Dear Parents / Caregivers,

What a great start we have had to the 2016 school year! I welcome our new parents and students to Burpengary, and I take this opportunity to say thank you to the following for such a great start:

(a) Our parents/carers who have been brilliant partners in ensuring that the children have returned ready for school; and
(b) The team work 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. Because of this hard work, the atmosphere of our first day was calm and purposeful with the great outcome for students being that classes were active in learning from the very start at Burpengary, including our new cohort of Prep children!

We look like our opening enrolment on Day 8 (next Friday) will be about 950 children in 2016, representing school growth of 30 students from the start of last year. Importantly for 2016, our current class model will have only minor readjustments for the year to balance out classes, and due to the enrolment growth, we will eliminate the Year 5/6 composite and now have 7 straight Year 5 classes and 5 straight Year 6 classes!

We welcome back Ms Sam McGhie (A/Deputy Principal) as Mrs Michelle Fraser is undertaking an Acting Principal stint at Bowen State School. Mrs Natalie McDonald (Japanese) returns after leave late last year, and Mrs Tracy Hoffmann returns from maternity leave, sharing 3E with Mrs Deb O’Brien.

Contract teachers offered permanent teaching appointments last year are Ms Natalie Cooper (Prep); Mrs Michelle Owen (5F); Ms Bliss Filipini (2D); and Mrs Natalie McDonald (Japanese and Technology Teacher).

New Permanent appointments for 2016 are Mrs Julie Horkings (5D from North Lakes State College); Mrs Robyn Stegman (Prep E from Morayfield State School); Ms Chelsea Henderson (1D from Ambrose State School); and Mrs Jessica Hay (2B from Moranbah east State School).

New contract staff appointments for 2016 are Mrs Carmen Nasufovic (3B); Ms Sam Fitzgerald (4D); Mrs Kelly John (5E) and Ms Shae Holmes (New Year 6 Teacher commencing at the first available opportunity).

We welcome back the following contract teachers from 2015: Ms Helen Drew (Prep B); Ms Lauren Herbert (2A); Mrs Candice Weaver (Prep F); Ms Kate Nielsen (Year 1B); Ms Trudy Stockman (2C); Mr Sam Ladlay (4E); Mrs Sharon Morrison (4F); Ms Candice Riley (5G); Mr Chris Cann (Learning Support); Mrs Marion Smith (NCT); and Mr Ben Turner – HOC L/Engagement 0.5FTE & Learning Support Teacher 0.1FTE, and A/Principal, Murrarie SS (0.4FTE).

It is my job as Principal to ensure that students wear the uniform that our P&C and community has so 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 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 and they will be enforced. A child’s commitment to uniform is a part of Citizenship Award nominations.

I am well aware that some parents have been to embroidery shops to try and get non-school uniform items embroidered. This will be a waste of money, just like buying non-uniform items and expecting it to be OK. This is a school that gets great outcomes for all children who attend, due to the attention that we pay to learning, and maintaining our buildings, and providing contemporary technology and computers - this is the same attention that we pay to uniform and behaviour, and many other things, all packaged up into a great school. There are other enrolment options available to all families…please take them if you are not going to wear the full school uniform every day.

The Uniform Shop is fully stocked except for Boys Size 8 Formal Shorts, which are on urgent order. Library Bags and Chair Bags are now in stock. The Uniform Shop also stocks a plastic portfolio folder that all Prep and students new to the school require. The importance of this item is that it has been custom designed to serve as the folio that teachers use to store vital learning information on your child, and takes your child’s results and data about their learning progress on to the next teacher year to year. This is one of the things that Burpengary does that supports teachers to know your child’s unique learning needs much quicker and in more detail – giving your child a learning edge.

Burgernary State School is fortunate to have a Chaplaincy service operate within the school, and we are looking for an interested parent to sit on our Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC). Marie Wright is our talented Chaplain, and she runs support programs and mentoring programs for students. The LCC requires only a small portion of your time, with a maximum of 2 meetings per term that go for one hour only, likely to be on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, but is an essential committee for Marie to function.

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. The mobile facility has expanded to two vans in 2016, 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 number 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 group 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 to seven 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; and 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:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Camp</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$328.00</td>
<td>19th February 2016 (amount in full)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goombuckar Bus</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>1st February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contribution</td>
<td>Prep - Year 6</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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**BPPoint** - A reminder that BPPoint is now the preferred method of payment for all of your school invoices, etc. Only the student’s name is required, along with the CRN, invoice no. and amount. Please call our Business Services Manager, Paula Connolly, if you require any assistance.

To assist families in planning for upcoming expenses, such as the Year 6 Camp early in 2016, please also contact Paula. She can assist in organising payment plans or CentrePay deductions, for those families who receive Centrelink benefits. A small amount redirected from benefits each fortnight, directly to your child’s account, can assist in budgeting for future events. All conversations are conducted with strict confidentiality.

2. The **first P&C Meeting for 2016** will be on Monday, February 8, commencing at 6.30pm in the Staff Lounge. All welcome. On Wednesday, 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 14, 2016, commencing at 6.30pm in the Staff Lounge.

3. **Please Note:** School Photos – Thursday 17 March and Friday 18 March, 2016.
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.

5. **Library News:**
   Welcome back to another year of reading in the Library. We have had many keen students coming in to use the library in lunch breaks. We’d like to give a special welcome to our new students. We have already met quite a few of you and we look forward to meeting you all over the next couple of weeks.

   Class borrowing for Yr 2-6 begins in Week 3. Classes need to be rolled over from last year on our database, which will happen at the end of Week 2. Year 1 students will borrow in Week 4 and Prep students will spend some time learning our procedures before borrowing later in the term. Once students have borrowed with their classes, they are able to borrow in their own time. 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.

   **Keeping books safe:** Prep to Year 3 students must have a waterproof Library bag in order to borrow. Our preferred bag is sold at the uniform shop or the office for $5.50. We will be checking bags over the next couple of weeks. Please send in your child’s Library bag as soon as possible so that they are ready to borrow on the allocated date.

   We encourage students in Yrs 4-6 to use their library bag from previous years as a safe way to transport homework and Library books to and from school. Even a plastic bag or seal bag in their school bag will offer protection. This is especially important during storm season!

6. **Tuckshop News:** Our tuckshop is open and fully operational 5-days per week for your convenience. Please note that the Tuckshop is a cash only facility – EFTPOS is not available. However, families can order online using [Flexischools Online Ordering](http://www.flexischools.com.au) (which is the preferred option for ordering). Free to register, quick, easy and convenient. All families please remember to state your child’s correct class for 2016.

   Until next week,

   Brad Fox  
   Principal  

   **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

   **Music Lessons** – Piano, Flute and Theory at Burpengary East. Lessons available during school terms and school holidays. All ages welcome! Phone Emma on 0432 782 775.
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 uniform, school books and materials, to contact me or the Business Services Manager, Mrs Paula Connolly, so that we can make arrangements to assist you and have all children participating fully in school.

Before/after school arrangements:

We have now 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 child at school before 8.10am they should be enrolled in this service.

Students who arrive at school on a one-off basis before 8.10am must sit in the covered play area near the Tuckshop. Whilst the school is staffed from 7.30am, there are no teachers officially on duty before school. The cleaners and janitor/groundstaff are going about their duties and they crisscross this area keeping an eye on the children. At the 8.10am bell, the children can move to their bag racks, toilets, then to the classroom. 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. I would prefer parents who have that rare occasion and know that they will be late to phone ahead and have their children wait at the Administration block so the office can keep them safe.

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 an envelope containing 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.

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 Evening for Prep to Year 6 is on Thursday, February 18, 2016. 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 teacher meeting, and enjoy a sausage on bread for only a gold coin donation. From 3.30pm, a schedule of meetings with your child’s own teacher will provide the opportunity to talk to us about your child’s learning strengths and difficulties, their friendships and behaviour, their hobbies and interests outside school and any other information that will help build stronger home-school partnership and learning success for your child. Specialist teachers and Administration staff will be available at the sausage sizzle for conversations.

Absences from school/Late to school/Leaving early from school:

Attendance at this school is very carefully monitored and parents will be contacted if absences are unexplained. With this week’s newsletter, all families will receive a fridge magnet with the school absence line number on it, which I would encourage all families to use if your child is absent, as it enables the very busy office staff to make the best use of their time during the day, and minimise work at peak office times. I ask parents to phone the school on this absence line (Ph 3491 0366) to advise of an absence.

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. For your convenience again, the School Absence Line is phone 3491 0366.

Parents/careers 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.

Collecting Children:

During the school day, on those rare occasions where a child is sick or needs to be picked up for a specialist appointment, parents can only pick up their children from the school office. In an emergency situation, the school will notify parents of any variation to this important procedure.

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 young 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 1A-E and 2A-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

CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A
3.20pm, unless specific permission has been sought from the Principal to pick up siblings. High School students are to go to 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.

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 all costs to families as I am sure you are aware. This year is the same single, low cost to parents that I hope will encourage everybody to contribute and maintain Burpengary’s edge in learning for your children. While voluntary, the money raised will go directly into the P&C Building Fund to ensure that every child will benefit from our Hall renovation to enclose the P&C and place sports flooring and amenities in the building. This has the added advantage for parents of being a tax deductible contribution.

The majority of families pay these voluntary 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 improvements to our school facilities which give depth and variety to the curriculum.

Voluntary contributions in 2016 will be directed to the P&C’s building fund for our new Hall. This has the added advantage to parents that contributions are fully tax deductible in July 2016.

As the Building Fund account is operated by the P&C and is a completely separate entity to the school, it would be appreciated if all payments to the Fund can be made either in cash, by cheque payable to “Brupengary State School P&C Association Building Fund” or via direct deposit to:

BSB – 014524; Account No. – 295997732; Account Name – Burpengary State School P&C Association Building Fund.

Payments can be made at the school office (cash or cheque – NO EFTPOS in this instance) and a receipt will be issued at this time which needs to be retained for tax purposes.

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. Do 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. 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 placed at the school office immediately on arrival during the day, with collection at 3.00pm. This ensures security of the device as well.

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.

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, 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. Please see the accompanying map for pedestrian and vehicular access points.

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 5-7 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.

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.

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 the start of week 6. We will notify parents as to this date in the newsletter.

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 8.30am 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.