Dear Parents / Caregivers

School Attendance
Regular school attendance is important as it will mean your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day and participate in learning. Regular attendance provides your child with the opportunity to be fully involved in all the learning experiences that combine to form essential building blocks of understanding and provide the foundation for future learning success. When attending school regularly students: learn better, have more developed friendship skills, are happier and have a brighter future. Where possible, organise for routine appointments to be scheduled outside of school hours and avoid keeping children away from school for things like: birthdays, shopping, looking after other children, sleeping in. Our goal for every student at Burpengary SS is an attendance rate of 95% - 100%.

Student Safety
It is essential students travel directly to and from school each day to ensure their safety. This is most effective when students are accompanied by a responsible adult or older sibling. Students arriving prior to 8.00am are to remain in the tuckshop covered area until the 8.00am bell. When travelling to and from school or in the public domain, students are expected to display appropriate behaviour at all times as outlined in our School Responsible Behaviour Plan. We expect all students to be positive ambassadors for Burpengary SS and contribute to our quality reputation within the community.

ANZAC DAY
All students are to be congratulated for their respectful and reflective participation in the ANZAC Day commemorations last week. Visiting guests, Mr Steve Boucher and Mr George Anderson, were deeply touched by the school commemoration service hosted so capably by our Student Leaders: Grace, Nathan, Tahnee and Jack. I would like to offer a special acknowledgement to Nicholas for his outstanding trumpeting skills during the service. Well done, Nicholas. It was wonderful to see the large numbers of students who also represented our school at the Caboolture Parade. Thank you to parents who brought their children along to be a part of this important occasion.

Review and Renew
Last year our school conducted a Quadrennial School Review including a Community Forum. During this process the school community identified a deep respect for the rich traditions that contribute strongly to the identity of our school and also the need to engage in a process to review and renew our school image to capture Burpengary SS today and for the future. Representatives for the initial strategic planning team will be drawn from the School Council, P&C Executive, School Administration Team and staff. In the coming weeks we will be seeking representatives from the P&C and parent body to assist with the second phase of the process enacting the practical recommendations from the strategic planning. Our review and renew process will involve many opportunities for school community consultation to shape and guide our school image for the future.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN testing will occur in week 5 on 14, 15 and 16 May for students in years 3, 5 and 7. Students across the nation will participate in these assessments which provide point in time data of students’ progress in comparison to a national benchmark. It is important for students to feel calm and confident on the day by being well rested and coming to school after a healthy breakfast. Punctuality is essential on these days as assessments will commence promptly at 9:00am in students’ classrooms. Students in 3A, 5A and 7C will participate in a NAPLAN Equating Reading test on Tuesday 7th May.

Our Whole School Weekly Behaviour Focus for this week is: Problem Solving using the High 5. This strategy assists students’ to build their confidence and resilience when attempting to solve problems independently, knowing there is adult support if required. Step 1: Talk Friendly, Step 2: Talk Firmly, Step 3: Ignore, Step 4: Walk Away, Step 5: Report. 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.

To other news …

1. Payments
Parents are reminded all payments are to be made directly to the Office via the payment window at the front of the school where payments can be receipted immediately. This process avoids children being responsible for large sums of money or payments being lost. Payment envelopes are not to be given to the class teacher.

Coming up:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music</td>
<td>Own instrument</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
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<td>School instrument</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Wednesday 5 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore Uni</td>
<td>Years 6, 7</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>Friday 17 May (Permission only)</td>
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2. **Woolworths Vouchers**
We are currently asking parents to collect Earn and Learn Woolworths Vouchers when they are out and about grocery shopping. Last year the vouchers contributed to significant quantities of hands on Science and Maths resources, manipulation resources for Prep, ICT resources including Bee Bots and additional resources for our Special Education Programs. The dockets contributed to over 100 additional resources into our class programs for students across the school. Please remember to collect and deliver your vouchers to the school office as they really do provide some fantastic resources back to our students.

3. **2014 Prep Enrolments**
Parents wishing to enrol their Prep age child for 2014 are invited to contact the school office. Enrolment interviews will commence in Term 3. Copies of your child’s birth and immunisation certificates will be required at enrolment interviews.

4. **Parent Parking**
Parents are reminded to use the drop off and pick up zones and parent car park at the front of the school for the safe delivery and collection of students. Parents are not to park in staff parking areas outside the office or behind the Senior Library. This is to ensure all children are safe when moving to and from parked cars.

5. **P&C News**
The P&C are still seeking a **Co-ordinator for the Craft Group**. If you are interested please contact Sue Slorach on 3888 2124.

**Meeting agendas:** Each monthly meeting is different and the content can depend on special guests, projects currently underway such as the fete, or special items raised on the night. In many instances, we find that the meeting runs close to the 9.00pm close time, and I am very conscious of not extending the meeting longer than this time. In an effort to curb long running meetings, I would like to implement an agenda based New Business section. Essentially, if anyone has an item that they would like to raise during the next meeting, can you please put this in an email to admin@burpengass.eq.edu.au or in writing at the Office, addressed to the P&C President, on the Friday prior to the P&C meeting. Please include your contact name and phone number, the item you want raised, a brief sentence of its purpose, priority (high, medium low impact), and an estimate of time required in meeting (e.g. 5 mins). In all cases, I will make every endeavour to allocate time to each matter. For very full agendas, I will strictly police the time allocations.

**P&C April meeting** will be held 7.00pm Monday 13th May in the staff room. All parents welcome to attend.

**Reminder:** Mother’s Day Stall is next week (6-10 May) from 8.00 – 9.00am in the demountable building next to the Office. The Stall is available to parents and students. Prep students will attend from 9.00am with their teacher.

6. **TEMP PART-TIME CLEANER - BURPENGARY STATE SCHOOL**
A position is available for a temporary part-time cleaner for 15hrs per week. A position description is available from the school administration office. Applications close on Monday 13th May 2013. For further information please phone the Business Services Manager on 3491 0333.

7. **G’day from the Kitchen Garden** - This week has seen more crops planted, many new garden beds constructed and some flower gardens built around the administration office. This has only been possible with the help of our valuable volunteers, two in particular, Sherrill and Rhiannon. Both these volunteers have no children at the school, they have heard what we are doing here at the school and wanted to be involved. In the kitchen the children have had a great time cooking Oaty Pancakes with either Apricot and Ginger sauce, or Ricotta and Pear Whip. Making these has introduced many new cooking skills and the children have learnt how to use some of the kitchen appliances. On **Thursday 16 May**, we are running a **Kitchen Garden information session**. If you are interested in what is happening or just would like to come along and see what this program is all about, register your name at the office. The morning will consist of having a quick run through on what the Stephanie Alexander program is all about, how it fits into the Australian curriculum and what the children are achieving in their lessons. From there you will go into the kitchen and have a quick cooking session and then move into the garden where the layout and the philosophy of the garden will be explained. Places are limited so put your name down early to ensure your place. Look forward to seeing you soon.

**Ross Tattersall**

Tuckshop Roster:

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Burpengary Community Kindy** is selling the Brisbane Entertainment Book, as a fundraiser, for $65 (valued at $1500). Phone Desra Gresham on 0400 839 051. **Harmony House** is once again offering PS to parents/carers and grandparents across the Sunshine Coast. PS is a great course which gets parents thinking on different ways of dealing with different types of behaviour. Starting Tuesday 7 May, for 6 weeks, 9.30 to 11.30am. For further information phone 5479 6971.

**Tutoring:** Experienced, registered primary teacher available to take one hour tutorials on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4.00pm to 7.00pm at my home in Deception Bay. Tuition available for Prep to Year 7. I also hold a current blue card. Phone Ruth on 3203 0424.

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**Until next week,**