Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome to this week’s Newsletter.

Today, we celebrated our special Senior Parade to present Citizenship, Commendable Effort and Sports Awards to students in Year 5. 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 9, and Years 3 and 4 on the morning of Wednesday, December 10. Attached to this newsletter is the list of recipients in Years 1-4 and Years 6-7 for next week. Two Graduation Ceremonies take place in this historic year. Our Year 6 group celebrates on Tuesday, December 9 commencing at 1.00pm, and our 2015 Student Leaders will be announced at our Year 7 Graduation Ceremony on December 10 commencing at 1.00pm. We ask that families be seated by 12.50pm for these events.

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/Careers 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. TWO SAFETY FLAGS: Students must wear closed 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. Please note there will be no glow products, LEDs or any other lights permitted.
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, or clothing emblazoned with inappropriate images, slogans or words.

It is always such an enjoyable night for the children so please ensure as a family you look after these necessities to avoid the embarrassment of not being permitted entry to the Disco for not following the rules.

Next Wednesday, students in Prep to Year 7 will receive their reports to take home. Accompanying this will be a letter outlining your child’s class teacher for next year, current as of December 5. I advise parents that these allocations may change. The DETE staffing model is so tight now that small numbers of enrolments in key year groups will force a change to the model….just this week we made changes based on enrolments. The full class lists will be placed on the Administration Office windows on Friday, January 23, 2015. The final allocation is made on Day 8, Thursday February 5, 2015, and any consequential class changes would be made and start on Monday, February 9, 2015.

Uniform Shop News: To date, the new 2015 uniforms have not arrived at school. The process is still the same in that the wonderful volunteer Uniform Shop ladies will text parents to notify them of availability for pick up when they do arrive. They will do this in the order that the original orders were placed. I am preparing families for the worst case scenario that distribution may extend beyond next week into January, 2015, if the uniforms do not arrive shortly as it would not be humanly possible to sort and distribute if they arrive late next week.

Our Day for Daniel observance focused on Child Safety Awareness and promoted the foundation’s aims of making the world a safer place for children. During Weeks 8 and 9, the Student Councillors presented seminars to all students, from Prep to Year 7, to promote this important message. Thanks for your support of a gold coin donation on Thursday and the funds raised will go back to the Day for Daniel Foundation so they can keep promoting child safety.

I ask parents with high school age children to know their whereabouts and who your child is hanging around with as there are some very unsavoury youth types around. Some learnt very quickly this week the standards of our school and of the local Police, who were magnificent in resolving the issue. Some stolen items were returned to our students that same day.

Future Date Claimer: The 2015 NAPLAN Tests will be conducted in all Queensland schools on Tuesday 12 May (Language Conventions and Writing tests); Wednesday 13 May (Reading); and Thursday 14 May (Numeracy), 2015. Please avoid making commitments on those dates like appointments or holidays, and keep them clear. NAPLAN provides our school with valuable information to support and personalise your child’s learning development. We value NAPLAN as a learning community.

To other news...

1. Coming up:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Camp</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$304.00</td>
<td>Friday 14 November</td>
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<td>Year 6 and 7 Graduation</td>
<td>Years 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>Friday 5 December</td>
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<td>Uniforms - Earlybird Discount 2</td>
<td>Year 1-5</td>
<td>5% off RRP</td>
<td>Thursday 11 December</td>
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2. Mr Fox, teachers, fellow students and their families - My name is Zack. I would like to say thank you for all the support and concern shown to us since our tragic house fire in November. I am amazed how generous people can be and it makes me feel proud to know such people. It is because of this support that we have been able to cope with this tragedy. I have only been at Burpengary State School since the beginning of 2014, and I now have friends that I will cherish for my whole life.
Please know that every letter, every card, every expression of concern has made things much better for myself and my family. Thank you doesn’t seem enough. May you all have a safe and Merry Christmas.

My house burnt down and I lost all my toys and clothes. Then I came to the school and you all gave me lots of presents and toys from your houses. I love my presents and letters from Prep/1, but they made my Mum cry. I have the best teachers in the world (Miss Filippini and Mrs Lamprell) because they have been really nice to me. Thank you everybody for looking after me and caring for me. Merry Christmas to everybody and Prep/1.  

Monique

My name is Lisa and our family recently lost our home to a house fire. In the blink of an eye, how lives can change, and just as quickly an entire community unites and provides support unconditionally without question. WOW Burpengary State School, what a community you are. Teachers, parents, fellow students, teacher aides, tuckshop ladies, administration staff, dental nurse and our wonderful Principal, your kindness and generosity has shown no limits. You have rallied together and allowed the kids’ lives to return to some kind of normal very quickly. Our family could never repay your kindness and generosity, but it warms my heart to witness how much you all care. The firefighters said the result was total loss, but I can see, thanks to you all, that our family have gained far more than we have lost. To everyone at Burpengary State School I send you all the sincerest of thank yous, and we wish you all a safe and happy holidays. 

Lisa and Les

3. Library News:

With only one week of the school year remaining, most children have returned their library books – thank you so much for your support with this. If your child still has books outstanding, please return them as soon as possible. If the book is unable to be found or damaged, you will be invoiced for the purchase price so we may replace it for other students to use.

Help stop the “summer slide” by encouraging your child to read every day during the school holidays! Children who read for at least 10 minutes a day over the summer school holidays have a better start to the new school year than children who spend little or no time reading. Reading over the holidays helps children maintain or improve the reading level they developed throughout the school year. To help stop this ‘summer slide’, Scholastic is running a Summer Reading Challenge. Visit the site (www.scholastic.com.au/summer), complete the simple registration form, get reading for at least 10 minutes every day and lodge your Reading Minutes every week for an automatic entry to the weekly prize draw! “Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them. And it’s much cheaper to buy somebody a book than it is to buy them the whole world!” – Neil Gaiman

Free Microsoft software for students’ personal computers! All state school students from Prep–Year 12 can now download a free copy of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite to their personal home and mobile computer equipment. If you would like more information and instructions on how to take advantage of this opportunity, please email system.tech@burpengass.eq.edu.au with student’s full name and 2015 year level. You will receive a return email containing the information you require to download the suite to your personal device.

4. Reminder: The Uniform Shop will be open every morning EXCEPT TUESDAY during the last week of school (8-12 December) from 8.30 to 9.30am. They are now situated in the demountable building next to the Office. Please Note: Small hats are back in stock in the uniform shop!

5. Instrumental Music Update:

Congratulations to the Senior Band and Senior Strings on their outstanding performances at Aussie World this week. You certainly know how to perform well and also have a good time!

Important dates for next week:-
- Monday December 8 - NO Senior Band rehearsal and no lessons
- Tuesday December 9 - 7:30am Senior Band rehearsal, 11:30am meet in the music block for Year 6 Graduation.
- Wednesday December 10 - 11:30am - Senior Band to meet in the music block for Year 7 Graduation.

ALL SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS TO BE RETURNED.

6. P&C Fundraising News:

This week the P&C held a Christmas Gift Stall and we had many volunteers who put up their hand to help out before and after school. I would like to personally thank Ruth Cook, Danielle Mildwaters, Michelle Carter, Wayne Summersford, Suzie Burton, Karyn Swindells, Lachlan Swindells, Christine Thomson, Chris Linnane, Donna Harrowell, Suellen Nielsen, Lyn McArthur and Julie Strid for all their support. I also would like to acknowledge Nikki Harrison, a very special lady who was there to help along the way before, during and after the event.

The next P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 8 December 2014, in the Staff Lounge, and it is the final meeting for 2014. Please note that there will be no Parent-Admin Chat on Tuesday 9 December.

Thank you to the P&C for the excellent Christmas Gift Stall. Sue Slorach and Nikki Harrison have worked tirelessly for this project and our students appreciate it.

7. Kangaroo Bus Lines would like to advise that students who currently have a bus pass with Kangaroo Bus Lines will need to collect their new 2015 pass to be able to continue to travel on our school services next year. Passes can be collected from our office at 2 Motorway Drive, corner of Pitt Rd, Burpengary, from Monday 12th January 2015. New Applications, Change of School or Change of Address Applications will be accepted for the remainder of the year with cards to be collected after the 12th of January. Bus passes will NOT be available for collection from the bus drivers of our school services.

8. ACTIVE KIDS:

Burpengary State School has been participating in the Active After School Communities Program for some time. However, this program is being replaced in 2015 with a new federally funded initiative called Sporting Schools. We are already registered to take part in this new program, but we won’t be able to apply for funding until at least May. If our application is successful, activities will commence in July of next year. Please use the following link to access information:


9. Date Claimer:

Tuckshop News: Tuckshop is open next week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and closed Thursday, Friday. We re-open in 2015 from the first day of school. We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for their invaluable assistance this year and wish all families a safe happy holiday. Some menu items may not be available on Wednesday. Students will be consulted if an item is not available, and a replacement will be given.

Tuesday Meal Deal for Flexischool orders only ($4.50) consists of a sweet chilli chicken tender, lettuce & mayo roll, mini choc chip muffin, and a small juice popper. Please note Tuckshop is a cash only facility – EFTPOS is not available. Flexischools Online Ordering – www.flexischools.com.au is the preferred option for ordering. Free to register, quick, easy and convenient. Please ensure you confirm your order on flexischool website and check which day order is placed for. Please also advise your child that they are receiving Tuckshop for first and/or second breaks. Parents please ensure your child only brings a minimal amount of money to school for purchase of a snack item - less than $2 (no $10 or $20 notes preferred). This lessens the issue of peer pressure to purchase snack items for friends. Please note the price of a chocolate milk ice block has increased to 90 cents.

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Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

S.H.I.F.T. Training & Employment Options, enrol now, free training to eligible participants, Community Learning Certificate III in Aged Care, Disability, Home & Community Care, Business (Retail Operations), and Children's Services. Information Day on Tuesday 20 January 2015 from 9.30am to 12 noon at Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre, 24 Endeavour Street, Deception Bay. For further information phone 3204 2022.

Albany Creek Excelsior Football Club - Kindy Soccer for ages 3-5, first intake commences 14 March 2015. All details and registrations are done online at www.acesoccer.com.au. For all enquiries please email kindy@acesoccer.com.au.

School uniforms for sale: 1 x size 8 cardigan, 3 x size 6 school dresses, trackpants in sizes 6, 7, 8 and 10, 7 x size 6 shorts, 2 x size 8 shorts, 2 x size 8 polo shirts. Please contact Tania on 0458 315 260 to make an offer.