Dear Parents / Caregivers

NAPLAN and end of semester reporting focus our attention on student academic performance and highlight the importance of students engaged in learning in every classroom, every day. A key factor for academic improvement is ensuring high student attendance. Research has established strong links between attendance in one year and student achievement in the same year and even in future years of learning. Every extra day attended increases a student’s likelihood of achieving at a higher level and reaching higher post schooling outcomes. Students not present at school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning.

If your child is absent from school for any reason, parental explanation is necessary. If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent for a period of time, early advice to the school would be appreciated. Upon your child’s return to school, a note is sent to the teacher. We are required by law to contact a family if a student is absent from school for a series of days without explanation. For your convenience, a dedicated student absence line has been set up by phoning 3491 0366 and leaving your child’s name, reason for absence, the class teacher’s name, and when their expected return is anticipated. Please assist us to ensure we have the latest and most accurate information on your child’s school attendance.

Student safety is a priority at Burpengary SS. Arriving and departing from school are key times in the day when observing safety procedures is paramount. One of the safety procedures we observe is appropriate places to drop off and collect students. Parents are to use the designated parent car parks and drop off/pick up zones at these times. Parents are not to park in the office staff car park at the front of the school as this is not a safe zone for collecting students.

Chaplains are an invaluable resource for supporting the social and emotional well-being of our students. Our school chappy, Marie Wright, works in a range of ways with our students to help build a positive connection with the school community. She hosts lunch play clubs, assists with running small group friendship programs and providing individual support to students and parents as requested through the Principal. There are a number of Chaplaincy fundraising events coming up on the calendar. Funds from these events go directly to assisting Chaplains to provide additional resources for their school programs as Government funding can only be used to fund Chaplains’ wages. Marie is located in the Expo building and is at school Tuesdays and Fridays.

Bring About Hope Dinner - Each year, the Chappies in the Narangba and Burpengary area hold a dinner where locals and local businesses are invited to come along and support Chaplaincy in their schools. This event will be held on the 10th May. The aim of this fundraising dinner is to seek support from community members and businesses. Marie is seeking to fill some tables with supporters from the community so if you would like to come along for a free dinner and to hear more about Chaplaincy, please see Marie for a brochure and to book in. This could be a major fundraiser for Chaplaincy here at Burpengary SS.

Spin Off Challenge - On the 18th May Burpengary State School will compete against other schools to see how many kilometres we can cycle in 30 minutes on an exercise bike. It is a fundraising event and 100% of the money we raise will go towards the Chaplaincy here at Burpengary. This event is held at the Sleeman Sports Complex Chandler. Our team does not have to consist of just students but can be made up of up to 50% adults. If there is anyone interested, please see Marie for more information.

Chappy Week - Chappy Week is held on the 19th - 26th May. During this week there may be some different activities around the school as we raise the profile of Chaplaincy at Burpengary.

Our Whole School Weekly Behaviour Focus for this week is: being a responsible learner by being patient, persistent and persevering. We would ask that you continue to support our school in reminding your child of our focus to help each child at school to be the best that they can be.

Upcoming newsletters will include information relating to State Education Week and Semester 1 Reporting.

To other news …

1. Coming up:

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music</td>
<td>Own instrument</td>
<td>$ 70.00</td>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School instrument</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education</td>
<td>Years 1, 2 &amp; 4</td>
<td>$ 9.00</td>
<td>Friday 19 April</td>
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<td>Bugsy Malone Performance</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
<td>Friday 26 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bugs Ed.</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$ 8.00</td>
<td>Friday 26 April</td>
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Eftpos is available at the Cashier window on the carpark side of the Admin Office each morning from 8.00 to 11.00am. We encourage families to make use of the electronic payment systems we have operational here at Burpengary (Direct banking, Bpay) so that we minimise the risk of children carrying large sums of money, and you can perform the payment task from the convenience of home. Please note that due to Education Queensland Policy, credit card payments cannot be made over the phone. Please keep in mind that we do not carry change for large sums of money.

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
2. The P&C are still seeking a Co-ordinator for the Craft Group. If you are interested please contact Sue Slorach on 3888 2124.

3. **The Year 7 Graduation Shirt order** is currently with the supplier with an expected delivery time of three weeks.

4. We are currently taking names for **2014 Prep enrolments**. Please contact the school office for further information.

5. **String Ensemble Students:** There will be an extra rehearsal for all Senior String Ensemble members, who **rehearse before school on Thursdays, on Monday 29 April from 7.45 – 8.25am in the Music Room.** This rehearsal is to prepare for our performance at Stringfest on 7 May, as this Thursday is the ANZAC Day holiday.

6. G’day from the **Kitchen Garden.** It’s been a great couple of weeks in the garden. With all this sunshine the gardens have really flourished. Both the Year 4’s and 5’s have been busy planting new seedlings. Potatoes, coriander, bok choy, cabbage and lettuce have all been planted. One of my aims for this Term is to make the kitchen a “sugar free” environment. By cutting down on the use of added sugar, and substituting natural alternatives, it is in keeping with the healthy lifestyle program that we are running here at the school. In order to do this the children have planted a number of Stevia plants. This plant has 300 times the sweetness of sugar but with no negligible effect on blood glucose. We are after volunteers who would like to work in either the kitchen, the garden or both. If you are interested in giving an hour a week, please contact either myself or the Office and arrange a time to meet. **Ross Tattersall**

7. **Library News:**
   - **Prep Parents** - Prep students are now able to come and borrow before school if they **are accompanied by a parent** as they need help to find their borrowing card and organise their book to borrow. They need to borrow from the same racks that they use in class time and their book needs to be placed **on the return pile as they come in**. Bags are to be left on the bag rack outside the library. Library staff will be able to give parents guidance if their child is unsure of the procedure. Students may come to the Library before the first bell as they are required to be in their classrooms as soon as the first bell rings. The library opens at approximately 8.30 am except for Tuesday.

   **Coming in May:**
   - National Simultaneous story time
   - Family Reading Month
   - Mother’s Day Display and activities
   - New Books on Display

8. **Chappy Chat:**
   Hello Everyone, I am in attendance at school on Tuesday’s and Friday’s this term. My office is located in the Special Education rooms also known as the Expo Building just near the P&C Building. It is great to be here at Burpengary and I love spending time at lunch and afternoon tea, getting to know the students. I run all sorts of different lunch time activities. If you have some craft equipment, paper, material or anything else that you are looking to throw or give away, please feel free to send them my way. I will put them to good use to provide fun activities for the students during their breaks.

9. **Fete News:**
   Thank you for the donations so far, but we are still looking for books, DVD’s and Board games to sell at the Fete. They need to be in saleable condition please. Donations can be left at the School Office.

**Tuckshop Roster:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kerry G</td>
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| 30/04  |      | Sandra d
| 01/05  |      | Suzette R |
| 02/05  |      | Sarah G |
| 03/05  |      | Shaun P |

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

- **Kids Scrapbooking and Cardmaking classes** - Thursday 3:30-4:30pm, $12 per child, bookings essential. Contact Amity on 0419 380 133 or stampinamity@gmail.com for more information. Adults classes also available.

- **Kids Zumba** at Narangba Valley Tavern, Friday 26 April from 6.30 to 7.30pm. Cost is $5 for children aged 5 to 12 years.

- **Kids Bootcamp** – starts Saturday 27 April for 6 weeks, 8.30 to 9.00am, for primary school aged children. Cost is $50 – loads of fun, keep fit, mini Olympics and Certificate at the end of the sessions. For further details email Mel at melzumba@hotmail.com.