

# Friday 6 March 2009

## Dear Parents and Carers,

**P&C AGM:** The P&C Committee will conduct its annual general meeting on Monday night commencing at 7:00p.m. As part of the protocol of this meeting a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer will be elected for 2009. I would like to encourage everyone to be involved in our school P&C. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the P&C for their achievements for 2008:

- tennis court,
- tennis building,
- cricket nets,
- water harvesting system,
- tank,
- relocating TOSCH,
- supporting Toowong Drama program
- organising many school functions.

In so many ways the children have benefited from all these achievements during, before and after school hours. Congratulations and all the best in 2009.

**Earth Hour:** The World Wildlife Fund's global environmental initiative, Earth Hour from 8.30pm-9.30pm Saturday 28 March, gives everyone a chance to help reduce electricity consumption and combat climate change. Earth Hour is a global call to action to every individual, business and community - a call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future. On Friday 27 March, Toowong State School will support Earth Hour by ensuring all power across the school is switched off over the weekend.

**Reading with your child at home:** The best way to help your child to learn to read at home is to ensure you provide a positive environment. When reading is fun and enjoyable children will thrive and will learn to be fluent readers. I believe you should give your child a hug for reading to you and a hug for when they finish. I have included some strategies to use with your child at home. If you would like some more advice about reading at home feel confident in talking to your child's class teacher or to me.

- Read to your child whenever you can. Now and again ask a few 'why' questions about the story as you read
- Help your child to tell stories from pictures in the book.
- Talk about the characters, plots and settings of stories.
- Discuss information gleaned from factual books.
- Enrol in the local library and choose books together.
- Talk about reading the newspaper, magazines and books.
- Encourage your child to try and write their name in their own books.
- Read children's poetry with your child
- Borrow book and tape sets from the library.
- Compare events and people in books with your own lives.
- Tell stories and sing in the car, at bath time and at bed time.
- Draw attention to print on packages, jars etc. Point to the words and say "Vegemite" for example.
- Encourage your child to join in when reading familiar books.

**Soccer Jerseys:** If any jerseys from last year are still somewhere out there, please return as soon as possible as we need them for this season.

**School Leaders' Assembly:** A special assembly will be held on Monday morning to present badges to our new school leaders. Parents from all school levels are invited to attend from 9.00am. Special guest Andrew Fraser will be along to present the badges.

**Arts Council:** On Tuesday the Arts Council will be visiting and the theme of this presentation is Bullying. Years 4-7 will attend in the morning session and Prep to Year 3 in the middle session. The cost is \$6 and will be on the term invoice. If you do not wish your child to go, please let the teacher know.

**Tennis:** Our tennis courts are available free of charge on Sunday mornings until noon for children who attend our school. Please ring Andrew, our court manager, on 0403 128 235 if you would like to take advantage of this. Andrew also coaches tennis for students on Tuesday afternoons.

**Walking Wheeling Wednesday:** Last week Toowong School was presented with the Golden Boot award. This is the award from the Active Travel people. Over 60% of the children in the school used an environmentally friendly way of travelling. Keep up the good work. This week 6/7A wins the interclass trophy with 21 of the children walking, 1 riding a bike, 2 taking the bus and only 1 driving in the morning!

**Regards: Brendon Madden**

## For Your Diary

Mon	9 Mar	School Leader Presentation Assembly
Mon	9 Mar	P&C AGM
Tues	10 Mar	Arts Council
Fri	13 Mar	Swimming Lesson 2
Fri	20 Mar	Swimming Lesson 3
Wed	25 Mar	Year 3/4 to GoMA

## Information Headquarter News

**Parent Café:** Thanks to all who attended the first Parent Café - it was wonderful to see so many keen to participate. It was also great to see people introducing themselves to others and coming up with some great suggestions about items to discuss in future café sessions. Ideas included finding out about multi-age classrooms, childhood development and supporting children at home with literacy and school preparation. We will let you know the focus of each café as it develops. The next Parent Café date is Friday 27 March after assembly.

**Bookclub:** Bookclub went home this week. Please get your orders back as soon as possible. *Leigh Hobart*

## Netball

By the time this is being read the Toowong teams will have had their first game of the season. This year we are hosting Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams. Games are held at Faulkner Park, Graceville. Today the girls played:

Juniors	vs St Aidans 3
Intermediates	vs Corinda
Seniors	vs St Aidans 1

Next week the girls will be playing:

Juniors	vs Graceville 2
Intermediates	vs Sherwood
Seniors	vs St Aidans 2

## Kids Quiz

Somewhere in the school grounds is a Kigelia Pinata. What is it? Where is it? Clue: Hippos, giraffes and baboons like to eat the fruit.

## Tuckshop News

Some uniforms have finally arrived. I now have size 4, 5 & 6 dresses. Below is next fortnight's roster. *Bonnie Brown*

Tues Homebake: 10 Mar: Melissa, Julie

Tues Helper: Thuy

Thurs Homebake: 12 Mar: Vacancy

Thurs Helper: Rayna

Tues Homebake: 17 Mar: Meagan

Tues Helper: Thuy

Thurs Homebake: 19 Mar: Nic

Thurs Helper: Rayna

## P&C News

Please come along to the P&C AGM next Monday at 7pm in the library. We would love to welcome as many new members as possible. All positions are open and we particularly hope some of the parents of children in the younger grades might be in a position to help out. Perhaps you could share a position with a friend? *Catherine Rees*

### Prep

**Nerida Swetman**

After reading the book 'Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, Mrs O'Brien stimulated our interest in butterflies by bringing a chrysalis to school. We discussed how we could find out more information about butterflies and then compared features of our information text and our story. We are also investigating people who help us with our health and have started to set up a hospital and x-ray department in the class during creative play.

### P/1CS

**Michelle Coleman/Amanda Stewart**

Wow! Can you believe how fast this term is moving? We have been reading a big book every week, cruising our way through lots of fabulous fine motor activities and investigating how things move within our Science/technology "Let's Go" unit. The Year 1 students have been doing a great job of learning handwriting in their new "Targeting Handwriting" book and are also presenting very high quality homework every week. The Prep students are displaying their amazing creativity in event-based play. This week our groups were "School", "The Great Barrier Reef", "The Movies" and "Wet and Wild". (theme park)

### 1/2B

**Elitia Brennan**

I would like parents to be aware that we will not return back to school from swimming until just before 3. Please be aware that we may not have time to change the children back into their clothes and parents may need to help with this or take their children home in their swim wear. Just a reminder that homework is handed out on Fridays and is to be returned on the following Thursday along with your child's library bag.

### 2/3OK

**Bronwyn Kelly/Elaine O'Dea**

By the time you receive this newsletter we should all have experienced (and survived!) our first school swimming lesson of the year. We are not so confident that all socks and underwear will have also survived – no doubt there are stray socks and undies scattered far and wide at this very minute! Please make sure that EVERY piece of your child's clothing is named because matching unclaimed clothes to prospective owners is not as easy as it sounds! Take pity on Mrs O and ensure everything is clearly labelled please! Miss Kelly was away for two days this week at a 'You Can Do It' workshop so with her help we are guaranteed to become experts in all five focus areas. This week we have been working on our organisational skills. To help your child develop this important life skill, please give them strategies to be organised for themselves. This is not the same as doing it for them! By grades 2 and 3 children should be

responsible for unpacking and repacking their own bags and although it can seem quicker for an adult to do it for them, this actually deprives them of the opportunity to practise and so improve in this area. Time for tough love, mums and dads!

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

This fortnight we have begun our group reading and maths activities. Everyone is working well and learning these new routines. We change our library books on Wednesday mornings. Children need to have a plastic bag or library bag to protect the books from drink bottles and lunches in their bags. Year 3 children have theirs provided as part of the Prep to Year 3 levy. On Wednesday 25 March we will be visiting the Indigenous art exhibition at GoMA. The children will see examples of traditional art. They will be able to compare these with the contemporary art of Indigenous Australians. After viewing the art we can find out about the traditional way of life of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

### 4/5DW

**Emma Dixon/Wendy Winsley**

As always the term is racing by and it must be because we are having so much fun! This term we have been studying Flight. We are working closely with 4/5FM and learning interesting things about hot air balloons, aeroplanes, famous aviators and lots more. Next week we will be studying kites and even making some. We have been experimenting to see which materials will be best for our kites and so far we have found that our kite will be made of plastic or fabric and the string will be ribbon. Fingers crossed they fly. Our first Maths investigation was a success. Year 4's focused on measurement and measured their body parts. They then made a life-size graph. It was big! Year 5's had to work out factors of numbers and determine if they were prime or composite. Sadly, Ms Winsley is not able to stay with us for the year so we would all like to thank her for her time and fantastic art projects she has done with us over the last 3 weeks. Ms Harris will start next week and is bringing lots of teaching experience to our class which will be wonderful.

### 4/5FM

**Elizabeth Fletcher/Cameron Miller**

Some of the Year 5 students have started interschool sport and band this year. Only 2 girls are playing netball and all the others are playing soccer. In Maths we have finished our first investigations. Year 4 have been investigating graphs and measurements while Year 5 have been investigating factors, composite and prime numbers, multiplication and division. In P.E. we have been playing Kanga Cricket which is lots of fun. With Ms O'Connor we have learnt a lot about Deaf history, all the way back to the ancient Roman times. *by Emily and Xena*

### 6/7A

**Keiran Abel**

We have been studying Newton's First Law of Motion and learnt that if something is moving or resting, unless there is a force pushing or pulling it, the object will continue to move or rest. We also did some experiments, such as running a computer chair with books on it into a still object to see how the books would keep flying due to Newton's First Law. Years 5, 6 & 7 started interschool sports today. The 6A soccer matches are held at Dunlop Park, Auchenflower and Toowong Soccer Club, Toowong. The 6B will also play at Dunlop Park. Year 7 will play at Coldridge Park, St Lucia. The netball games are held at Graceville Netball Courts. *by Fergus and Dilean*

### 6/7BN

**Saleigh Noble/Leah Barnett**

This week we have been working with the laptops typing creative "cave" stories. We have also been exploring Newton's First Law of Physics. We had a busy time with the student council elections. We are very happy with our new leaders.

*by Lilly and Willow*