I watched with genuine interest one day late last year, while a parent took a little extra time to teach his child a valuable life lesson. She was a little girl in Year 2 who had not brought her lunchbox home that day. Dad had brought her back to school with her sister to find it. He stood near the gate while she independently walked back to search. A short time later she returned with no lunch box. He said that she would need to go back again and look harder and more carefully. She came back later without the lunchbox, but with a genuine puzzled look on her face that she had indeed had a good search. So dad started to think laterally…did you have music or HPE today? Did you eat you lunch somewhere different? Back she went again. This time she found her teacher who helped her to have a good look in the classroom. She was still 10 metres from dad explaining how she had looked with her teacher, and still couldn’t find the lunchbox, but as she was mouthing these last few words, she smiled and put her hands on her face as it dawned on her, and said, “I know where it is!” A short time later she returned, literally skipping down the path with the lunchbox.

Dad had taken the time to teach her about responsibility. The way she skipped down the path at the end, he had empowered her and given her a message that she was indeed a capable person, as well as the expectation that she has to be independently responsible in all that she does. Now I’m guessing that this family takes every opportunity to “teach” these important growth messages.

With my own daughter, I remember tears in week 1 driving home from dance class because she didn’t want to do ballet because she didn’t like it anymore. My message was simple, “well one week ago you did, and we have committed for the year, so suck it up, Princess.” Turns out that she was the only student in the class, doing pointe work for the first time, much harder work than she had done before, and she had absolute teacher attention for 100% of the time. Driving home in week 3 was now a different story. “I’m so glad you didn’t let me quit ballet, dad!” Hundreds of dollars in fees and costumes later she is doing solos on pointe and enjoying her own new found capability in dance - that she had to work for, independently. That little piece of life learning, not just dance learning, was worth every cent, I reckon!

How often do I hear from a child or a parent that they just don’t “like” something, and don’t want to do it anymore. This usually happens at the start of the year, or in some transition time later, particularly in those more difficult and worthwhile things like dance, playing in the band, or learning in the classroom, where the demands of the activity require more skill and finesse. If we treat it as a phase in learning that you navigate and learn how to go to the next step it liberates you in the activity and empowers you as a person who has triumphed over the difficulty.

Beware the trap of “like” being the only criteria for doing or not doing something. Many kids don’t like vegetables or fruit, but we know that humans need to eat them to stay healthy. Who knows, in the future they may actually “like” alcohol, or drugs or painting walls with graffiti? “Like” is a very shallow criteria for doing or not doing something because likeability varies with difficulty and effort that is required to master it, and bears no relationship to whether it is worthwhile or indeed even legal!

This little year 2 girl didn’t “like” going back continuously to search for her lunchbox, but great things came from it.

Thanks to our community for their response to the morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. There has been good improvement, but the true test will be what happens when a Deputy, the Principal or a Police Officer is NOT there watching. It should be a “no brainer” – safety is everybody’s responsibility every single day.

To other news…

1. **Connecting with our Facebook page is a two-step operation.** We still have over 30 written applications who have not yet 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. Please act now to enjoy the benefits. When all of these families are connected, we will have one-quarter of the school families connected to Facebook.

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: As a Respectful and Considerate Learner, I show manners to all others. This is an important quality of being a ‘Burpengary Kid’. Please reinforce this focus with your children to support them in being the best that they can be.
3. **Please Note:** School Photos – Thursday 20 March and Friday 21 March, 2014.

4. **Library News**
   **ROBOT and ZERO HERO are** back again!! Have a look in both libraries to see if your class is on the list!!

**Public Libraries**
Did you know that with a public library card, you and your children can access many digital books, audio books as well as encyclopaedias and much more? Visit this website for more information: [http://library.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/MBRCELIBRARY](http://library.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/MBRCELIBRARY) You will be amazed at the quantity and quality of resources available.

**Housekeeping**
**Prep Class Borrowing** commences next week. Could you please ensure your child has a waterproof bag to borrow with otherwise they will have to wrap their book in a plastic bag before placing into their library bag. Please see office staff if you require a new library bag as they will be able to help you with our recommended one.

**First Competition of the Year in the JL:**
Next week Yr 4 classes will be given the opportunity to ‘write like Dr Seuss’ as they fill in their own words to quotes from Dr Seuss books. There will be two class prizes up for grabs with a book prize and gotchas awarded to the best two entries.

In the Senior Library next week, our focus is ‘You’re Never Too Old for a Browsing Card’ to remind students to use a browsing card to keep the shelves neat and tidy so everyone can find the books they need. Our ‘Awesome Author’ will be Michael Morpurgo. Michael has written over 100 books including War Horse, Best Mate and The Dancing Bear. He is a three-time winner of the Prix Sorcière in France, has twice won the Red House Children’s Book Award in England and has also won the Whitbread Award and the Smarties Prize. Visit [http://michaelmorpurgo.com](http://michaelmorpurgo.com) for more information about this awesome author.

**Scholastic Book Club:** This week your child was given the first issue of Scholastic Book Club Brochures. It is easy to order. Just look over the flyer with your child, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the flyer, and then return the order form to the school office with your payment details by Friday 7 March, 2014. Payments need to be made by credit card or cheque only. If paying by credit card, follow the instructions at the bottom of the order form. When ordering from several brochures and paying by credit card, it is fine to make one payment for the total amount. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Scholastic Australia.

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school. Generally, twice a term during the school year we will send home brochures with a different selection of books offered. You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. It offers a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests. **Keep a look out for Red Label Specials – Great books for $2.**

Each order helps earn **free books** and teaching materials for our school, however there is never any obligation to order.

**Religious Instruction**
As part of the weekly religious instruction program, students will require a religious instruction booklet which is available from the office for $5.00. All payments to be made through the cash window at the office.

**P & C News**
Subway day is fast approaching and if you are still wanting to order, the deadline is Monday 3rd March 10.00am.

**No late orders will be accepted.**
If you are willing to help on the day please phone or text Danielle on 0416202241.

**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 an apple slinky. 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. Prep students commence tuckshop from Monday 3rd March, 2014.

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Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**For Sale:** 2 x trackpants, size 4; 2 x shorts, size 4; 1 new black school shoes, size 12; $25 the lot. Phone Hayley on 0413 914 201.

Do you have a child in Year 4, 5 or 6? Have you missed out on thousands of dollars? In 2001 the Government introduced the ‘**First child Tax Offset**’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have not claimed any benefits. If you have any child that was born between 01/07/01 and 30/06/04 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements. The Government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email [childoffset@twelve.com.au](mailto:childoffset@twelve.com.au) today to receive more information.

**Mountain Bike Orienteering:** on a bike, in the forest, with a map. For friends, families or hardcore athletes! 16th March: First event 2014, Beerburrum, $15-$25 pp, Recreational Course, 1 adult & 4 kids, $15.

You need a bike and a helmet. To Register and for more information visit [www.sunshineorienteers.com.au](http://www.sunshineorienteers.com.au) or phone Stu on 0439 979 261.

**CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A**