Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to this week’s newsletter. The children are now well settled in to the rhythms and demands of school life in 2014, and have been productively working since day 1 of the school year. In fact the first cycle of assessment commences in C2C for Years 1 to 7, which cumulatively contributes to an overall picture of student achievement throughout the semester. Then of course, the next cycle of units commence! The message here is that every day of school is important, and as a community we are getting this important message – currently the school is running at record attendance levels. The students will benefit enormously from this.

To those parents new to the school, our school climate and our ability to work as a community for the children here are cornerstones of our school culture here at Burpengary. Our concerts, the Fete last year, the school Strategic Plan and the involvement of families in the kitchen/garden program are all wonderful examples of what is achieved by a community working together.

We have our greatest successes here at Burpengary with this community approach, and I urge a community approach to a few little frustrating current issues around our school. When one thousand students are entering and exiting the school at the same time, the build-up of traffic and pedestrians around our school is going to be exceedingly high. That is a fact of life.

What we can do in a community approach is this:

- First and foremost, accept that it will be busy and keep a calm head, even on hot days! We all have a responsibility for the safety of Burpengary children.
- Observe all traffic rules and regulations without fail. For example a car turning right illegally from Jill St to Station Road at 3.05pm will cause traffic to be banked up around the Jill Street Stop-Drop-and-Go Zone for at least the next 10-15 minutes. A frustrated driver who then does something illegal because they have lost their calm head complicates the hazards even further! This is how a cumulative chain of events from a number of people leads to a serious accident, and I will not be “Mr Nice-Guy” when it comes to anybody risking the safety of Burpengary students!
- Stop-Drop-and-Go Zones are exactly that, no parking and under no circumstances leave the vehicle apart from putting gear in the boot or a safety belt for a little one….morning or afternoon! This refers to Jill Street turnaround and the George Street zone near Prep.
- Learn the rhythms of your own child(ren). If you have highly organised kids who you know will always be at the zone on time, be the first to pick up. If your children are a little more relaxed and social, then pick them up 10 minutes later…you know that they will be safe and supervised.
- Strategies like parking at the football grounds (or other nearby places) and walking up to the school gives you some nice family bonding time, some regular exercise, a relaxed stroll to bust the stress, and perhaps a play in the park before driving home!
- Bus runs service the school. Children are well-supervised and buses move large numbers of people in an orderly and safe fashion. Explore if the service could work for you.
- Please observe all parking regulations pertaining to yellow kerbs, especially around George St, Sacha St and neighbouring Hewson St. For your consideration, Police patrols do periodic circuits around all schools, and will book offending drivers.
- All families please note that the Sacha Street double gate near the dental van is for authorised staff parking only, and for safety reasons this is not open for pedestrian or a vehicular thoroughfare at any time. Children are not to enter or exit the school here at any time of the day.

On another important safety matter, please note that all playground equipment is out of bounds before and after school every day. Even when supervised by experienced staff, accidents can happen on the equipment. I close it to all people before and after school for this very simple safety reason…even if you are supervising your own child, other children will be attracted to the equipment, and then responsibilities become blurred. Indeed, some parents may consider some activity on the equipment as “safe” when it clearly is not. As a Principal, I am responsible for all children on site, and blurred responsibilities around risk and safety is not an acceptable standard for me.

To other news...

1. On Facebook we now have our 100th family connected, and growing! It is 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. **Please Note:** School Photos – Thursday 20 March and Friday 21 March, 2014.

3. **Library News:**
   To carry on with last week’s learning to read theme we'd like to emphasize the importance of reading with your children. Whether they are 3 or 13, they all love to hear others sharing books with them. The Bottom Bookshelf http://thebottomshelf.edublogs.org/ gives you lots of very helpful ideas on how to do this including: books to choose, how to read aloud, links to booklists and much more. We hope that it will inspire you. On a side note, don’t pass up reading picture books to your older children. Both libraries have wonderful picture books to suit all levels.

**Incentive Highlight of the Week** - Year 3 received a bookmark that will be signed each time they borrow. This will lead to monthly raffle draws when all 10 boxes are signed off. The class with the most completed bookmarks at the end of each semester will receive a book prize. Please encourage your Yr 3 students to make the journey from the back of the school to the JL before school or during the breaks so that they finish their bookmarks quickly!

**Library Lover’s Day** in the Junior Library was filled with reading, recreation and raffle draws. Thanks to Mr Firth, Rebekah Swindells and Ella-Jade Large for reading with groups of children on the day.

4. **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: As a Confident Learner, I show commitment in learning. I always give my best effort (including completion of homework). This is an important message for students to meet their learning goals. Homework is an important work habit to support each student’s learning from class. We appreciate your support for the school in continuing to provide a safe and supportive school environment for students to learn at their best.

5. **P&C Fundraising News:**
   Our first **Subway Day** for 2014 is taking place on Tuesday 11th March. Notes and order forms were handed out yesterday. All orders must be handed in to the School Office by 10.00am on Monday 3rd March. No late orders will be accepted. Subway will not accept any orders over the counter. If your child is absent on the day, we are not able to offer a refund. Please discuss the menu options with your child, as we had some children not liking what had been ordered for them. If there is anyone willing to help with pick-up or distribution of orders on the day, please call or text Danielle on 0416 202 241.

**“DISCO”** - Beach Theme, Friday 21st March 2014.

6. **FOR SALE BY TENDER:**
   Ride-On Mower, McCulloch brand, Model 875, Briggs & Stratton 190cc/8.75hp motor, hardly used - approx. 2yrs old. Please send your offer to purchase in a sealed envelope to the Business Services Manager. Offers close 4.00pm on Friday 28/02/14.

**Tuckshop News:**
   **Tuesday Meal Deal** next week for Flexischool orders only ($4.50) consists of 5 chicken nuggets (gluten free) and BBQ sauce sachet, small juice popper and packet of plain chips. Parents please remember to update your child’s class details on the Flexischool order site at the beginning of each school year. Also note Tuckshop is a cash only facility – EFTPOS is not available.

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Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Uniforms for Sale:** 1 x Formal Jumper, size 12; Unisex Navy Shorts, sizes 10,12,14; Unisex Hibiscus (Red) sports shirts, sizes 10,12,14; Navy Track pants, size 10; Girls Formal Shirts, sizes 12,14; Girls Formal Skirts, sizes 12,14. All good condition, $5 to $10 each. Phone 0409 935 767.

**HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?** Plant. grow enjoy! 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 0458 010 433 or email burpengary@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au. Booking forms will also be available from the school office and Helping Hands Burpengary service.

**Australian Gymnastics and Dance Academy** After School Program, 4 x sixty minute coaching sessions over four weeks – Gymnastics, games and Zumba fun. Limited places available, registrations close 5th March, cost is $49. To register and pay online (preferred), please visit www.agymda.com.au. For further information email reception@agymda.com.au, phone 3293 2355 or visit our AGDA facebook page.