Dear Parents / Caregivers

School Opinion Survey data arrived this week and we have seen some pleasing feedback and improvements, including some significant results above “Like Schools”, Regional, and State results! Highlights include: For parents, 97.1% agreed that this is a good school: 94.3% agreed that their child feels safe at this school; 100% agreed that they can talk to their child’s teacher about their concerns!

For Students, 98.3% agreed that they are getting a good education at my school; 93.2% agreed that they feel safe at my school; 96.6% agreed that they use computers and other technologies at my school for learning.

For staff, 98.6% agreed that this is a good school; 98.6% agreed that working at this school is rewarding; 95.9% agreed that they have access to quality professional development.

Areas for our school to work on include strategies to improve work-life balance for our hard working staff; supporting parents to understand how children are assessed (only 85.7% agreed) and encouraging parents to take an active role in my child’s education (only 82.4% agreed); and for students, my school takes students’ opinions seriously received only 83.3% agreement. Thanks so much to our community for providing us with such useful feedback in order to keep improving our school!

Today, we celebrated our special Senior Parade to present Citizenship and Commendable Effort Awards, and Academic and Sporting Awards to students in Years 5 and 6. Congratulations to all student recipients for their prolonged dedication to quality learning, and/or active citizenship, and a special mention goes to our Gold Principal’s Award recipients for their great attendance rates. Next week we host Years 1 and 2 on Tuesday morning, December 10; and Years 3 and 4 on the morning of Wednesday, December 11.

Our final P&C Disco for the Year is on tonight. It has a Christmas theme. Parents and students are reminded about these important things:

1. Parents/Carers must accompany your child to the door on arrival, and children will only be permitted to depart the disco at 7.30pm accompanied by a parent/carer.
2. Older siblings are not permitted into the disco unless they have the direct permission of the Principal by prior arrangement. It is strictly Burpengary State School students only.
3. Students must wear closed in 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.
4. 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, midriff tops, or clothing emblazoned with inappropriate images, slogans or words.
5. Parking will be available on the Junior Oval, but the entrance is through Sasha Street ONLY. This leaves the George Street gate as a pedestrian entrance only, keeping people well away from traffic movement.

It is always such an enjoyable night for the children so please ensure as a family you look after these necessities to keep the environment safe and 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 water bottles will be on sale at the Disco.

Coming up this week is our 2014 Graduation Ceremony on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 11 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. We ask families to be seated by 12.50pm.

The Food Bank made contact with our school this week and was extremely appreciative of our donation that was 390kg in weight, which translates into about 557 meals. The manager was so impressed with the Burpengary State School effort that he has promoted our school on their Facebook page. Thanks to Mrs Sally Milne for co-ordinating this support program.

In related news, Burpengary SS staff donated a full boot load of supplies to help the disaster relief effort in the Philippines, and Burpengary students and families are currently putting together care packages of gifts and well-wishes for our Defence Force personnel who are serving overseas this Christmas. Thanks to Mrs Karen Ryan, Mrs Robyn Thomas, Mrs Sally Milne, Mrs Janice Dekeyzer, Mrs Karen O’Connell and Mr David Firth for co-ordinating these efforts of goodwill.

To other news …

1. Are you looking for local casual work? The P&C Association is looking for a canteen assistant for 6 hours per week commencing at the start of school in 2014. Hours of work will be approximately 8.00-11.00am Monday and Friday, during school weeks. All applications are to be addressed Private and Confidential, The P&C President, Burpengary State School, and handed in at the school office. Closing date is Friday 13th December.

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 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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Lunch</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Friday 6 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deception Bay Pool</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$12.80</td>
<td>Friday 6 December</td>
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3. 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.

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. How Does Your Garden Grow???
Go on a virtual expedition and explore the amazing world of seeds, plants and flowers. This fantastic program is available to all the children at Burpengary. On this extraordinary 5 week growing journey, children will have the opportunity to engage in planting seeds, nurturing their growth as well as organising their very own garden area. You will be guided by our gardening guru to learn some fun and exciting ways of creating and designing your very own garden. Seed sprouting and root-view boxes are also on the agenda. How much water, how much sunlight?
For more information or to book onto this exciting 5 week program please contact Helping Hands Burpengary on phone 0458 010 433 or email burpengary@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au. Booking forms will also be available from the school office and Helping Hands Burpengary service.

6. 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.

7. Tuckshop News:
Tuckshop is open Monday to Wednesday next week, and closed for cleaning Thursday and Friday. Some menu items may not be available on Wednesday. If an item is not available students will be contacted to arrange a suitable alternative. Thank you to all our dedicated, hardworking volunteers who have assisted in the Tuckshop this year.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>09/12</td>
<td>Kerry G</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
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Thank you to staff Mrs M. Neeland, Mrs J. Grzesiczak and Mrs N. Cox for their assistance this year. Mrs Cox, who will be leaving us this year, has been a very valuable team member for the P&C Association both as a parent volunteer and a staff member for many years.

Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Tree Maintenance and Removal for all tree care, fully qualified and insured, no job too big or small, free quotes. Call Will Slorach on 0402 754 495.

For Sale: Violin for sale, good condition, full sized Enrico - $150.00. Contact Flor Mejia on 3888 3224.

Home Doctor Service available in our school community. A government funded service is available when GP clinics are closed (week nights, weekends and public holidays) and bulk billing is generally available. Phone 137 425.