Dear Parents / Caregivers

As part of our ongoing program to enhance communication, engage our community in school life and provide first class service for our clients, we are proud to launch our official Burpengary State School Facebook page.

This page is designed to help keep you up to date with the latest school news and events. We have designed this as a closed site accepting direct family connections to the school (including grandparents, aunts and uncles if necessary), staff of the school, and a small number of appropriate community members (for example, our local Councillors, and State and Federal Government members, community representatives and business partners). As an official school site, we expect all users to maintain a high standard of integrity.

Parent and community feedback is essential for schools and the department. We have established processes for managing parent concerns about issues at school for their child, and the best approach is to talk directly to the school about the matter. A public forum is not the appropriate place to discuss these matters. The school Administration reserves the right to remove any inappropriate comments from the Facebook page.

To join up and gain access to the page, please read and sign the accompanying application form. You will need to state your bona fide direct connection to the school, and sign to say that you understand and will follow the agreed protocol. Once our administrator is in receipt of this signed application, access will be granted within two working days.

I look forward to working with you to maintain a positive community page of which we can all be proud, and to demonstrate our strong sense of community partnership, which is just another one of the many reasons to choose Burpengary State School as the school of first choice for the education of your children.

The page can be found at: http://facebook.com/groups/burpengarystateschool/

The Minister announced the new Independent Public Schools throughout Queensland on Wednesday, and unfortunately Burpengary State School was not one of them on this occasion. I am disappointed for our students and school that we will not get to benefit from the advantages of IPS next year, but we are already seeking feedback in order to ensure we maximise our opportunity for success in the next round for 2015.

A reminder that on Saturday the 19th October, the Coffee Club at Burpengary will be holding a special event in support of Chaplaincy in Burpengary State School, from 5 - 8.30pm. Call in for a coffee or dinner, and 20% of takings will be donated to the Chaplaincy programs in our school, and Burpengary Meadows. I hope to see you there!!

I spoke with the P&C Executive today regarding the SPELL-A-THON. P&C Queensland require parents to give consent for their children to take part in this type of fundraising. To date, we have received 171 family responses, which is not enough to guarantee the generous incentive prizes for children participating. The P&C Executive has decided to cancel the Spell-a-thon for 2013. The school will retain the signed permission letters already received so that those families will not have to sign up again in the future. Families can continue to return these forms if desired – it will help down the track!

A significant factor in reaching this conclusion was the success of the Fete held on September 7. I have much pleasure in announcing that the fete raised a massive $31,475 for the P&C. In light of other strong fundraising returns during the year, there is no need to stress out the staff, volunteers and families by running the Spell-a-thon fundraiser now! I thank our families for their strong and continued support for this school in so many different ways throughout 2013 – it is a fantastic community to work with!

A future date claimer for your reference is Wednesday, November 6, 2013 which is our school Volunteers’ Afternoon Tea where we have the opportunity to say “thank you” for this wide variety of volunteer support. Invitations will go out in due course.

Families please note: Monday October 21, 2013 is a Pupil-Free Day.

To other news …

1. The application process and forms for Student Leadership positions in 2014 were distributed to interested students in Years 5 and 6 after parade this morning. In 2014, both Year 6 and Year 7 students will at the end of the year depart for high school in 2015, and the full range of leadership positions are available to the Year 6’s as well as the Year 7’s in 2014. The forms are available at the office if your child was absent or did not initially opt for a position.

2. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Education Program</td>
<td>3, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 October</td>
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CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
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.

3. Our front office has been receiving a large volume of calls from families requesting the passing on of information about routine things like after school pick-ups to children. These have been occurring in peak times like the start of the day and the end of the day. I know from time to time a family may have an emergent change to a routine, and we are only too happy and diligent in getting the messages to the students. Many, however, are just routine communications that should have been relayed at home. I ask families to be respectful of the enormous amount of, and diverse range, of work that our lovely office staff are required to do each day and minimise communications to emergent ones that change unexpectedly during the day, and not something that should have been organised and happened at home before school.

4. Whole School Weekly Behaviour/Learning Focus:
Last week’s student behaviour focus was on being a respectful and considerate learner through our actions and words. On parades the use of kind words and manners was discussed. At the upper school parade the concept of being an inclusive learning community was presented. This coming week we will be focusing on being a confident learner through accepting feedback and learning from our mistakes. We ask that you support us by discussing these strategies with your child to help students to be the best that they can be.

5. Reminders:
- P&C – Last chance to book in for MSP Family Portraits as they are on tomorrow. Call before end of business hours today to book in on 3865 4291.
- Student Council – For all Year 7 students that want to order a Signature Bear, please do so as soon as possible.

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, gooky, 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. CLASS REQUESTS: As we are in 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, extended to no later than COB Friday, 25 October, 2013.

8. Library News:
- Prep to Year 2 - Please check your child’s library bag to see how it is wearing and consider purchasing a new one via the book pack. The bags are a new style that will be sturdier. We require a water proof library bag for children in these classes to be able to borrow. If the library bag is not waterproof, they will need to wrap the book in a plastic bag before they put it into their library bag. Please ensure that books coming back to school are in the library bag so that it isn’t damaged on route.
- Audio Books - Tired of keeping your kids quiet in the car? Have you thought about listening to a story? Many children love to hear rather than read books. If you are a member of the public library, you can access audio books via their website. If you would like us to show you how, please come and see us. Here are a couple of websites that have lists of sites that have free audio books you can download and listen to on your portable machines or on the computer. [http://www.freemake.com/blog/15-websites-with-free-audio-book-downloads/](http://www.freemake.com/blog/15-websites-with-free-audio-book-downloads/)

9. Dental Van Update: As you may have noticed the big dental van has gone from the school and a smaller dental van is in its place. Years 7, 6, 2 and 5 have been treated. We are currently treating Year 3. Paperwork for Year 1 has been issued and processed. We will be starting them soon. Year 4 and Prep are still to go later in the year or early next year. If your child has an outstanding dental form, please return it to the clinic as soon as possible. The Dental Van is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and alternate Mondays. For emergencies please contact the Dental Van directly, on 0407 699 721 when we are open, for an appointment, or the call centre on 1300 300 850 when the Van is closed.

10. Tuckshop News:
New item – Apple Slinky, available through ordering only on Monday to Thursday - 80c each.

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<tr>
<th>Monday 14/10</th>
<th>Tuesday 15/10</th>
<th>Wednesday 09/10</th>
<th>Thursday 10/10</th>
<th>Friday 11/10</th>
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Until next week,

Brad Fox,
A/Principal

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