Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2015 school year. Burpengary commenced this week in its usual calm and purposeful manner and for that I need to say thank you to the following for such a great start:

(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 on Day 8 will be about 925 children in 2015, with the departure of the Year 7’s to high school. To give the community a comparison, if we added the 106 Year 6 children who would have moved to Year 7 in the old system, our Day 8 numbers would look like 1031, and represent growth of about 30 on 2014. Importantly for 2015, our current class model will have only minor readjustments for the year to balance out classes and there will be no major changes at Day 8. Due to enrolments, we will now have 5 straight Prep classes and 5 straight Year 1 classes!

We welcome back Mrs Leanne Odorico (Deputy Principal) after a very successful Acting Principal stint at Beachmere State School, along with Mrs Melissa Hyde and Mrs Sally Milne who will be the team teaching 4B. Both Mr Ralph Isele (4/5A), and Mrs Janice de Keyzer (Prep A) return after leave late last year. Permanent Staff appointments since the close of the 2014 school year –

- Mrs Michelle Herne – Special Education Teacher
- Ms Amy Smith – Year 2 Teacher
- Mr David Firth – Year 4 Teacher

Contract staff appointments for 2015 -

- Mrs Jenny Simpson – Master Teacher (3 Years)
- Mr Ben Turner – HOC Learning Engagement 0.5FTE and Learning Support Teacher 0.5FTE (1 Year)
- Mrs Dennice Weaver – Prep C Teacher
- Ms Renae Brown – Year 6C Teacher
- Ms Helen Drew – Year 3C Teacher

We welcome back the following contract teachers from 2014: Ms Natalie Cooper (Prep B); Ms Lauren Herbert (2C); Ms Kara Maguire (2D); Ms Kate Nielsen (Year 2E); Ms Bliss Filippini (3E); Mr Sam Ladlay (4C); Mrs Sharon Morrison (4G); Ms Candice Riley (5E) and for a short time, Mrs Deb Cahill (5E) while Ms Riley rehabilitates from emergency knee surgery; Mr Chris Cann and Mrs Jo Laws (Learning Support); and Mrs Marion Smith (NCT).

Our plans for sharing a LOTE Teacher (Japanese) with Burpengary State Secondary College in 2015 were not able to be fulfilled. In order to get a quality replacement teacher for Mrs Swan, with the capability to lead overseas Study Tours to Japan, I will be advertising Australia-wide after Day 8. This is one of the flexibilities of being an Independent Public School. Other IPS flexibilities enabled us to secure Mrs Sarah Guest as a full time Guidance Officer (previously 3-days per week) to support children and families, and also to staff slightly above the allocated staffing model to ensure we have the right class model for Burpengary State School in 2015.

I am very impressed with take-up of the new uniform - it has exceeded my expectations – thank you! It shows that the parents and staff at our very first community forum back in 2012 were right on the money that the school was ready for an update of the uniform. From there, a consultative committee of parents, staff and community people worked to get the right designs to present to the school and the P&C – the uniforms that we see today. It is my job as Principal to ensure that students wear the uniform that our community has strongly and thoroughly endorsed. The students’ pride in presentation is a very important part of our school culture and high expectations, a culture which brings superior learning and opportunities for children to learn, grow and develop into active, healthy, engaged participants in life and school. It is these high expectations that have earned our school a quality reputation within and beyond our local community. Other schools may have different standards, but at Burpengary State School, these are our expectations.

More stock of casual uniforms arrived yesterday and there are small numbers of size 4, 6, 8, 10, 14 and 16 available in the Uniform Shop on Monday. We are still about 3 weeks away from the Formal Uniforms arriving, but it will be very much worth the wait to ensure that we have quality items, and not inferior items that we have now but have to live with forever after. Families are reminded that children can wear EITHER the old school uniform in its entirety, OR the NEW school uniform in its entirety, but CANNOT mix and match the old with the new. Please plan laundering schedules for this. Having said this, I know there is a small number of students (I can count them on one hand) whose circumstances do not make it possible to meet this expectation until the new uniform stocks arrive – they are the only students with permission to be outside of the standard.

Our school is currently reviewing before-school procedures, and details will be released in a future newsletter following a consultation process with the staff and the P&C.
Metro North Oral Health Services will continue to provide routine and emergency dental care to children attending our school, and other schools in the surrounding community, and the mobile facility has expanded to two vans in 2015, and will remain on site at Burpengary State School as a permanent arrangement until further notice. This will facilitate treatment of children at the school as well as provide much needed dental services to all other children who live or learn nearby.

We have a large number (125) 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 a small number of written applications from people who have not connected electronically to complete the second step, and another 125 who have connected electronically, but have not completed the written application. This two-step operation 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.

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?

To other news...

1. **Coming up:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Camp</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$304.00</td>
<td>Friday 6 January (final payment)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The **first P&C Meeting for 2015** will be on **Monday, February 9**, commencing at **7.00pm** in the **Staff Lounge**. All welcome. On **Tuesday, February 10**, there will be a **Parent-Admin Chat** commencing at **9.30am** in the **Staff Lounge**. In order to claim an important date, notice is given for the **P&C Annual General Meeting** that will be held on **Monday, March 09, 2015**, commencing at **7.00pm** in the **Staff Lounge**.

3. **Please Note:** School Photos – Thursday 19 March and Friday 20 March, 2015.

4. **Get Started vouchers** worth $150 are available now for kids to participate in Sport and Recreation activities e.g. Cricket, Soccer, Dance and Netball. There are 4 rounds of funding this year and the first round is open now. Go to the website [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/getinthegame](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/getinthegame) to get started. To be eligible you need to hold a Centrelink Health Care Card, or Pensioner Concession Card. If you don’t have one of these cards you can still apply under certain conditions. There are fact sheets available at the school office, which give further information about the program and how to apply.
Library News:
Welcome back to another year of reading in the Junior and Senior Libraries. We hope you had an enjoyable break and found some time to kick back with a good book.

In the Senior Library, we have been pleasantly inundated by eager Year Four, Five and Six students since the very first lunch break! Individual students who were attending BSS last year have already commenced borrowing in their own time. Unfortunately, students new to the school and whole classes have to wait until Week 3 to borrow, as next week we perform the massive whole-school student data rollover into our library computer system.

We have started our Library orientation sessions in the Junior school. The schedule for borrowing will depend on your child’s year level. Please send in your child’s Library bag as soon as possible so that they are ready to borrow on the allocated date. A reminder that outstanding books from last year need to be returned or payment made before your child will be able to borrow in 2015.

Prep to Year 3 students must have a waterproof Library bag in order to borrow. Our preferred bag is sold at the uniform shop for $5.50. We will be checking bags over the next week and will be advising children if they need to have a plastic bag inside their library bags if they are not waterproof.

10 Minutes a Day – it can make a world of difference! There’s a wealth of evidence to support the fact that children who are read aloud to on a regular basis when they are young, are readily able to learn to read, once they start school. There’s also evidence to suggest that children who are slow to start reading can benefit from someone reading aloud to them. When hearing someone read children learn the structures of our language and grammar, and the sound of words. Children also learn to love books, to appreciate them for their content and the stimulation they provide. Reading aloud to your child is a great opportunity to share and bond with your child. At the same time, they’re learning valuable skills and you’re giving them a wonderful base for their education. Remember: just 10 minutes a day – it’s the best investment you can make in your child’s future. And all it costs is a little time! [Link to Ten Minutes a Day Brochure]

Scholastic Book Club: 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. Your children will be given the current brochures over the next couple of days. 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 Gold Coin Books – Great books for $1 and $2.

It is easy to order. Just look over the brochure with your child, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the flyer. Scholastic has introduced a new system for ordering this year, so there are now two ways you can order:

1. LOOP ordering. Your child has been given a flyer with their brochure to explain how you can order and pay online. If you order online, you DO NOT need to return your order form to the school office. Orders need to be placed by Friday 13 February, 2015.
2. If you wish to return your order form to school for ordering, please be advised we are unable to accept cash payments for Book Club orders. Payments need to be made by credit card, money order or cheque only. If paying by credit card, please follow the instructions at the bottom of the order form. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Scholastic Australia. Orders are due in no later than 9am on Friday 13 February, 2015. Thank you. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our school, however there is never any obligation to order.

Tuckshop News: Tuckshop for Prep students does not start until Week 6 (from 02/03/15)
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.

Until next week

Brad Fox
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Caboolture Touch Football Association, Season 1 2015 Junior sign-on 31st January, 1st, 7th and 8th February 2015 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at Caboolture Touch Fields, Petersen Road, Morayfield. For further enquiries phone (07) 54986122 or EMAIL cabtouch@aanet.com.au.
NEWSLETTER 1 APPENDIX: Burpengary State School Routines and Procedures

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 2 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 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.

Please note that Before-School Procedures are currently under review, but until further notice, 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.

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 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 4. 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 and Consultation Evening for Prep to Year 6 is on Thursday, February 19, 2015. 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 consultation session, and enjoy a sausage on bread for only a gold coin donation. From 3.15pm, a schedule of personalised meetings with your class teachers will take place. Administrative staff, and specialist teachers will be on hand during the sausage sizzle for your convenience. More details will be released in future newsletters and letters home.

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. I encourage families to write a note and return to the school if the child has been absent. Parents can, if they wish, phone the school to advise of an absence on the School Absence Line on 3491 0366.

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. 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, and will incur a half-day absence if the arrival is not within a reasonable time of the 8.55am start. Mornings are critical and valuable learning time!

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.

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 pre-school age 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 2A-D, Years 1B-E, Years 3 A-D and Years 4B-E 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 2-6 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 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.

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
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. Please 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 a 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 5-6 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.

13. Meeting with Teachers: Please remember that all of our staff at Burpengary are professionals, and respect the fact that morning time is critical planning, preparation, supervision and organising time with and for their students. Our School Opinion Survey shows that parents have a 97% satisfaction rating for our staff being approachable about your child’s learning needs, but I ask families to respect that before school between 8.00am and 8.55am is not a good time for meeting to discuss lengthy issues, sometimes within earshot of students and other parents, unless a prior arrangement has been made. Please arrange appointments with your child’s teacher to make certain both parties have the head space and free of distractions in order to conduct this important service.

DATE CLAIMERS Term 2 2015 and beyond

- ANZAC Day parade – Friday 24 April 9am
- ANZAC Day march at Caboolture – Saturday 25 April, meet at 8:30am, TBC
- Remembrance Day Parade – 11 November 9am
- Graduation Ceremonies – Year 6 –Wed 9 Dec 1pm

School P&C meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month
Life Ed Van – Year 1,2 and 4 - 5 May to 13 May
Life Ed Van – Years 3, 5 and 6 - 20 October to 28 October
NAPLAN – 12-14 May.