

# Friday 6 February 2009

## Dear Parents and Carers,

**School Bar-b-que and parent/teacher meetings:** On Monday 16 February we will be having a school welcome. A bar-b-que is being organised by the P&C to welcome all new and returning parents. At this time teachers will be providing sessions to inform about classroom routines, homework and teacher expectations. Two sessions have been organised to cater for parents with more than one child. There will be a g-rated movie screening in the library during the sessions.

1st session: 5:30– 6:00 pm                      2nd session: 6:00– 6:30 pm  
BBQ    6:00– 7:30 pm

**Rock Wall:** On Thursday the children had a wonderful time testing their skills and building their confidence on the rock wall. It was great to see the children encouraging one another.

**2009 Staff:** I would like to welcome and wish our new staff all the best for this year. Leah Barnett, Elaine O’Dea and Emma Dixon return to classes this year. Therese O’Brien will be replacing Kylie Sommerfeld as our new ESL support teacher. I would like to welcome David Morgan and Duke Moolenaar as new language assistants and Donna Kelly will be replacing Bernie in the office. Here is our current staff list.

### Teachers

Prep	Nerida Swetman
/1	Michelle Coleman /Amanda Stewart
1/2 B	Elitia Brennan
2 /3 OK	Elaine O’Dea / Bronwyn Kelly
3/4 MN	Mary Anne McIntyre / Tracey-Lee Nicholas
4/5 FM	Elizabeth Begley / Cameron Miller
4/5 D	Emma Dixon
6/7A	Keiran Abel
6/ NB	Leah Barnett / Saleigh Noble

Learning Support	Bronwyn Gartside
Head of Curriculum	Leigh Hobart
Head of Special Education	Michelle O’Connor
ESL Support	Therese O’Brien
Class Music/Drama	Mirko Ruckels
Physical Education	Jo Bennie
Speech Therapist	Wendy Custance
Advisory Visiting Teacher	Angela Stevenson
Instrumental	Koss Siwers
Guidance Officer	Sue Robertson

**Teacher aides** Marilyn Forrest, Rea Dobbs, Ann Gilson, Susanna Cheng, Linda Van de Poll

**Language Assistants** Laura Tuohey, Mikey Webb, Rebecca Thurrowgood, Davina Courtney, Diana Laing, David Morgan, Duke Moolenaar, Peter Smith, Sarah-May Waddell

**Cleaners** Linda Lech, Janet Dinsdale

**Grounds** Chris Potter

**Office Administration** Susan McIntosh, Helma Clayton, Donna Kelly

**TOSHC** Monica van Kraay

**Tuckshop** Bonnie Brown

**Best of Wishes Bernie:** This is Bernie’s last week of working in the office at Toowong State School. I would like to wish her the best in her future work. Bernie is hard working and has done a great job managing our school finances and budget. She will be missed for her great sense of humour and welcoming service skills. Best in the future!

**P&C Committee Meeting:** P&C Committee meetings are held every second Monday of the month commencing at 7:00pm. Our first meeting is this Monday and all are very welcome to attend. I have attached some information discussing the benefits of being involved in the P&C.

**Term Calendar:** Our school calendar will be finalised and sent out next week.

**Active School Travel:** This year we are launching a very exciting initiative with Brisbane City Council called Active School Travel. The objective of the program is to encourage students to travel to school in an environmental and sustainable manner, reducing our carbon footprint by leaving our cars at home. Over the term we will be starting some wonderful projects such as Walking Wheeling Wednesday, Park and Ride and entry into the council competition for the Golden Boot. Thanks to Lea Gamble from Brisbane City Council and our fantastic parent volunteers for their contributions so far. Updates will be available through the newsletter, website and our new footpath sign.

**Dental Van:** The state government school-based dental program provides free oral health care to children from Prep to Year 10. Forms were sent home last week and need to be returned by Monday 16 Feb. The van is due early March.

**Regards: Brendon Madden**

### For Your Diary

Mon	9 Feb	Instrumental Music Meeting 7.00pm
Mon	9 Feb	P&C Meeting 7.00pm
Mon	16 Feb	Parent/teacher Meetings and BBQ

### Information Headquarter News

It was wonderful to meet our new Preppies this week and see all of the beautiful Year 1-7 students - everyone has certainly grown over the holidays and it's great to see everyone back and looking so rested and refreshed. There are some new and exciting changes coming this year including game days, a new reading competition and author visits....so stay tuned. Borrowing will start in earnest next week. Borrowing days will be placed on the website and teachers will be letting children know when their sessions will be. Students have been reminded of how to treat books kindly during our library lessons. Please remember library borrowing bags to ensure our books are kept in optimal condition. Information Headquarters will be open for students on Monday and Wednesday lunch times each week for borrowing, reading and use of the computer lab. Any parents willing to assist with shelving or covering of books would be more than welcome again. Please see myself or Jeannine if you can help.

*Leigh Hobart*

### Instrumental Music News

Lessons for Years 6 & 7 will start on Thursday so don't forget your instruments, tutor book and accessories. Year 5 will have received a letter regarding Instrumental Music participation and I remind parents of the meeting on Monday at 7.00pm to outline information and answer any questions. We look forward to another great year of music.

*Koss Siwers*

## Tuckshop News

Hi and welcome back to a brand new year! Please remember, tuckshop is now every Tuesday and Thursday. The price list is the same as last year. If you require a list please collect one from me or at the office. Once again I am looking for helpers and also offers for homebake. Why don't you give it a go, you might just like it. Please let me know by ringing 3376 9751 or 0410 666 843. I am completely out of size 6 shirts and size 4, 5 and 6 dresses. I am expecting more in 4 weeks. *Bonnie Brown*

## P&C News

Welcome back to everyone! It was lovely for Jimsie and I to meet so many of the new parents at the welcome morning tea. Please come along to the first P&C meeting of the year on Monday 9 February at 7pm in the library (it is air-conditioned!) Everyone is welcome!  
*Catherine Rees*

**Prep**

**Nerida Swetman**

In Prep we have been getting to know each other and learning the school routine. We have already created our first class book based on the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear...' In it we created our own crazy characters. This book will be coming home soon. In our creative play, students have been setting up a police station. We urgently need collage materials such as cereal boxes, ice-cream containers, shoe boxes etc. so we can continue to plan and make objects for our creative play. If you can help, we have a large collection box located in our room.

**P/1CS**

**Michelle Coleman/Amanda Stewart**

We have been getting to know each other and learning the rules and routines of the classroom such as "Learning Bodies", "Getting-along behaviour", "Being organised" and "What to do if we have a problem". The children must be commended for their hard work and efforts. Please remember to take your child's drink bottle home at the end of each day so that they have nice fresh water in them. Also, our lost property box outside the classroom is accumulating lots of items so please check it daily. We are looking forward to lots of fun and learning.

**1/2B**

**Elitia Brennan**

With the new school year underway, Year 1/2 is hard at work. We hold parent involvement as an important part of our class and notes for parent volunteers will be sent home soon. We would love to have you give this some consideration. The homework cycle begins on Friday and is to be returned on Thursdays. We look forward to the exciting term ahead.

**2/3OK**

**Bronwyn Kelly/Elaine O'Dea**

This week our 'You Can Do It' focus has been *confidence* and the children have been working on ways to behave more confidently in situations at home and school. On Thursday they were able to show how much their confidence is growing when they had a go at climbing the huge rock wall which visited our school. It was wonderful to see how supportive and encouraging of each other the children were in our class. They already identify as part of the 2/3OK family even though this has been our first real week together. It's going to be a wonderful term!

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

Welcome to everyone in our class. Every day we organise the room and settle into our new routines more. Year 3 has been given their supplies of stationery and will be given their pads as they require them for each subject area. Year 4 are expected to purchase their own stationery supplies. We have begun our Maths and English in earnest and every afternoon we have been painting and experimenting with colour mixing. Next week we'll develop routines for fitness and begin group activities for

reading and Maths. This semester we will be doing a lot of science. Tracey-Lee and I are looking forward to meeting you to explain more of our program at the Information Evening.

**4/5D**

**Emma Dixon**

Welcome back to everyone! We are very happy to have settled into our new class and look forward to an exciting term. Our topic this term is "Flight" so we will be learning lots about anything that can fly. Homework will commence next week.

**4/5FM**

**Elizabeth Fletcher/Cameron Miller**

We had a good time at Boot Camp. We did some art, yoga, played games and got to know our class mates. On Thursday we climbed the Rock Wall. It was a bit hard but still fun. Some of us don't like heights! Now we are back in class doing things like Maths, Science, Chinese and Writing. We are learning about flight science like planes, birds, insects and other things that can fly. Year 5 are looking forward to learning their instruments that will play for the band. We hope everyone had a good first week back!  
*by Isaac and Emily*

**6/7A**

**Keiran Abel**

Welcome back to a new school year, particularly those new to the 'A Team'! Last week we had an enjoyable 'Boot Camp' which was highly centred on leadership and teambuilding. We also began discussing student leadership roles and will begin preparing for and announcing leader positions in the next couple of weeks. This week 6/7 students attended the *Game On* exhibition which was a fantastic learning experience as we prepare for the use of class laptop sets as a teaching and learning tool. Our technology focussed unit will also allow students to explore game design further as a mode of communication among their peers. I look forward to meeting with parents in Week 4 at the Information Evening/BBQ to discuss class procedures and the exciting things we have planned for our seniors.

**6/7BN**

**Saleigh Noble/Leah Barnett**

After a great week of Boot Camp we have started classes and are already hard at work. Our new homework routine is up and running, as are our maths groups and language group rotations. On Thursday we visited the *Game On* exhibition and will be constructing a marketing proposal next week based on some of these ideas. Both 6/7 classes are discussing student nominations for Student Council and over the next couple of weeks we shall be voting and announcing the various positions. We look forward to meeting old and new parents at the parent information evening in Week 4, where we will outline our procedures and expectations for the year.

## Community News

**For Sale:** Student trumpet to suit beginner or improver: KING Tempo II 601, USA, with 7C mouthpiece. Good condition, old-gold finish. Smooth valve action, bright sound. Hard case, lots of space for music & gear. \$540 3878 1314 / 0410 257 189

## ✂ Want to learn Auslan?

Free Auslan signing classes for the Toowong State School community  
Please register your interest and indicate time preferences below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2:00 – 3:00 pm school day

6:30 – 7:30 pm evening

Please return to the school office