Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to the 2014 school year. Burpengary commenced this week in a very calm and organised manner and for that I need to say thank you to the following:

(a) Our parents/carers who have been great partners in ensuring that the children have returned ready for school; and
(b) The teamwork and effort of many staff – teaching and non-teaching – during Term 4 last year and in the weeks leading up to the start of Term 1 this year. The outcome for students was that classes were active in learning from the very start of day one at Burpengary, including our new cohort of Prep children!

We look like our opening enrolment will be about 1000 children in 2014. Importantly, the current class model will stand for the year and there will be no changes at Day 8, unless we are swamped with a late rush of enrolments!

Staff appointments since the close of the 2013 school year –

- Mrs Jenny Simpson – Numeracy Coach 0.5FTE and Learning Support Teacher 0.5FTE
- Ms Leesa Borradaile – Special Education Teacher
- Mr Angus McGarva – Guidance Officer Intensive Behaviour, whom we share part time with our local cluster of schools.

In late breaking news this week, the State Government announced that the $131 million new Federal Government dollars for education would be allocated directly to schools. Burpengary will receive an extra $236,484 in the school budget for 2014. We welcome this huge boost to our capability to get great results for our children, and this is exactly what the State Government will hold us to account – we must convert this into great results for students! We will be busily strategising an equitable allocation of this funding in consultation with the School Council and P&C over the next few weeks.

Important announcement from Narangba Valley State High School: Please note that for future enrolments at Narangba Valley State High School, only students residing within the catchment area will be entitled to enrol automatically. Students residing outside the catchment area may also enrol if accepted to the various Academy programs on offer at Narangba Valley State High School. Students who have siblings currently attending Narangba Valley SHS are eligible to enrol. Other students who reside outside the catchment wishing to enrol will be considered for enrolment if capacity exists within the school and will be processed as per the date of application. If you wish clarification please contact Robyn Millyard (Administration Officer) on phone 33854555. Ross Mackay (Principal, Narangba Valley State High School).

As families are likely to be having conversations about family holidays and birthday celebrations at the start of the year, I would like to draw your attention to the research investigating the relationship between attendance and school performance. I believe this issue to be even more critical in our Australian Curriculum environment where C2C units turn over every five weeks, with summative assessment pieces contributing to end of semester reports regularly throughout the term. The C2C units are so demanding that every day counts for student learning.

Queensland State School Attendance Rate (Semester 1, 2009) by NAPLAN Mean Scale Score (Year 5 tests, 2009)
Research shows that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement including literacy and numeracy
- early school leaving
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels
- increased alcohol, tobacco, and substance use in adolescents.

Just one day absence every two weeks equates to four weeks of the school year lost, along with all the learning that would have taken place during that time. As parents/carers responsible for the well-being and development of our children, we are doing them a grave injustice by permitting that day off for a birthday celebration, or a visit by friends or family, or shopping, and we need to think carefully about family holidays. I ask parents to seriously consider if the expense of peak school holiday costs isn't actually a small price to pay in the long run?

On 20 January 2014, major changes were made to TransLink bus and rail services across south-east Queensland. Students who catch an urban bus route or Queensland Rail train to school may be impacted by these recent public transport changes. Students and parents are encouraged to visit translink.com.au to plan their journeys to and from school and to find out if their service has changed. Any questions regarding the SEQ Bus Network Review please contact TransLink External Affairs by email at external.affairs@translink.com.au or phone 07 3338 4438.

To other news...

1. We have a large number of Facebook applications that we cannot process to final stage. I remind families that connecting with our Facebook page is a two-step operation. We have 27 written applications that have not connected electronically to complete the second step, and perhaps another 40 who have connected electronically, but have not completed the written application. This keeps our site a safe, bon-fide school community site, and I am excited by this way of communicating with our community and keeping people connected to our school! Please act now to build our membership.

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 next week, our focus will be: I am a Burpengary Kid (being a Respectful, Considerate, Responsible and Confident Learner). This is an important message for our students to start the year. We are proud of our students and their behaviour. We all work hard to ensure all students demonstrate outstanding behaviours and capture the true essence of ‘The Burpengary Kid’. 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. Band practice for continuing Multi students starts on Friday 7 February at 7.30am in the Music Block.

4. Library News:
   Teachers and library staff are busy reinforcing positive reading habits as well as revising and introducing Library procedures.
   **In Class Borrowing** - Year 2-4 classes will visit the library for orientation next week and begin class borrowing in Week 3. Year 1 classes will start borrowing around week 5 as they learn new procedures. Prep classes will come to library as soon as their classroom routines are established. We will let you know when they are ready to start borrowing.
   **Before School and Lunch time borrowing** - Year 2-4 will be able to borrow before school in Week 4.
   This time of the year is also a great time for you to organize some reading time with your children. No matter how old they may be, they still love to have books read to them. This shows them how reading a book works and that it is an enjoyable activity. It also enables to them to hear and enjoy books they would be unable to read alone. Ten minutes a day is all it takes to foster a lifelong love of books.
   Remember that students in Years P-3 will need a waterproof bag in order to borrow. They will need a plastic bag inside bags that are not waterproof. Happy reading!

Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Secondhand Uniforms for Sale:** $5.00 each or $50.00 the lot. Good and ok condition. Boys Formal Shirts - 2 x Size 14, 1 x Size 12, 1 x Size 10. Forest Green Sports Shirts - 3 x Size 12, 1 x Size 14. Formal Shorts - 1 x Size 10 and Navy Blue Sport Shorts - 3 x Size 12. Phone Kath - 0422 629 029.

**Bunpengary Jets Junior Rugby League** Free Come and Try Clinic, on Saturday 1 February from 9.00 to 10.30am on Station Road, Bunpengary. For boys and girls aged 5 to 12 years, free certificate, show bag, sausage sizzle and popper for all participants. Phone Kate Cross on 0408 069 463.

**For Sale:** Size 12 polo shirts, very good condition - $15 each. Phone 0433 991 984. Wanted: Senior boys shirt, size 12, phone 0433 991 984.

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
Our thanks to the vast majority of families who have sent children back-to-school with their class requirements and full uniform. It was very pleasing to see the children appropriately dressed, including their brimmed hat and black shoes. Parents should be aware that government schools determine a Dress Code with their P&C Association, and it is the expectation that the school will enforce it.

Obviously, we seek to assist families who have genuine difficulty in clothing and equipping their children for school, and I ask families who know that they will be unable to provide by Week 3 the required school books and materials, to contact me or the Business Services Manager, Mrs Paula Connolly, so we can make arrangements to assist you and have all children participating in their schoolwork.

1. **Before/after school arrangements:**
   We now have the services of Helping Hands running an Out of School Hours Care Program at our site. Families who have interest in this great service as a one-stop before and after school care service, please see the office staff for details and information. If you need to drop your children at school before 8.00am they should be enrolled in this service.

   Students who arrive at school on a one-off basis before 8.00am must sit in the covered play area near the Tuckshop. Whilst the School Office is staffed from 7.30am, there are no teachers officially on duty before school. The cleaners and janitor/ground staff are about their duties and they crisscross this area keeping an eye on the children. At the 8.00am bell, the children can move to their bag racks, then to the grounds to play. Staff are in their classrooms from 8.30am and they keep a watchful eye on the children’s activities. After school, if your child is waiting to be picked up, he/she is not allowed to wait on fence lines. Uncollected children will be brought back to the office by staff. I would prefer parents who know they will be late to have their children wait at the Station Road gate near the Administration block so the office can monitor the children’s safety.

2. **Behaviour Management:**
   Teachers are carefully checking the children’s knowledge and understanding of appropriate out-of-class behaviour. Preparatory class children will not be sent to the Time Out room for inappropriate behaviour.

   Next week, your child will bring home an envelope containing their Classroom Management Plan. Please read the plan carefully as it explains how the teacher will be fostering appropriate classroom behaviour and managing inappropriate classroom behaviour. It is necessary for you to return the attached tear-off slip to your child’s teacher. You can record any questions/concerns on the return slip for our response either personally or at Parent/Teacher Welcome and Sausage Sizzle which is in Week 3. Please discuss this Plan with your child to reinforce their understandings.

3. **Calendar of Events Term 1:**
   Please keep the accompanying calendar readily available as it will enable you to plan for the events in your child's school life. A full calendar of events is published at the start of each term.

   The Parent/Teacher Welcome Evening for Prep to Year 7 is on Thursday, February 13, 2014. All through the afternoon and evening there is a rolling sausage sizzle from 3.45pm through to 6.30pm. Families can drop in to the P&C Centre at any convenient time with their information session, and enjoy a sausage on bread for only a gold coin donation. From 3.15pm, a schedule of meetings with Year group teachers, specialist teachers and predominantly your child's own teacher will talk through what to expect in your child's learning during the year ahead.

   - **Prep and Year 1:** 3.15 – 4.00pm; Prep starts in the P&C Centre at 3.15pm sharp, and Year 1 starts in 1E/F classroom double space on the lower floor of the Borserini Building at 3.15pm sharp.
   - **Years 2 and 3:** 4.15 – 5.00pm; Year 2 starts in the 2A/B classroom double space at 4.15pm sharp, and Year 3 starts in the 3A/B classroom double space at 4.15pm sharp. 2/3 composite commences in their classroom on the upper floor of the Borserini Building at 4.15pm sharp.
   - **Years 4 and 5:** 5.15 – 6.00pm; Year 4 starts in the 4B/C classroom double space upstairs in the new double-storey GLA at 5.15pm sharp, and Year 5 starts in the 5D/E classroom double space upstairs above the OSHC at 5.15pm sharp. 4/5A composite commences in their classroom on the ground floor adjacent to the OSHC at 5.15pm sharp.
   - **Years 6 and 7:** 6.15 – 7.00pm; Year 6 starts in the 6B/C classroom double space at 6.15pm sharp, with Year 7 starting in the 7A/D classroom double space at the Senior Library end of the Year 7 block at 6.15pm sharp.

4. **Absences from school/Late to school/Leaving early from school:**
   Attendance at this school is very carefully monitored and parents will be rung if absences are unexplained. This week, all families will receive a bundle of green sheets which I would encourage families to fill in and return to the school if the child has been absent. Parents can, if they wish, phone the school to advise of an absence.

   Given that school attendance is compulsory for children, the law requires that the school monitor the reason for all student non-attendance or late arrival. Please use one of the green sheets instead of a note as this allows rapid computer data entry. By law, families are accountable to the school for the child’s non-attendance at school and a reason must be provided for non-attendance. A reminder that any child coming to school after 8.55am needs to collect a Late Slip at the Office before going to class whether they are accompanied by an adult or not.

   Parents/carers should also note that the school carefully monitors the reasons for children finishing school before 3.00pm. Parents will need to speak with a Deputy Principal before the child will be called from class if the reason is simply for parent convenience.

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
5. Collecting Children: Parents/caregivers and high school aged children accessing the school grounds in the afternoon to pick up children are asked not to arrive too early. Some parents are waiting outside classrooms from 2.30pm. This can be very distracting for the children, especially if your young children are running around and adults are loudly conversing. Class finishes at 3.00pm so please allow the children to stay focussed in learning time and complete their day undisturbed. Years 1B-F and 2/3 Composite parents are asked not to go onto the verandah area (upper or lower) during the 2.30pm to 3.00pm slot unless they have a prior appointment with the teacher. Children in Years 2-7 are quite old enough to meet parents and older siblings at the school gates. No high schooler should be on our grounds before 3.20pm, unless specific permission has been sought from the Principal to pick up siblings. High School students are to go the Station Road Gate 1 (the OHSC entrance) and wait for siblings to meet them there. Only students with very young siblings in Prep or Year 1 who have gained written Principal approval can enter the grounds before 3.20pm.

6. Voluntary Parent contributions – these are due to be paid at the School Office by the final week of Term 1. I have made every effort to reduce and minimise these costs to families as I am sure you are aware. This year is a single, (and comparatively speaking) low cost to parents that I hope will encourage everybody to contribute and maintain Burpengary’s edge in learning for your children. While voluntary, the money raised by these charges directly funds the curriculum resources required to affect a rich curriculum for the children. I am making a concerted effort to ensure that every classroom and every child has daily access to a range of technology to assist learning in their own room to enable contemporary learning to take place with the Australian Curriculum. Further, certain programs such as Technology, Art and Science require consumable stocks of paper, printer ink, paint and other materials which have to be replaced each year.

The majority of families pay these curriculum charges as they value the quality of the learning experiences available to their children at this school. The school’s budget alone could not provide these extras which give depth and variety to the curriculum.

7. Bikes and Mobile Phones: Bike riders need to collect a bike rider’s permit from the school office which explains the rules about bikes at school and movement to and from school.

I strongly encourage parents/carers to discuss these rules with their child, prior to signing the request for entry to the school grounds. Do ensure your child has a chain and padlock to secure his/her bike in the bike racks.

I strongly discourage primary school age children having access to mobile phones, especially phones with Internet and photo/video capacities. Principals can refuse to have phones on the school site but I am conscious that families may have circumstances that require ready access to the child after 3.00pm. Consequently, I ask parents/carers to write to me for permission for the phone to come on-site. Parents/carers need to understand that the phone must be held at the school office immediately on arrival during the day, with collection at 3.00pm.

8. Playground equipment before and after school Students or younger siblings are not to be on playground equipment before or after school even under parent supervision due to safety risk management.

9. Road Safety, Car Park pick-ups and Stop-Drop-and-Go Zones As a caring community, everybody needs to be highly attuned to safety for children at all times, and the peak times such as afternoon pick-ups and morning drop-offs require extra vigilance because of the high volume of children and families all moving in and around our school in a short space of time. Please exercise extreme care at these times, and meticulously follow all road rules. Crossing supervisors control two pedestrian crossings, one at George Street and the other on Station Road – please be alert for safety at these points. Two Stop-Drop-and-Go Zones operate near the school – one in George Street and the other in the car park area off Jill Street. These zones enable a relatively safe and quick drop-off and pick-up for families when they are consistently used properly by everybody.

Under no circumstances are vehicles to stand in the zone longer than two minutes if the child is not immediately ready for pick-up/exit, and under no circumstances is a vehicle to be parked and left by the driver. When adults break rules, the behaviours model the wrong behaviours for your own children, cause safety concerns for other families’ innocent children, and cause angst amongst other law-abiding drivers.

10. Bike Racks – students are encouraged to ride their bikes to and from school, and bike racks have been provided to stow the bikes during the day. I remind families that the George Street entrance is the only entrance to use for bikes; that children must walk their bikes at all times inside the school grounds; Year 5-7 senior students are to park in the racks on the left-hand side of the new enclosure near the new double-storey GLA block; and the Prep-4 students are to park in the racks on the right-hand side of the new enclosure near the new double-storey GLA block. This system keeps everybody safe, and the slower junior students free from interference from the quicker senior students.

11. Hats - all students are expected to wear hats at all times when outside of their classrooms. This includes walking to and from school. I have found myself reminding a couple of students of late, as this is a personal safety issue for every student that needs to be viewed just as importantly as road safety and stranger-danger.

12. Tuckshop for Prep: Prep students are not currently permitted to order lunch through the tuckshop. Teachers are working to establish routines and expectations with the children and we anticipate students will be ready to access this facility by week 6. We will notify parents as to this date in the newsletter.