Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to let our community know about the Australian Scholarships Group National Teacher Awards for Inspirational Educators. The awards provide an opportunity for parents and students to say a special “thank you” to inspirational teachers who demonstrate effectiveness, innovation and excellence in their profession. All the information you need can be found and downloaded from the NEITA website www.neita.com.au. There are a limited number of nomination forms available from the school office.

Our teachers make a vital contribution to the lives of young people, and here is one of the few opportunities to recognise their outstanding commitment to the community. A nominated teacher would see that their work is valued, and their contribution to the school is appreciated. Nominations close on July 31, 2013.

Our school hosts another International Study Tour group from Japan from July 25 to 31, 2013. As our long term friends from Okazaki Gakuen Junior High School now have only a Senior High School, we have a new group coming from West Japan. This is an important event in our school calendar, and a worthwhile experience that “value-adds” to our children’s educational experience. There are 20 students coming - aged from 10 - 15 years of age, and we are seeking homestay families to host our international visitors for the time that they are here. Families who have participated in previous homestays have found it an extremely positive experience for their whole family, and judging by the past farewells to our guests at the end of the homestay, it has been a very significant and moving life experience for both parties as well. I encourage as many families as possible to participate in this wonderful cultural opportunity. Please phone the office staff on 3491 0333, or contact AIIU direct, as per the accompanying flyer.

I would like to make a very important date claimer for parents, staff and students in Years 3 to 7. On Wednesday, June 19, Mr Brett Lee will be conducting Cyber-safety talks at Burpengary State School. Brett is a renowned leader of cyber-safety education, conducting workshops all around Australia. A former policeman, and an acclaimed facilitator, Brett Lee has excellent credentials as an educator in this area, and I implore all families to come and listen to his valuable messages to ensure that the internet and social media available to children are safe and positive experiences. He will conduct workshops with students throughout the day, followed by a teacher workshop in the afternoon, and concluding with a parent workshop in the evening commencing at 7.00pm. An information sheet will be sent home in due course. This is not just about the kids – schools and families need to be pro-active to stay safe.

Since announcing Flexischools tuckshop online ordering system last Friday, when we went live last Monday morning there were already 7 electronic orders sitting there for our tuckshop staff! This is a great start and a wonderful innovation for busy families - see the notices below for details. Orders are still taken in the usual way at the tuckshop.

Yesterday, in further exciting technology news, the Minister released the free QSchools smartphone app. The app allows parents, teachers and students to have instant access to live school updates and information, connecting the school community.

Once you have added our school as a favourite, the app will display school location, contact information, news, calendar events and newsletters. This information will feed directly from our website, so that when content is updated and published to our website, the app will also be automatically updated. You can also add other state schools as favourites.

App benefits for parents/caregivers include:
- searching for the nearest school by location, postcode, school name or suburb and view school contact details
- adding multiple schools as favourites to enable parents to view updates from multiple schools in a single view
- accessing the latest school news and events to stay informed
- receiving emergency announcements and information
- convenient and prompt method of receiving messages/information from school/s

The QSchools app is available for parents to download FREE via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play. For more information view the DETE site (http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/apps/education/qschools.html). To assist you we have added a quicklink on our school’s homepage to the DETE website.

Congratulations to Tahlia and Grace who have both been successful in gaining selection in the Sunshine Coast Regional Touch Team. Grace has also made the District Cross-Country team. Well done, girls! Congratulations also to: Joshua, Luke, Sam and Brodie who have been selected in the Caboolture District Boys Softball team. Well done, boys!

Works commence on a roof replacement for A Block over this weekend. I take this opportunity to remind families to stay clear of work sites for safety reasons. The works are scheduled to be completed for resumption of classes on Monday morning and minimise disruption for staff and students to our program at school.

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
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 received 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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<thead>
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<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>School instrument</td>
<td></td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St Helena Island</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>$33.40</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginners Strings Workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Friday 7 June</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.

2. Our Annual **Track and Field Carnival** is scheduled in two and a half week’s time on June 18, with all Years 4-7 going to Zammit Oval. Prep to Year 3 will have a separate carnival at school on another date, based on the same format as last year, during Term 3.

3. A reminder that the **circular drive and car park area near the Administration Block is for authorised school use only**. From time to time, as Principal, I may authorise parents to pick students up if the student has a temporary medical condition, or the pick-up is part of a systematic and authorised arrangement for student welfare. **It is STRICTLY authorised use of this car park ONLY!**

4. Teachers are very busy working on class work and assessment items, in readiness for completing Semester 1 Report Cards later in the term. **Report cards for Years PREP-7 will be issued on the Wednesday afternoon of June 19.**

5. From the **Kitchen garden**: A great day for all the Year 3 children and teachers today. Each class has had installed an indoor herb garden. The children will be able to plant and nurture their own vegetables and herbs within their own class. Part of the Science curriculum in year 3 covers the growth and life cycles of plants so they will be able to have a real, hands on experience while studying this unit. Having these gardens in the classroom will also prepare the children for year 4 and the Kitchen Garden program in that year level. If you have a child in one of these classes, I’m quite sure they would love to show the garden off to you. In other garden news, we are in the process of selecting a group of children to design, build and manage a garden to be displayed at the Ekka. This is a long term project that will run until the close of the Exhibition, so the children chosen need to show their dedication and commitment to this project. The outcome for the children should be a very rewarding and positive experience. In the Kitchen over the last couple of weeks we have been using the eggs from our chickens, and tomatoes and rocket from our gardens to create baked eggs in breakfast muffins and “Eggcellent Omelettes”.

6. **Library News:**
   - We’ve been re-arranging!! Come in to the Junior library and have a look at how we’ve changed the areas. We have tried to open up the Junior Fiction/Prep Area and contained the bean bags in our chill out area.
   - **New Books!** Come in and have a look at our new books display in the Junior Library.
   - **Moreton Bay Region Libraries Writing Competition:** The local library is running a ‘Hero’ writing competition. Here are the details. If you would like to enter, you can hand in the entry to our library and we will pass it on to them. We will have some entry forms available to collect in the Junior Library soon.
   - **HOW TO ENTER** ● **Draw your own superhero.** ● **Write a biography about your superhero.** Tell us their name, where they live, their special powers and the good deeds they do. Entries need to be under 250 words. For more information visit their website at [http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/general.aspx?id=118613](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/general.aspx?id=118613)

7. Donations of **secondhand uniforms, socks and underwear** would be greatly appreciated as stocks are running very low in the health room.

**Tuckshop Roster:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sue L</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
<td>Suzette R</td>
<td>Sarah G</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
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Until next week,

B. Fox
A/Principal

**COMMUNITY NOTICES:**

**Active Kids June/July 2013 Holiday Program - 24 June to 5 July 2013**

Looking for something exciting to do these school holidays? Active Kids is a program designed to introduce children to new sports and skills in a fun, supportive and affordable atmosphere. All activities are delivered by experienced and qualified staff from organisations such as NRL Development, Gymnastics QLD, Golf QLD and Football QLD and best of all, they’re all FREE! The complete program for June/July’s Active Kids Program is available online or in the current Active Kids brochure, located at libraries and Council foyers around the region, from the end of this week. No bookings are required for the Active Kids Park Sessions activities. For more information, visit [www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/activekids](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/activekids)

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