Dear Parents / Caregivers

Today is World Teachers’ Day where we pause to pay attention to and celebrate the wonderful work that our teachers do for students every day, in so many important ways. Academically, our community is fortunate to have teachers who contribute so diligently to learning for every student every day, and our school performs right up there with schools across Australia. However, we all know that good schools are much more than just good academic performers, and the contributions made by staff to extra-curricular sport, the Arts, the kitchen-garden, camps, excursions, and study tours to Japan, (often in their own time!), are sacrifices made because they believe and understand that they make a difference to kids’ lives through learning and opportunities for character development.

Not only that, but Burpengary State School has a staff willing to accept accountability for their own professional growth and development, and strive to constantly get better at what they already do well. I love that about them. They are an amazing team of people striving to get the very best for their students – World Teachers’ Day is an opportunity to please take a little time to pause and think about this important work for your children, and if you can find a nice way to acknowledge this work and say “thank you” with some kind words or a note, I know it would be highly valued by the teachers. It is the intrinsic rewards that sustain us and keep us going in this profession!

I had the pleasure of attending Narangba Valley State High School’s awards ceremony last Wednesday night, and it was great to see the large number of ex-Burpengary State School students up on stage celebrating their academic, sporting and cultural successes in 2013. Indeed, many of the prestigious awards went to former Burpengary students! I guess this is testimony to what we were talking about above - Burpengary State School is a great school doing the important foundation work to develop the whole-child to be successful in their life endeavours.

Accompanying today’s newsletter is the estimated costs and timing of 2014 excursions and extra-curricular activities in order to support families to plan for and budget for the full school year. The 2014 student requirements lists sent home last week are noticeably streamlined, and charges minimised across the board. Year 3 swimming forms went home today also.

We have worked very hard to minimise costs to families and significantly reduced charges to parents throughout the year. I encourage parents to voluntarily contribute the 2013 flat rate parent contribution of $25.00 to support our strategic agenda to improve ICTs and have classroom technology available for every student every day throughout the school. Prep to Year 7. I wish to stress the importance of every family playing their part in our community partnership and striving to pay the 2013 voluntary contribution in the next few weeks, or the best part of the $25.00 that you can afford.

Some families are already asking if they can pay the 2014 voluntary contribution, and the answer is YES! Our priority for 2014’s voluntary contribution will be playground equipment renovation and upkeep, and ICTs – again benefitting every student at Burpengary!

DATE CLAIMER for the P&C: On Tuesday 19 November 2013, the P&C are having a special Subway Fundraiser where children can purchase a Six-inch Sub and a Popper at first break for only $6.00. Details of this event and an order form will come home next Friday. Money and order forms will need to be returned to school by the 11 November 2013.

The Life Education Van program commences next week. There are a few families remaining to pay for this important health education program, so please prioritise this for Monday, or make contact with Mrs Connolly (BSM) or me to discuss a plan to pay it off.

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.

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education Program</td>
<td>Years 3, 5, 6, 7</td>
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<td>Tuesday 22 October</td>
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<td>Swimming Program</td>
<td>Year 3</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. Whole School Weekly Behaviour Focus:

Each week our school identifies a particular whole school student behaviour focus. The strategies that students need to use are shared on parades and discussed in classes. These are based on our Burpengary State School Student Behaviour Expectations. Gotchas are given to students each week when they are identified as demonstrating positive behaviours including our focus behaviour. Gotchas are then drawn each week on parade for lucky draw prizes. For this week, our focus will be: As a Responsible Learner, I am independent, punctual and organised. We are specifically focusing on movement around the school. Students remain calm and respectful of others in learning time. They line up and walk between lessons in a calm manner. Students are punctual and ready to learn at the start of each session. We ask that you remind your children of our school rules and support the school in continuing to provide a safe and supportive school environment for students to learn at their best.

3. 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.

To join up and gain access to the page, please read and sign an application form. The application form is available at the office, and from our website. 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.

4. FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY FUNDRAISER: On Saturday, October 19, 2013, MSP Photography came to the school and 22 families took the opportunity for value-priced portrait sittings. Thank you to those families for your support, and I trust you have a brilliant family memento that you will enjoy and actually increases in value and meaning every year that you look at it – the more your children have grown since the snapshot, the more meaning it will have for you! Thanks.

5. For Sale By Tender:

Ride-On Mower, McCulloch brand, Model 875, Briggs & Stratton 190cc/8.75hp motor, hardly used - approx. 2 years old. Please send your offer to purchase in a sealed envelope to the Business Services Manager. Offers close 4.00pm on Friday 1/11/13.

6. Library News:

Yr 1-2 - Reminder to consider purchasing a new Library bag from the booklist for your child if their current one is not waterproof or if it is showing signs of wear and tear. Otherwise, they will be required to wrap their library book in a plastic bag before placing into their library bag.

Sections of the Junior Library: If you look at the spine label of the book that your child brings home it will indicate which section of the library they have borrowed from. We encourage children to borrow books that interest them and that they are able to read. Here are the explanations of the codes you see on the spine.

JF – Junior Fiction (Made up stories with pictures)
JNF – Junior Non Fiction (Information or Fact books)
JLF – Junior Library Fiction (Made up stories in chapter format)

A Coloured dot on the spine of a books means it is located in a series boxes. Pink for JF, Purple for JLF Starter Chapter books and Yellow for JLF Series books.

Picture Book Month - November is the month that celebrates picture books! Not that we need an excuse to read picture books. Here is a quote from author Doreen Cronin about the importance of picture books, “Picture books bring the world to children, one tiny piece at a time. They hold ideas, thoughts, language, pictures, places, emotions, families, animals, fears, cultures, colours, and shapes, in one spot for as long as a child needs them.”

We have a number of Doreen’s hilarious books in the Junior Library located at JF CRO.

7. Tuckshop News:

Octoberfest meal deal only available through Flexischool online ordering next week Monday to Thursday 31/10/13. Check at the website www.flexischool.com.au, click Register, enter your email, follow the prompts. Meal deal $4 includes hotdog, small popper or water plus small packet of pretzels.

Tuckshop Roster:

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Promoting healthy weight in children: Families in the Caboolture area can now sign up to a free government-funded program which aims to increase activity and healthy eating for the whole family. The new program, called PEACH™ (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health), is available to families with a child 5-11 years who is above a healthy weight for their age. As part of the program, families attend 10 fortnightly sessions, with additional support in the form of three phone calls. The sessions see parents learn and problem solve in a group environment while their children enjoy active play with a trained child physical activity facilitator. Some of the topics covered in the program include nutrition skills, relationships with food and eating, changing family lifestyle behaviours, making healthy eating affordable and overcoming resistance.

It will be delivered by QUT using trained PEACH™ facilitators. PEACH™ will initially be offered to 75 families in Brisbane, Caboolture, Logan and Rockhampton, followed by a state-wide roll out to a further 1325 families from 2014. If you would like more information about the PEACH™ program or to register please free call 1800 263 519 or visit www.peachqld.com.au

Garage Sale – Saturday 26 October at 25 & 27 Forest Road, Burpengary from 7.00am. Stampin Up, inks, clothes, toys and much, much more.

Kids craft classes - Scrapbooking, card making & more. Every Thursday 3:45-4:45pm, $11 per child; and 3rd Saturday of the month 10.00am. Christmas craft Extravaganza, Saturday 9 November, 9:30am-5.00pm, $75. A full day of card and gift making. All items supplied including lunch. Contact Amity on 0419 380 133 or stampinamity@gmail.com for more information.

BRAD FOX
A/Principal