Dear Parents / Caregivers

Over 40 aspiring student leaders in Years 5 and 6 stood up and presented short speeches to their peers this week in an inspiring second round of the process of selecting our student leaders for 2014. A shortlist was made for interviews today and continuing into Monday and Tuesday next week. A further shortlist occurs after the interviews, and those students showing the potential for the executive positions of School Captain or Vice-Captain will present their case with another short address at the Senior parade next week. Our successful 2014 Student Leaders will be announced at our Graduation Ceremony on December 11.

Recent good news stories for Burpengary include our Year 6 Brainways Challenge Team who came third at a recent District event and now compete in the Brainways Challenge State Finals at Griffith University this weekend. Congratulations to: Lilly, Keira and Joshua. What a superb effort, and good luck on Saturday! On Wednesday night our two school winners went to Narangba Valley State High School to compete against our cluster schools in a Public Speaking Competition. In a very strong competition highlighting a great depth of talent from Year 5 to Year 9, Melinda won second place in the Year 5 category, and Mark was second place in the Year 7 category. Our Strings Ensemble played and our Choir sang beautifully at Burpengary Gardens Aged Care Centre recently. This is a wonderful tradition in our community that gives so much pleasure to the residents of Burpengary Gardens. Well done students for your exemplary conduct and high standards of performance to delight our wider community, and to Mrs Michelle Jones and Mr Jeff Pacey for organising the event.

Coming up in the next few weeks we have our Annual Music Night on Tuesday evening to showcase our performing arts talent, and our final P&C Disco for the Year is on Friday, December 6.

Also on the morning of December 6, we host our first special Senior Parade to present Citizenship and Commendable Effort Awards to students in Years 5 to 7. This is followed by Years 1 and 2 on Tuesday December 10, and Years 3 and 4 on Wednesday, December 11.

While I have been accused in the past of being a Christmas Grinch, please allow me to explain why candy canes are an unacceptable form of gift giving at school at the end of the year. Often children will purchase candy canes for their whole class and beyond, but let us just conservatively suppose that each child purchases only 10 to distribute to their closest friends. Each class is then circulating approximately 250 candy canes. With 40 classrooms in the school, that is (conservatively, remember) 10,000 candy canes (and all the sugar, preservatives and colouring within) circulating amongst the children at Burpengary. We work really hard to promote healthy options, keep a healthy tuckshop and stick to the Red Day policy to positively role model and promote healthy eating. Things like a pencil sharpener, an eraser or a pencil are alternative, inexpensive gift ideas that are useable and healthy. A home-made card with a thoughtful, personal message conveys so much more than a commercial product. As a community, I ask us to examine and challenge the hidden messages we send out to children this Christmas. Supporting current projects in our school like our Defence Force packs, food hampers for those in need in our community, or the care packages to support the tragedy in the Philippines are alternative ways to give, with quite a different message for children.

As we near the end of the year, I remind parents that their children need to maintain uniform standards at all times. I know shoes may start to wear out, but a purchase on the larger side now will easily carry through to next year. Hats are vital for sun safety in these Summer months, and Queensland families should need no reminder about wearing a hat.

I also want to take the opportunity to remind our community that the circular car park near the Administration Block is for authorised vehicles only. Our school team of cleaners, school leaders, office administration staff and OSHC workers require these parking spots. The car park may appear empty and then fill within minutes as the cleaners and OSHC staff take up their duties. Further, delivery vehicles and visiting Education Queensland officers visit the school throughout the day and require these spaces. I am staggered beyond belief that a few parents think that it is OK to park there, and pack it out at the peak time when children are exiting the school. They wouldn’t want their own children’s safety compromised, but it seems acceptable to risk everybody else’s? I don’t get it, it is not being team or community-minded, and I won’t accept it.

A few parents have asked what they should do if they hear the alarms go off at school out of hours. If it is a short alarm, somebody has usually tripped it accidentally and it is not a security risk. If the alarm rings continuously for some time, I recommend phoning School Watch on 13 17 88. School Watch will then notify the appropriate security authorities in a systematic way that usually gets better results than you trying to phone Police directly.

Thank you all for your support of the P&C’s Subway fundraising day, whether you were one of the many volunteers who helped on the day or a parent who took the opportunity of purchasing a value lunch for your child, it was great support for the school. A big thank you goes to Mrs Danielle Midwaters, ably helped by Mrs Jenny Fuller and Mrs Fran Stocker, and then a further small army of volunteers on the day, too numerous to mention. Our students appreciate your efforts!

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.
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. Our official Facebook page continues to grow. 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. Both steps need to be fulfilled before access can be finalised.

3. 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: Burpengary Kids are Responsible Learners always aspiring to do their best.

4. Reminder that the Absence Line number for the school is 3491 0366. This number can be called, and details of absences left, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your use of this facility would be greatly appreciated.

5. Library News:
   - All borrowing has now ceased and all books become overdue on November 29. This gives us two weeks to get all resources back on the shelves. During this time we also run our stocktake as well as cleaning and tidying our collection in readiness for the new school year. We also hope to finish off cataloguing new resources that students can borrow first up next year. Please help us out by reminding your children to return books as soon as they have finished with them and definitely before the due date.

   Christmas Activities: We will have different activities running over the next two weeks so please encourage your children to come in and participate.
   - Picture Book Month News - Stephen Michael King is another world renowned Australian author worthy of promotion. His picture books have been translated in many different languages and he has won various awards. He suffered hearing loss between the ages of 8 and 9 and didn’t get diagnosed until he was 13. This made his school life very difficult but he used his drawing and writing to communicate with the world. In this quote, he talks about the impact of one of his books: 
     "I think they’re the nicest moments. I had a lady, an origami expert from Brazil, write to me because she was reading to children with lung problems in hospital. One child’s breathing exercises weren’t working until she read him ‘Leaf’, which inspired her to fold a small paper plant for him to blow onto. She wrote to me with tears and joy about her happiness that his lungs had improved quickly because he wanted to read ‘leaf’ over and over again. Visit his website at http://www.stephenmichaelking.com/
   - Moreton Bay Libraries Summer Reading Club - If you are looking at trying to occupy your reading child during the holidays, then visit http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/src/ to read more information. There are lots of activities and reading ideas with prizes on offer.

6. Tuckshop News:
   - Date Claimer – This Wednesday 27 November, special double chocolate chip muffin - $1 each. All proceeds for Movember charity.

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

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<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>25/11</th>
<th>26/11</th>
<th>27/11</th>
<th>28/11</th>
<th>29/11</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
<td>Kerry G</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
<td>Helper needed</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
<td>Leonie L</td>
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<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Redcliffe PCYC Bike Ed.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Graduation Lunch</td>
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<td>Deception Bay Pool</td>
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The School Transport Assistance Scheme is one of the largest assistance programs provided by the Qld Government. It’s a scheme to provide assistance to eligible students travelling to primary and secondary schools and is administered by Queensland Transport. If you need more information or wish to obtain a complete copy of the School Transport Assistance Scheme go to www.transport.qld.gov.au or visit transport.qld.gov.au/PubTrans.net/index/assisthome or phone 3863 9849.

Capture the feeling – 2014 Brisbane Broncos Membership. Buck to Bronco, $60 which includes backpack, drink bottle, shoelaces, and lots more. For further information phone 1300 462 766 or visit www.broncos.com.au.

Pine Rivers United Sports Club are holding their inaugural Twilight Markets on Saturday 7 December 5–9pm at Wendy Allison Park, 188 Samsonvale Road, Strathpine. Cost is $30 for a 3m x 3m stall site - All types of stalls welcome. Arts & Crafts, Trash & Treasure, Xmas Gifts etc., Sporting Raffle, Meet Santa (get your photo taken) Sausage Sizzle, rides for the kids. Bring your family and friends along to help support our local sporting club. There will be something for everyone!! For more information please see www.pineriversunited.org.au or contact Anna on 0411 635 288 or Dave on 0410 512 154 or email us on prusmarkets@gmail.com.