanks to our parent helpers who assisted with the smooth running of the day. The exhibition was really interesting and gave us a bit of an insight into what a clever person da Vinci was. At the art gallery, amongst other things, we took part in a mystery trail and listened to the retell of the theft of the Mona Lisa, which happened in 1911. Just a quick mention about our Wednesday PE lessons. Because the oval is out of bounds whilst the building work is going on the children have their lesson on the big oval down the hill. They are escorted there by 2 adults but must leave at 9:00 so as not to have their lesson time reduced too much. It is therefore important that the children are at school and organised by 8:55am every Wednesday. If your child arrives after that time you will need to take them down the hill to join the rest of the class, otherwise they will miss out on that lesson. Have a great weekend everyone!

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

We have begun the term with a home project. The children are designing and building their own machine. This machine can be a model or improvement of a current machine, e.g. lift, crane or an invention of their own. There are checkpoint dates to have sections completed by. This prevents children from rushing on the night before it is due to present. We will display and present our machines to each other on Monday 10 August. We are using our sketches of the city buildings in our art lessons with Mrs Hamwood. In Maths we are learning about mixed numbers, and writing recounts in English. Thank you for your Spellathon money and walking to school on Wednesdays,

4/5D

Emma Dixon/Olivetta Harris

We have been doing a lot of map work. We have to find places on the map and then point to them. We have been reading a book called *My Country Australia* and learning about the different cities. On Wednesday we had Ms Baker because Ms Dixon's son was sick. Mr Madden told us how to use more descriptive words when we are writing our narratives and also to try and think of our own stories and not copy stories that we have seen in the movies or on TV. We are looking forward to our excursion next week to the Commissariat Stores to learn more about convict times in Brisbane. The Commissariat Stores is Brisbane's oldest occupied building. *by Rachel and Kei*

4/5FM

Elizabeth Fletcher/Cameron Miller

Students in 4/5FM have been working on letter writing skills. They have focused on the difference between personal letters and business letters. This weekend on Saturday the school Signing Choir will perform at Picnic in the Park – an event raising money for Cerebral Palsy. Come along and have a fun day! There is yummy food and rides. Students are learning about Australian history and convict life. We love getting together with 4/5DH to read 'Surviving Sydney Cove.' Welcome to our new ALMs (Auslan Language Models) Jonamie and Anna, who join our already fabulous team of Laura, Di and Duke. We would love parents and carers to visit our class website as we update it every fortnight. *Mrs F.*

6/7A

Keiran Abel

This week we attended an excursion to City Hall. We enjoyed learning about the local government. For Maths this week we learned about dot, pie and line graphs and how and when to use them. We have also been discussing our transition to Year 7 or high school. We have learned how to say 'no' to peer pressure and ways to get out of uncertain situations. We are also enjoying reading the series *Artemis Fowl*. *by Hamish B and Eli*

6/7BN

Saleigh Noble/Leah Barnett

Last week we went to the City Hall and saw where the Lord Mayor sits when they are having conferences or important meetings. It was very big and made of wood. No-one else is allowed to sit in it. If someone arrives late for a meeting, the doors are closed and they are not allowed to enter. Some of us were chosen to go to the STEM conference last Friday. We learnt about the environment and how to use less energy. We've all done the Spellathon tests and we did really well, now we just have to collect all the money. Yesterday for Bright Sparks the kids doing the Botanical Art went to the Botanic Gardens by taxi where we chose plants and then tried to draw them. Some of us are working on Robocup robots where we have to make our robots dance. The Optiminds group have to build an eco-friendly house. *by Indie and Ian*

Community News

School of Psychology: UQ is seeking participants aged 8 to 12 years to help with a project "The Impact of Mood and Emotions on visual Perception" Participants would receive \$20. More info at the office or ring Felisa on 0423 293 358