Dear Parents / Caregivers

We celebrated our Student Leaders' Investiture today. The 2014 ceremony was an historic occasion as both our Year 6 and Year 7 students leave at year’s end to commence high school in a major shift in Queensland schooling. It was truly a pleasure to see so many parents involved in the ceremony itself, and to see such a large audience, including special guests Mr Darren Grimwade, Councillor Peter Flannery, Dr Tambayah from QUT, Sgt Peter Parkes from PCYC and our neighbouring Principals in the coalition. Federal member Mr Wyatt Roy apologised as Parliament is sitting in Canberra at this time, but he is sending through certificates for all the student leaders, and they are valued items in the students’ primary school portfolios. Thank you to Mr Ross Tattersall, Rhiannon, Mrs Janene Kay and Mrs Tamara Jones who prepared the morning tea so well, and Mr Ball for his organisation of an outstanding event. It truly was a memorable and important occasion for the school.

Thursday’s Parent Welcome Evening saw about 200 families come to the campus to meet with their child’s teachers and find out about what lies ahead for the children in 2014. Our parents who attended valued this opportunity, and many shared in a sausage sizzle run by the Student Council. If you have feedback for us in ways that we can encourage more parents to attend this important event, please email us with a heading “Welcome BBQ Feedback” at admin@burpengass.eq.edu.au. I am looking for ways improve how we can engage parents in our school and your child’s learning—the research tells that better student outcomes result from parents being involved.

The vast majority of students are well set up for the year with books, stationery and educational items like compasses, dictionaries, atlases and calculators. Some students are just missing just the odd item. I urge your prioritised attention to these individual items this weekend, please, so that all students can fully engage in all parts of the curriculum at all times. If a family cannot provide these items by next week, please make immediate contact with me at school and we will discuss a support strategy to enable your child’s learning at the earliest available opportunity.

Thank you for the signed returns of your child’s Classroom Management Plan. For those few people who have not yet returned the signed document, please take time to work through it with your child this weekend to support the partnership development of an effective classroom learning environment, and return it on Monday morning.

For important safety and management routines, I want to be very clear about the necessary routine for older high school siblings collecting younger brothers or sisters on Burpengary State School grounds before 3.20pm. Any family not complying with this routine (and it is not new) are saying that it is acceptable for any outside student to come into Burpengary State School grounds and harass your child. Clearly this would not be acceptable to any thinking person, and it is certainly not acceptable to me.

High school students require written approval from the Principal to meet siblings up to the end of Year 1 from their classroom. All children in Years 2-7 are to walk to a convenient exit and meet the older sibling there at the exit gate. Any families seeking to vary this arrangement (and there may be very good reasons to do so) require written application and approval from the Principal. Entrance to the school for this purpose would be by the Station Road gate near B Block only, to minimise any disruption of non-Burpengary students walking through the school. Please do not hesitate to phone me if you need any further clarification around this. I am happy to work with families to find the right solutions, but I need to approve any variations to the policy outlined above.

Students in years 1-7 inclusive will have a Special Parade next Monday afternoon in the P&C Centre. All parents who meet children at their classroom in the lower school will need to meet them at the P&C Centre on Monday, February 17 only. Students in Years 1-7 will be dismissed with their bags at 3.00pm from the P&C Centre. Prep students will still be picked up at their classroom at 3.00pm as usual.

I ask all parents who have unwanted school uniforms that are in good condition who wish to donate them to the school do so at the earliest opportunity so that we have good stocks on hand in the office to support students in need. Please deliver them to the office in a bag.

To other news...

1. On Facebook we now have about 15% of families connected. I suspect by the speed of uptake, that people are finding it an invaluable source of information and an easy and convenient way to get the school newsletter. I remind families that connecting with our Facebook page is a two-step operation. We still have a number of written applicants who have not connected electronically to complete the second step, and a further significant number who have connected electronically, but have not completed the written application. This two-step process 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 continue build our membership.

2. Parents please note that our calendar indicated that Religious Instruction classes would commence next week. The program has not been finalised with the local Church groups as yet, and will not commence until further notice.
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 next week, our focus will continue to be: As a Respectful and Considerate Learner, I follow school rules including the correct school uniform (Follow class Management Plan and wear uniform correctly) This a key message for our students to start the year. We ask that you remind your children of our school rules and wearing the correct uniform. We appreciate your support for the school in continuing to provide a safe and supportive school environment for students to learn at their best.

4. **Please Note:** School Photos – Thursday 20 March and Friday 21 March, 2014.

5. **Student Banking:** Please note that Student Banking will commence next Friday 21 February.

6. **Library News:** Happy Library Lovers’ Day!

   Borrowing is well underway in the rearranged Senior Library. Students in Years 5 to 7 may borrow two books at a time for up to two weeks. We are just putting the finishing touches on our ‘Year of the Horse’ display which promotes the many horse-themed books we have in the Snr Library. Did you know that people born in the Year of the Horse (1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014) are said to be strong minded, energetic and very sociable?

   *Learning to read and write doesn’t start in kindergarten or first grade. Developing language and literacy skills begins at birth through everyday loving interactions – sharing books, telling stories, singing songs, and talking to one another.* (National Centre for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, 2012). With this in mind, The Little Big Book Club ([www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)) was established “to promote the love of reading and importance of reading to children from infancy/birth and actively encourage parents in providing their children with a strong foundation for lifelong literacy, success in formal schooling and improved life chances.” Check out their website for activities, book suggestions, ebooks and more!

   **Library bags** - Children in P-3 require a waterproof library bag to borrow. Year 4 students need to take their books home in their homework folder. Please be aware that library bags that are purchased from newsagencies are only water resistant. We will be asking children without waterproof bags or bags that have holes to keep a plastic bag inside their bags to wrap the book in. Please check that the library bag your child used last year is still in good condition and if you need to replace one, we would prefer that you purchase the recommended one from the office for $8.30.

   Before school and lunch time borrowing will commence next week for Years 2-4. Please note that the Junior Library is not open before school on a Tuesday morning as Mrs Orupold is in the Senior Library at that time. Year 1 will borrow in class time next week from the same section they borrowed from in Prep. Once they have practised using the shelves, they will be able to borrow from the Junior Fiction shelves as well.

   **Tuckshop News:**

   **Tuesday Meal Deal** next week for Flexischool orders only ($4.50) consists of ham & pineapple pizza, small juice popper and a chocolate chip muffin. Parents please remember to update your child’s class details on the Flexischool order site at the beginning of each school year.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/02</th>
<th>11/02</th>
<th>12/02</th>
<th>13/02</th>
<th>14/02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris</td>
<td>Kelly E</td>
<td>Miscka J</td>
<td>Sandra d</td>
<td>Rebecca G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Sign on for Deception Bay Soccer Club NOW.** Catering from ages 3-16 we also have an open men’s team this year. We still have availability for all age groups. Please call 0437 637 771 or you can register online at [http://footballbrisbane.com.au/](http://footballbrisbane.com.au/).

**Guitar Lessons** now available at the School, cost per lesson is $30.00 per half hour. Contact Kasane at Guitar Exchange on 5428 2299.

**Rugby League Coaching Clinic,** an opportunity to be coached by NRL legends. Free entry to game day, free NRL boot bag, free all-star shirt. Held at Stockland Stadium Sunshine Coast from 10.00am on 15 February - $30 per person. Book online at Stocklandpark.com.au/events under “All-Star Charity Match” or phone Nick on 0408 452 152.

Redcliffe Leagues Hockey Club - Have you thought about playing hockey? We have a fabulous program, Hooked in2 Hockey, which runs for 4 weeks in February and introduces children from the age of 4 to our great sport. Your sign on will include a FREE Stick, Ball, Shin Pads, Pop up Goal and a signed Jamie Dwyer Jersey - everything you need to join in the fun straight away! Apart from this program, we also have Boys and Girls teams starting from U7’s. We would love to hear from your family. Contact: Lynne Somerville 0417 758 107 or Anna Mehonoshen: 0401 228 977 for more information.

Want to be a FITTER, HEALTHIER & HAPPIER You? Contact Michelle from Willfitness on 0407623464 or email willfitness@bigpond.com to book in for a personal training session. Run from my private & professional home studio. Limited spots available!! LIKE me on FACEBOOK for motivation and health & fitness tips at facebook.com.au/WillfitnessQLD.

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A