Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to a very busy term 4. Next Wednesday November 6 we are very proud to host the 2013 Volunteer Afternoon Tea, where we take the opportunity to say a warm thank you to the hundreds of people who support our school by giving of their time to support staff and students in a wide variety of educational and community activities. Invitations were posted about a week ago, so if you have been a volunteer and for any reason have not yet received an invitation, please contact the school office immediately. I would not like a single person to miss out on us saying thank you. I think the Fete hit home for me just how kind, giving and supportive of our children our community is, when I had still had about thirty thank you letters to volunteers at the Fete who had no current connection to our school and therefore no forwarding address for me to send the letter. These fine people could have been aunts, uncles, grand parents or just friends of the school, but if you know of some who did not receive an invitation for this (or any other) reason, please give us a call so we can rectify it immediately.

This week Mrs Roberts (P&C President), Mrs Connolly (BSM) and I finalised the priority list for maintenance for the 2014 school year. Burpengary State School has received another $160,000 worth of works from the State Government to help overcome our maintenance back logs. This includes re-paving of some existing path ways and patio areas, carpets and floor coverings, roof guttering, internal and external painting of a series of blocks, fencing and other minor works. Works like these made a huge difference to our school during 2013, and another significant boost such as this will continue to improve the physical environment immensely. This is exciting news.

Thank you to those many families who have returned the application form to join our official Facebook page. There may be a slight misunderstanding about the process for joining the page, which I will clarify now. To join up and gain access to the page is a two-step process. First, go to http://www.facebook.com/groups/burpengarystateschool/ and request to join. Second, obtain the application form that is available at the office, or on our website. Read and sign this application form and return it to the school office. 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 you have requested electronically to join the page, and our administrator is in receipt of this signed application, access will be granted within two working days. Those people who have already returned the application form but have not electronically visited the site to join (and I suspect there are plenty!!), simply visit the Facebook page on the link above and request to join.

As the summer temperatures have begun in earnest, I ask families to pay particular attention to head lice with your children. One year level has had recurring issues for families who are consistently doing the right thing with treatments, but are frustrated to find the problem again a short time later. Families need to play as a team and if a letter comes home indicating the presence of head lice in a classroom, it is everybody’s responsibility and obligation to diligently check your children and treat the condition immediately if you find evidence of lice or nits.

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. An order form accompanied today’s newsletter. Money and order forms will need to be returned to school by the 11 November 2013 (see details below).

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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<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
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<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. **Measles health alert:** Queensland Health is concerned about the number of measles outbreaks in Queensland this year. Measles is a highly infectious disease that begins with symptoms such as fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose and/or red inflamed eyes. Measles can lead to complications such as middle ear infections, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).
Measles can spread very easily. Vaccination is the only way to prevent measles. Queensland Health encourages anyone who has not had two measles-containing vaccinations, or who is not sure about their vaccination status, to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The measles vaccine is free from your local doctor for anyone born from 1966 onwards.

If you think your child might have measles, you are advised to keep them away from school and make an appointment with a doctor or phone 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) to organise medical assessment. Please advise us if you suspect your child has measles, and definitely advise us if a doctor confirms measles. More information is available from: http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/measles_fs.asp

3. **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 safe and make positive choices.** 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.

4. **Burpengary State School P&C Fundraiser:**
On Tuesday, 19th November 2013 the P&C are offering every child the opportunity to take part in their first ever Subway Fundraiser. You will be able to order a six-inch Sub and an Apple Popper for $6.00 to be enjoyed at first break. All you need to do is fill in the order form, sent home yesterday, and return it with the correct money to the office by 11th November 2013. If there are any parents willing to help with the distribution of the orders to each year level, that would be greatly appreciated. Please call Danielle on 0416 202 241 if you can help.

Thank you to all the families who supported the P&C by having family portraits taken. It was a great day.

**Student Council** – Orders for the Graduation Bears for Year 7 were due today. A one week extension has been granted. It is not too late to order yours. Orders will be accepted until the 8 November.

5. **Library News:**
**Story Time in the Junior Library: Prep to Year 2** - Children have been coming into the JL to join in some Story Time Fun with Rebecca and Ella from Year 5. They are reading stories and organizing some craft to match the story. These girls are to be commended on their efforts so please remind your child to come in on either Thursday or Friday Afternoon Tea break to participate. First in best dressed! Quote of the day from one of the participants, “This is the best Library ever!”

**Do you know if your children have overdue books?** As we move towards the end of the year please help us out by ensuring that library books come back on time. The loan period for books is two weeks. From then on, we issue overdue notices each week. Books need to be returned as soon as an overdue notice is received. Once your child is on a 4th notice, an invoice is generated from the office and sent home for payment. We speak to all children with overdue books to try and get the books back before you are invoiced. Unfortunately, many times, the books come back once an invoice is received which creates more work for both library and office staff. As an incentive to get all books back on time, we give out class awards, to those classes that have no overdue notices during that week. The award comes with a gotcha for each student in the class.

**Picture Book Month News** - Mo Willems is an award winning children’s Picture Book Author. His ‘Don't let the Pigeon….’ series is extremely popular with both children and adults alike. Check out the following websites for lots of fun and information, http://www.mowillems.com/; http://artery.wbur.org/2013/06/25/interview-mo-willems; http://www.pigeonresents.com/index.aspx. Your child will find his books in the JF WIL section of the Junior Library.

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

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Until next week

Dan Ball for
Brad Fox
A/Principal

**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.