Every child, every day, learning to be their best

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28 February 2017
Newsletter
From The Principal

Well Done 174 Students with Excellent Attendance!

174 students this year have 95% attendance so far. Great job! In addition to helping your children’s learning and involvement in school life, being at school every day also helps your children to develop their friendships, sense of self and belonging, and skills to interact with others from a variety of backgrounds, in a range of situations. Excellent attendance also helps your children develop good relationships with their teachers and other staff, important for them feeling safe and supported.

The reliability your children develop by attending school every day will help them to be reliable in the future, especially at high school and work. Employers look for reliability in staff. It’s important to instil in our children that the weekends are for having a break, spending time with family and doing the housework. Weekdays are for school and work - that’s life!

Thank you for contacting our office/teachers and providing medical certificates when your children are sick or there is a family emergency. Our teachers have been making contact with the parents/carers of the small number of children with less than 95% attendance to see if we can help with their children’s attendance. We know how important it is to work together to ensure your children get a full education.

Our Four Qualities - We are respectful, responsible, resilient and safe

Our senior students have been reviewing our four qualities that make our school a safe, supportive, disciplined learning environment. Ask them what each means and their actions to help us remember them. We’ve been practising these on assembly.

- Being respectful is how I treat others and things
- Being responsible is being trustworthy and prepared
  - Being trustworthy is doing the right thing even when no one is looking
- Being resilient is bouncing back when things go wrong (this is the students’ favourite!)
- Being safe is protecting our own and others’ bodies and minds

We recognise and appreciate the important role you play in instilling these qualities in your children, our students. They’re useful for everybody throughout their lives. One of the things that makes Ipswich West State School such a great school is the respect, responsibility, resilience and safety of our entire school community.

Providing a High Quality Education for Your Children

Over the last few weeks I have been finalising the annual school plan and budget. This year we anticipate receiving $135,580 in Investing for Success funds from the federal and state governments. These funds will be used to employ our Head of Curriculum Student Services, Ms Lisa Stevens for an additional three days per week (our standard allocation is two days per week) and provide additional teacher aide support and practice to help students master fundamental literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills.

Through the use of these funds, we will maintain, build on and enhance the effective teaching and learning throughout the school by:

- Consolidating, developing and monitoring clear expectations for teaching and learning, and providing additional support from the Head of Curriculum Student Services when needed.
- Implementing highly effective programs and practices for student learning based on Hattie’s Visible Learning research.
- Providing additional support to students below year level expectations in reading with additional teacher aide practice and implementation of Levelled Literacy Intervention.
- Building staff capabilities through professional development and planning to achieve high standards of teaching and learning through the implementation of effective programs and practices.

As we’ve been working on reading as our improvement focus for the longest length of time, our students’ learning and internal assessment is reflected when they are formally assessed in Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN. We expect that:

- all eligible students will meet the national minimum standard
- our Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts average similar to the nation
- a similar percentage of our students are in the high performing bands (upper two bands) in comparison with the nation’s students

We also continue to focus on the improvement focuses of writing and numeracy, and ensure the Australia Curriculum is taught. Our Prep students have already been introduced and are now practising the first 20 sounds - s a t i p n c / k e h m d g o u l f b a i and j. They are practising using these to read and write so many words! Well done, Prep!

Cate Whiting
Principal
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
Prep  William, Logan, Grayson
P/1  Caelen, Lincoln, Ethan, Aiden, Tharn, Marie, James, Aaron
1  Alexis
2/3GM  Mia, Imogen
3/4  Tomyka, Leonidas
4  Jess
4/5  Hayley, Zahlia
5/6J  Zander, Kitana
5/6T  Ethan, Madison

ART

VERY GOOD ATTENDANCE (95%+)
2/3GM, 2/3H, 3/4, 4/5

100% ATTENDANCE ON AT LEAST ONE DAY
1, 2/3GM, 2/3H, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6J, 5/6T

JAPANESE COOKING
We are excited to announce our second Japanese food offering for the Year of the Rooster. Tomorrow Miss Collins, our Japanese language teacher, along with the help of some year 6 students, will be making kakigori (shaved ice snow cones with cordial). This is a summer festival favourite for all but parents please be advised that the cordial used may contain food additives and colourings. These will be available to all students at second break for $1 each.

QUEENSLAND TIMES ‘MAKING THE GRADE’ PHOTOS—PREPS
Every year, the Queensland Times publishes a special insert edition of Prep students across schools in the Ipswich and surrounding areas. It is a wonderful memento of our Prep students’ first year at school. The photo will appear in the Queensland Times ‘Making the Grade’ supplement on Wednesday 22 March. This year, our Prep students will have their photo taken at 11.30am tomorrow. Only those students with the appropriate signed media consent forms will be included.

P&C NEWS
P&C AGM: Monday 6 March at 6.30pm in the library. At the AGM, 2017 executive positions will be elected. We particularly need a secretary and treasurer. Please consider being involved in the P&C this year!

BOOKCLUB
Bookclub order forms went out this week. Please return your orders to the office by Wednesday 8 March.

THANK YOU! Bev Murphy for your kind donation of succulents after ours were stolen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Wed 1 Mar 11.30am QT ‘Making the Grade’ Photo—Preps
Mon 6 Mar 6.30pm P&C AGM—in the library
Wed 8 Mar Bookclub orders due
Fri 10 Mar Permissions & payment ($8.50) due for Ocean Life Incursion—4/5, 5/6J, 5/6T
Mon 13 Mar Halogen National Young Leaders Day—Senior Leaders
Tue 14 Mar Ocean Life Incursion—4/5, 5/6J, 5/6T—in the library
Fri 17 Mar Crazy Hair Day/World’s Greatest Shave (gold coin donation appreciated)

Tue 21 Mar National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (wear an orange accessory, wig or hair spray)
Wed 22 Mar 9.15am Queens Park Excursion—Prep-Year 1
27-31 Mar QT ‘Making the Grade’ Supplement published
Fri 31 Mar Life Education Van visit ($5)

Recurring Events
Assembly 8.45am in the Undercover Area
Uniform Shop Mondays—Years 3-6
Mon 6 Mar Wednesdays—first break—Years 3-6
Sport 2.50-3.15pm Mondays & Tuesdays
Mon 6 Mar—Wednesdays—first & second break
Breakfast Club 8.00am Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
(Volunteers needed)
Senior Choir Tuesdays—second break & Thursdays—first break
Soccer Clinic 3.15–4.15pm Tuesdays—Years 4–6 (no cost)
Chess Club Wednesdays—second break
Japanese Cooking Wednesdays—second break, fortnightly—Year 6
Japanese Club Wednesdays—second break, fortnightly
Music Bus Thursdays
Skipping Thursdays—first break
Computer Coding Thursdays—second break & Fridays—first break
Tuckshop Fridays (Volunteers needed)

School Banking Fridays

OCEAN LIFE INCURSION—TUESDAY 14 MARCH
YEARS 4/5, 5/6J AND 5/6T
Ocean Life Education is bringing the sea to us with a fun marine education program designed to inspire students to appreciate and take responsibility for the marine ecosystem. Marine educators will be bringing fascinating live marine animals, artefacts, games and information, blending hands-on interaction with science and humour. Please return signed permission slips and payment ($8.50) by Friday 10 March.

BULLYING, NO WAY!
Our school is proud to stand united with schools across Australia for the 2017 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 17 March. Taking a stand together will deliver a powerful message that bullying and violence is never okay. We strongly encourage parents and carers to have open and honest conversations with their children about bullying in all forms. To get the discussion started with helpful information and tips visit the Bullying. No Way! Website (www.bullyingnoway.gov.au). Wear an orange accessory, orange wig or orange hair spray on this day to tie in with Crazy Hair Day.
On Monday 13 March, our school leaders will be attending the Halogen National Young Leaders Day at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The National Young Leaders Day is hosted by the Halogen Foundation whose mission is to inspire young people to lead themselves and others well. It is the largest event of its kind in Australia gathering over 20,000 young leaders annually in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth and it is endorsed by Australia’s top leaders including the Governor General and all State Premiers. A day of keynote speakers and leadership insights from current and high profile leaders in a variety of fields designed to empower young people to shine bright on behalf of those they lead now and in the future. Our school leaders have brought home a consent letter which needs to be signed by their parent/carer and returned to the school office by Wednesday 8 March.

CRAZY HAIR DAY/WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

On Friday 17 March, our school will be taking part in this year’s World’s Greatest Shave by holding a Crazy Hair Day. This is a fun event behind a serious cause. Blood cancer is the third most common cause of cancer death in Australia, claiming more lives than breast cancer or melanoma and every day another 35 people will be diagnosed. **Students and staff may come to school with crazy hair (use your imagination), coloured hair spray, a wig or chalked hair**. Please ensure any colour products used are temporary and will be completely washed out over the weekend. Full school uniform must still be worn. Please consider giving your child(ren) a gold coin donation to support The Leukaemia Foundation, which will be collected on the day. This year, Ms Carlotta has set up a direct link to the school’s sponsor page with the Leukaemia Foundation. This will make it easier for parents/carers to deposit a donation directly. Please follow this link if you would like to donate: https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/FundraisingPage.aspx?RegistrationID=655290

Remember, every dollar counts and our goal this year is to donate $120. The money you give will provide emotional and practical support to families facing blood cancer and fund vital research that will mean more people survive, while improving their quality of life.

**This event coincides with the National Anti-Bullying Day which our school will be participating in on the same day. The national colour for anti-bullying is orange so please consider orange coloured hair spray or accessories for your child.

LIFE EDUCATION

Harold and the Life Education Van will be visiting school again during the last week of this term. More information regarding this will follow shortly. In the meantime, follow this link to find out more hwww.lifeeducation.org.au

SCHOOL SAFE PARKING PROJECT

Attached to this newsletter is a Queensland Government & Department of Transport & Main Roads Student Site Assessment Survey. This survey is an opportunity for you to have your say about how you and your child travel to and from school and any issues you think need addressing. Each year, a number of students are injured as they travel to and from school. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to reducing injuries and fatalities for all road users. One way this is achieved is by providing the safest possible journey to and from Queensland schools. This is a great opportunity to sit with your child and together discuss and complete the survey. Please return completed surveys to the office by 31 March so data can be collated and passed onto the DTMR.

CARPOOLING

How many school families live in your street or within surrounding streets? How often have you waved to another school family following the same route?

Imagine an aerial photo of a traffic jam; then remove the cars, leaving just the people sitting at regular intervals of 8 metres along the road. Think about how much road space is wasted by vehicles with empty seats. Wouldn’t the trip be more efficient if there was half the amount of traffic?

Now consider carpooling. By simply sharing the ride with another family, you’ll have more space on the road and will halve of your weekly travel time.

Carpooling saves time and money! Most cars travelling to and from school have only one passenger. Did you know that an average family car costs $260 a week to run? This includes petrol, depreciation, registration, insurance, servicing and repairs. A large 4WD costs up to $370 a week to keep on the road (ref RACQ website).

So why not try carpooling to reduce traffic congestion, make the streets around schools safer and reduce the amount of pollution our children breathe?

Carpooling has lots of benefits. Sharing a lift to or from school will save you time, money, and wear and tear on the family car. Many of our families live within close proximity to each other – often in the same street. Lots of families also have children in the same sporting or music groups. Talk to your friends and neighbours to see if there are any opportunities for carpooling. Carpooling is as easy as asking someone if they are going your way. Talk to other parents today!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS SPACE?

We are looking for expressions of interest which would allow our parents/carers and staff to advertise their business each fortnight in our newsletter. The space would be approximately 6cm X 7.5cm and would have a low fee of $5.00 per advertisement. There would be capacity for up to 4 advertisements each fortnight.

Please contact Ms Carlotta at cgrah197@eq.edu.au to register your interest.