Dear Parents / Caregivers

Henry Ford was acknowledged as the source of the following quote, which really resonated with me in a powerful way. He said:

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

I reflect on our humble beginnings when the first P&C Meeting I ever attended at Burpengary State School was around the kitchen table in the Administration Block! From there, we have moved to large meetings in the Staff Lounge, averaging 18 participants over the last couple of years and way above Australian averages for P&C attendance. Our Quadrennial School Review Community Forum in 2012 signalled the first serious engagement with the community in a school review and aspirational agenda-setting exercise that culminated in the school’s Strategic Plan for 2013-2016.

The 2013 Fete is a clear example of how far we have come as a community, and demonstrated just how successful we are when working together. Families appreciate the opportunities we take to open the school and engage with the community through information evenings, parent-teacher interviews, performance nights, forums and the school concert. Families also respect the quality of the education that children receive at this school.

So let us now focus on working together a little more. Even the world’s biggest and best organisations like Apple, BHP-Billiton, or Microsoft for example, don’t venture along on a utopian path where everything is rosy and there are no problems. They just work successfully as an organisation to overcome the hurdles. In people-rich environments like the Mater Hospital, Harvard University or Burpengary State School (some of the very best organisations in the world!), the potential for issues and concerns to arise increases significantly because with people being people, they do not behave in the same predictable way that a dragline or a production line works. In over 30 years working in schools, I have never yet come across a problem that could not be sorted out through honesty and understanding in conversation, and commitment in action.

Too often, I have found myself having to have a conversation with an individual about the way they have behaved or spoken to others in public spaces on the school site, sometimes within earshot and eyeshot of children, other parents or staff, that was highly inappropriate, sometimes offensive, and sometimes even plain illegal. I do not accept your child having to put up with it, and I do not accept my staff having to put up with it.

I signal to those few in the community who wish to engage in this kind of behaviour that my tolerance has reached the threshold where I will not excuse it any longer and will follow through any breaches to the letter of the law. As a Principal I have been given the authority to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff on the site, and it is a responsibility I take seriously. We have come too far working successfully together as a community to allow the bar to be lowered by a few.

Our eleven adventurous students and three staff returned home from their Study Tour to Japan late in the holiday period. The study tour was a stand-out success for both students and staff alike, and while the travellers were weary, it was because they were constantly on the go gleaning every little bit out of the adventure. Our Burpengary staff commented on how well the students went, but more importantly our overseas hosts were full of praise for the group, which is wonderful testimony for the children as ambassadors of their family, our school and Australia. Congratulations to Sasha, Tatiana, Kayla, Hayden, Connor, Leila, Emily, Sarah, Jasmine, Amber, Samuel. Many thanks to Ms Kylie Swan, Mr Ross Tattersall and Mrs Kay Perren for their dedication and beyond for more than a year in getting the study tour organised and funds raised.

SPELL-A-THON: The sponsorship cards for this event will go out to families next week. The cards can only be given to students who have returned the fundraising permission note that has accompanied previous newsletters, as P&C Queensland now require parents to give consent to part in fundraising activities. It is vitally important we have every family’s support on this venture, and I encourage you all to return the form and get behind this Spell-a-thon fundraiser, which supports students’ classroom learning outcomes at the same time. There are great incentive prizes for students who participate, including a random prize draw. To help, we have loaded the fundraising permission form on to the school website for your convenience. P&C funds contributed hugely to data projectors for every child’s classroom in 2013, and we look forward to continuing the technology rollout to enhance classroom learning throughout 2014.

To other news …

1. Families please note a future date of significance: Monday October 21, 2013, is a Pupil-Free Day. Our Out of School Hours Care will be open that day for working families in need of this service, but you will need to be enrolled with Helping Hands prior to October 18.

2. CLASS REQUESTS: As we commence planning for 2014 class placements, parents have the opportunity to put in writing for due consideration any information regarding the placement of your own child with other children in a class for next year. Please note that this is about students only, and not requests for teachers. Please put in writing (addressed to the Principal) reasons for this consideration no later than Friday, 18 October, 2013.

3. FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY FUNDRAISER: On Saturday, October 19, 2013, MSP Photography will come to the school and undertake family portrait sittings for a flat rate of $20. Each family will receive a free framed 25x33cm portrait. This opportunity is a fundraiser for the P&C, where MSP donate money back to the school from the photo sittings, so I encourage families to take the opportunity to get that special family moment captured in time – I have learnt in my own

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life that the children do not stay young forever and in the blink of an eye they are all grown up and out of home! This is also a great chance to get some early Christmas gifts together!! A flyer from MSP went home this week.

4. **String students:**
   String lessons and ensemble rehearsal with Mrs Jones will be held on **Wednesday 16 October** next week instead of Thursday. Lessons and ensemble will return to Thursdays from 24 October.

5. **Chappy Chat:**
   On the 19th October, The **Coffee Club at Burpengary** will be holding a special event in support of Chaplaincy in Burpengary. From 5.00 - 8.30pm 20% of all profits will be donated to Chaplaincy at Burpengary State School and Burpengary Meadows State School. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to raise some money for our Chaplaincy and also have a great night out. **Bookings are essential** so please call them on 3888 0533 or let Marie know to reserve your place.

On the 1st November the Annual Mayoral Breakfast will be held at the Morayfield Community Hall behind Bunnings. This event is a major fundraiser for all the schools in Burpengary, Morayfield and Caboolture. Tickets are $25 and include breakfast, entertainment, and a fun time. The breakfast begins at 6.30am. If you would like to attend please see Marie for further details.

6. **BECOME A WHACKY SCIENTIST at Helping Hands Out of School Hours Care!** If you are looking for some fun science experiments for kids then you’ve come to the right place. This program is full of fascinating hands-on experiments that are a great way to enjoy the world of science. This fantastic program is available to all the children at Burpengary. On this extraordinary 5 week science journey, children will have the opportunity to engage in messy, gooey, bouncy, exploding and interactive science fun with the Mad Scientist, including experiments such as elephant toothpaste, magic milk, fossil making and bouncy balls. The program will look at chemistry, energy, biology, movement and the world around us. Over a 5 week program, you will be guided by our scientist to learn some fun and exciting experiments! For more information or to book onto this exciting 5 week program please contact Helping Hands Burpengary on 0458 010 433 or email burpengary@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au. Booking forms are also available from the school office and Helping Hands Burpengary service.

7. **Library News:**
   - **Year 4 ‘Farewell Junior Library Tour’** - This term we farewell the Year 4 students as they move to borrowing from the Senior Library in 2014. We will once again run our ‘Farewell Tour’ this term where Year 4 students are encouraged to ‘walk down memory lane’ to revisit favourite stories as well as letting us know their special memories of their time visiting the Junior Library. We will have a ‘Memory Board’ up to display chosen anecdotes as well as the opportunity for students to participate in a forum via the Library Intranet Page. We hope to see lots of Year 4 students using the library with a chance for them to go into a draw to win a book prize.
   - Please check that all library books have come back to school as they all became overdue over the holidays. No overdue notices were run this week so hopefully most of the books will have been swapped this week during class borrowing.
   - As we move towards the ‘storm’ season, please help us by reminding your child to protect our library books from the rain.

8. **Picture Book Corner!**
   Have a look at Julia Donaldson’s web page. A wonderful selection that any child will enjoy! Your child can find some of them at our Junior Fiction Shelves @ JF DON [http://www.juliodonaldson.co.uk/picturebooks.htm](http://www.juliodonaldson.co.uk/picturebooks.htm)

9. **Scholastic Book Club**
   The current brochures have been given to students during the week. **Keep a look out for Red Label Specials – Great books for $2.** We regret that we are unable to accept cash payments for Book Club orders. Payments need to be made by credit card or cheque only. If paying by credit card, follow the instructions at the bottom of the order form. When ordering from several brochures and paying by credit card, it is fine to make one payment for the total amount. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Scholastic Australia. Orders are due in **no later than 9.00am on Friday 25 October 2013.**

10. **Tuckshop News:**
    - Tip – Parents please ensure correct class is written on your child’s tuckshop orders so their lunch can be placed in the correct class basket.
    - Check out new items added for this term – New Vaalia low fat yoghurt in strawberry, raspberry, apricot mango peach, and french vanilla at $1.70 a tub!

**Tuckshop Roster:**

Tuckshop: Wednesday, Thursday and **particularly** Friday are bigger days in the tuckshop – we need more helpers, please!

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Until next week,

Brad Fox, A/Principal

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