Dear Parents / Caregivers

The Chair of the Principal’s Panel phoned me today and offered me the position of Principal at Burpengary State School. I have accepted the offer with great humility - and of course great pleasure, as well! I have an enormous respect for the resilience and the commitment of the Burpengary State School community, the courage and dedication of the staff, and our honest, wonderful and hard-working students. In 2014, we can now continue with certainty the journey of the School Plan 2013-2016 that we collaboratively developed as a community in 2012, and have progressed through 2013. Deputy Principal roles will be advertised in 2014 through the normal EQ processes in Semester 1 next year.

To update the community, our Year 6 Brainways Challenge Team went to compete in the Brainways Challenge State Finals at Griffith University last weekend. Congratulations to: Lilly, Keira and Joshua who performed brilliantly as a team, and finished 4th overall in the State! Congratulations on a great effort, students!

Our Annual Music Night last Tuesday evening was a superb showcase of our performing arts talent including Junior and Senior Concert Bands, Junior and Senior Strings Ensembles, Junior and Senior Choirs, Senior Percussion Ensemble, and a string of individual and small group ensembles. I take the opportunity to thank our student Arts Leaders who ran the show skillfully from start to finish, and the students who rose to the occasion and played and sang beautifully. Thanks to Mr Jeff Pacey, Mrs Michelle Jones, Mrs Joan Schukow, Mr Bruce Hamlin, Mrs Marion Smith, and the band of teacher volunteers who supported and supervised students throughout the night. It was an outstanding performance.

Our final P&C Disco for the Year is on Friday, December 6. It has a Christmas theme. Parents and students are reminded about two important things:

1. Students must wear closed shoes as a workplace health and safety precaution, as large numbers of students (of all ages and sizes) are dancing and moving around a confined space in unpredictable ways.
2. Students must wear appropriate clothing for a school function, inclusive of a large range of students. As a guide, there are to be no strapless or strappy singlet tops, or clothing emblazoned with inappropriate images, slogans or words.

It is always such an enjoyable night for the children so please ensure as a family you look after these necessities to avoid the embarrassment of not being permitted entry to the disco for not following the rules. Please note there will be no glow products allowed. LED bracelets are available on Flexischools (see attached Flyer).

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.

All of our successful 2014 Student Leaders will be announced at our Graduation Ceremony on December 11. The final step in the process was the presentation of speeches by the shortlisted students for executive student leadership positions of School Captain and Vice-Captain at this morning’s parade.

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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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Redcliffe PCYC Bike Ed.</td>
<td>Year 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<td>Graduation Lunch</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
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<td>Friday 6 December</td>
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<td>Deception Bay Pool</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
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<td>Friday 6 December</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. 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/burbengarystateschool/ 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. 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.

4. **Library News:**
   All library books are now due back to the libraries. Please check that outstanding books are sent back by Monday. It is a very busy time as we stock take, tidy up shelves, repair books and ensure that all resources are ready to be used again next year. Your help is most appreciated. Any student with outstanding books at the end of this year won’t be able to borrow next year until the book(s) are returned or lost books paid for. The library staff wishes you all a very happy and safe holiday and we look forward to being of service to you and your children in 2014.

5. 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 celebrate my achievements and those of others.**

6. **Reminder:** Next year’s Book Packs are available this Monday and Tuesday 2 and 3 December at the Demountable Building near the Office from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

7. **The Active Kids After School Sport Program** will run again in **Term 1, 2014.** The sessions run on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. These sessions are for one child per session, per week. **This program will only be open to children who will be in Grades 1-7 in 2014.** Our newest members of the school going into Prep in 2014 will be able to access this program later on the year. This is to enable them to settle into the routines of school life. As the children enjoyed it so much this year we will again have a Basketball coach on **Tuesday** afternoon to teach the children the basics of the sport. Each **Wednesday** afternoon we will have a coach doing a **Multi Skill Program.** If your child has an interest in getting active and learning some new skills please email activekids@burpengass.eq.edu.au. In this email please include your child’s name and class and the afternoon they would like to attend.

8. **Movember update:** Mr Leach, Mr Firth, Mr Tattersall, Mr Ball and Mr Summersford (P&C VP) have so far nearly raised $1000 with the support of the P&C for Movember – Mens’ health. You still have a few days left to donate at: http://mobro.co/danball6. Thank you to everyone that has supported the campaign.

9. **Dental Van Update:**
   Years 7, 6, 2, 5 and 3 have been treated. We are currently treating Year 1. Year 4 and Prep are still to go, and will be offered treatment in the new year as Year 5 (2014) and Year 1 (2014). If your child has an outstanding dental form, please return it to the clinic as soon as possible. The Dental Van will be closed during the school holidays and will re-open on 28 January (first day of school). However, emergency facilities are available every week day (excluding public holidays) in both Redcliffe and Caboolture. Please phone 1300 300 850 for emergencies during this time. Have a safe and happy holiday and don’t forget to brush and floss.

10. **Tuckshop News:**
    Thank you to all the families who supported the special double chocolate chip muffin on Wednesday. **$480 was raised – all proceeds donated to Movember.**

    **Summer Meal deal** available through Flexischool online ordering next week, Monday to Thursday 2-5 December. Meal costs $4 (usually $4.60) which includes a chicken, sweet chilli sauce, tomato and lettuce half a wrap with choice of small popper or water, an apple slinky and a frozen juice tube.

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

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**Reminder:** 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/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assisthome or phone 3863 9849.

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**Community Notices**

**The School Transport Assistance Scheme** is one of the largest assistance programs provided by the Old 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/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assisthome or phone 3863 9849.

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**COMMITTEE NOTICES**