Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to this week’s Newsletter.

It is with great pleasure today that we publish the names of children in Years 1-7 who will receive a Citizenship and/or Commendable Effort Award on the Parades next week. I congratulate the many children who will receive an award as they have maintained a high level of personal behaviour and appropriate diligence in their class work and homework. Thank you, too, to the families who have encouraged their child to do their best and take pride in displaying the personal characteristics of “a Burpengary Kid”. Well done!

In staffing news, long-serving member of staff, Mrs Lyn Mellers, who has been away on leave looking after her mother since December 2011, has recently announced her retirement from Education Queensland. Lyn has had a very distinguished career as a teacher, Head of Curriculum and Acting Deputy Principal at Burpengary State School. She was a steady rock for the school when I first arrived in July 2011, and I was impressed by her tireless work and passion for educating children. Our staff has the opportunity of saying farewell at a function this weekend, but I would be happy to collect messages from children and parents and pass them on to Lyn next week. I am sure people have lots of distinct memories of her work here during all that time.

Mr Paul Woodrow is also taking long service leave for all of Semester 2 before his likely retirement in December 2013. Paul has managed and overseen huge expansion in technology at Burpengary State School over the last few years, and he has positioned the school on a very strong platform to keep getting ahead in technology to support children’s learning.

As a consequence of Mr Woodrow’s departure, the requirement to accommodate the return of permanent staff from leave, and some emergent issues for teachers, I need to make some operational changes to the staffing of the school for Semester 2:

- Mrs Sam Moloney will leave 4A and take over the leadership and management of the large ICT Program, and manage the Senior Library vacated by Mr Woodrow. We are finalising teacher arrangements for 4A and I will inform parents at the first available opportunity.
- Mr Stan Bernat has taken emergent leave. Mrs Michelle Owens will take over 5D. Mrs Owens has been doing an excellent job for our reading intervention program at Burpengary, and we welcome her expertise to class duties.
- Mrs Melissa Hyde returns from maternity leave on a part time basis, and she will share 3C with Mrs Deb O’Brien. Unfortunately, we have to say a sad farewell to Mrs Chandelle Clarke. Mrs Clarke has been on contract with us for so long, serving so well, that it is like saying goodbye to a good friend at the airport!! We wish her the very best at her new school in Semester 2.

Next Wednesday, Mr Brett Lee will conduct Cyber-safety workshops in our school community. I cannot stress enough the importance of parents getting involved in these talks, to enable you to have follow-up discussions with your child. Students in Years 3-4 will have a session in the middle of the day, followed by Years 5,6 &7 in the afternoon. In every one of these year levels, we have dealt with issues around misuse of technology. Our teachers have a workshop in the afternoon, and the day concludes with a free parent workshop in the Senior Library commencing at 7.00pm.

All parents are encouraged to come, listen and learn from the valuable messages to ensure that the internet and social media available in this day and age are safe and positive experiences for your child.

I take this opportunity to remind parents about the importance of children being at school every day for their learning. This includes the last day of term where some of the best learning occurs. Indeed, what are we teaching the children if we allow the last day of term to be treated differently to any other learning day? I feel so strongly about this that I will be discussing with parents and children on our Citizenship Parades next week that attendance will become one of the future criteria for achieving the Citizenship Award next Semester. Any unauthorised absences won’t cut it for getting the award, and in general, nor will more than five days of authorised absences. Clearly, nobody will be penalised if a child has a major illness or accident setback, and parents have been in active partnership with the school (for example, we have been informed, families have liaised with us about work, and a medical certificate explains the condition). We know we can do a great job teaching children, and the more time they spend at school, the better the learning outcomes are for them. This year to date we have lifted the attendance rate by 1% on the same time last year, which means that on average, 1000 students have had one extra full day of learning than they had in Semester One in 2012. Yes…I think that attendance is significant to learning, and therefore worth rewarding.

Since commencing with Flexischools online ordering system for only a few weeks, our tuckshop now has 49 families using the service to order lunches for students. I remind families that you can pay for your ride armbands for the fete using this system as well, with the possibility of winning a huge random incentive prize if you do……the “Golden Armband”!!

Stop Press for next week…there is a risk Zammit Oval may be too wet for our Sports Day on Tuesday – you could get a late postponement notice on Monday afternoon if it does not dry out satisfactorily.
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>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music Program</td>
<td>Own instrument</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School instrument</td>
<td></td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-7 Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Years 4-7</td>
<td>$4.40</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 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. From the Kitchen garden:
Urgently needed! To finish the vertical garden, Year 7E need over 200 2litrre Coke bottles with lids. They have already used up all their existing supply and need these extra, so they can finish their wall. If you have any please bring them to 7E’s classroom. Another great week in the garden despite the wet weather. The Year 5’s planted wheat last week. This ties in with the First Fleet garden. Back in 1788, the first wheat crop was planted in Sydney Cove at the beginning of June. Back here in 2013 our wheat, with the help of this rain, has already germinated and is about 3cm high. The 5’s are basing their cooking for third term on wheat and flour, so they can chart the progress of their crop as they cook. Roasted mushrooms with a variety of herbs, garlic, thyme, chives and Ceylon spinach (all from the garden) have been on the menu this week. Our garden display for the Ekka is also starting to take shape. Until next time, have a safe week.

Ross Tattersall

3. Report cards for Years PREP-7 will be issued on the Wednesday afternoon of June 19.

4. Library News:
More to see in the Junior Library!! Thank you all for your patience while we cleaned up after the painting on the weekend. Due to photos we were delayed in opening until Monday. We hope that you can find some time to come in and see the changes that have been made. We love it and hope that you will too!! As we were unable to borrow with classes this week, please remind your child to bring back their book this coming week.

Overdues - Please remember that once your child reaches a third notice overdue, you will be sent an invoice requesting payment for the book(s). This is a time consuming task for library and administration staff so please be vigilant and ensure that you are aware of the book(s) your children borrow and remind them to bring them back as soon as they receive their FIRST overdue notice. Your help is much appreciated.

Don’t forget! 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 have some entry forms available to collect in the Junior Library. 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

5. FETE News:
Hi everyone, just letting you know we have had some fantastic donations for our upcoming Fete and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Just a reminder that next week is the last week for donations for the month of June. The Year 4’s have requested the following items for their stall so if you have anything spare at home, they would be greatly appreciated. Wool, wooden pegs, felt, magnets, scrapbook paper, scrapbook card, other scrapbook bits & bobs (stamps, washi tape, ink pads, etc.), photo frames – new or old (without glass - any sizes), glass tiles and glass pebbles. Thanking you all once again.

6. 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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<tr>
<th>17/6</th>
<th>18/6</th>
<th>19/6</th>
<th>20/6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyn M</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
<td>Sarah G</td>
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Until next week,

COMMUNITY NOTICES

For Sale: Entertainment/display unit, solid pine. Length - 1950mm Height - 2050mm Depth - 520mm, top and bottom separate for ease of transportation - $200. Phone – 3888 3200.

Suncoast Hinterland Softball Association invites interested players to sign-on for the upcoming summer season. Saturdays at the Mooloolah Multi Sports Complex, 129 Mooloolah Connection Rd, Mooloolah commencing on 12th October 2013 for Males & Females of all ages & abilities – 5yrs to masters. Contact Charlie on 0415 135 688 or suncoasthinterlandsoftball@gmail.com, Your child may be eligible for the State Govt's Get Started voucher – valued up to $150. Round two opens at 10.00am on 15 July 2013. Register ASAP to avoid missing out on this opportunity!! http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/getintheedge/getstarted.html

Caboolture Basketball Holiday Clinic run by Evan Browne, Strength & Conditioning Coach for the Detroit Pistons NBA Franchise. Clinic available for Years 5 – 7 from Monday 24th June – Friday 28th June and Monday 1st July – Friday 5th July from 9.00am – 3.00pm daily. The cost is $30 per day ($150 for the week), lunch is provided. Please email caboolturebbball@bigpond.com to register your child.

B. Fox
A/Principal