



IT'S THURSDAY

**Come along to our first
Parents & Citizens Meeting for 2009!**
Next Tuesday February 10 in the Admin Block Staffroom
commencing at 7.00pm

5th February 2009

Learning Knows No Boundaries

Vol 16 No. 1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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P&C Meeting	10 th February	Staffroom – 7.00pm
Whole School Assembly	13 th February	Hall – 9.15am
District Swimming Carnival	13 th February	
Parent/Teacher Meetings	Tues 17 th & Wed 18 th February	Hall
Year 3 CSIRO Weather & Climate	19 th & 20 th February	Payment Due 12 th February
Year 5 Camp		Deposit Due 20 th February
Year 7 TIE: "Hot, Hot, Hot"	23 rd February	Payment Due 16 th February
Year 2 AVAPetPEP	26 th February	No Cost
Year 6 TIE "The Best I Can Be"	26 th February	Payment Due 19 th February
Year 6 & 7 Sport starts	27 th February	
P&C Disco	27 th February	

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back!

It's great to see everybody back for another exciting school year! A **big welcome to our many families** who are new to our school. I hope your children have happily settled into our school. Please contact us through the main office 37141222 if there is anything with which we can assist. In particular, I'd like to extend good luck and best wishes to our **122 prep students** who've just commenced the schooling phase of their life. In these uncertain times, it has never been more important to ensure your child receives a quality education. That will always be our priority at FLSS.

Already it's very clear to observe that our **newly air conditioned classrooms** are making a large positive difference to the way our students are working in class. Concentration and good behaviour levels are much higher for the whole school day which should lead to improved learning outcomes. I must acknowledge the fantastic hard work our P&C Association has undertaken in partnership with the school over the past three years to turn the idea of have an air conditioned school into a reality. Your support of their fund raising initiatives is greatly appreciated.

Staffing

Over the vacation we said a sad (for us) farewell to our Business Services Manager Mrs Cheryl Scott who was promoted to a higher level position in Moreton East District. Replacing Mrs Scott for at least Term 1 is **Ms Roslyn Greenhill** who comes to us from Brisbane West District. Also, we welcome two new members to our front office team, **Mrs Janis Heim** and **Mrs Margaret Kehoe**.

Two new teachers have commenced duties with us this year. Welcome to **Mrs Linda Richardson (Year 1)** and **Mrs Janice Veeren (Class Music)**. Both teachers have come to us from Richlands State School which is closing at the end of 2010. We also welcome an additional Support Teacher, **Ms Bernadette Pease**. And joining our group of teacher aides is **Ms Tammy Lyons**.

Class Organisation

The Day 8 Census (which was conducted today) is likely to indicate that our enrolments have sufficiently increased in 2009 for the school to receive an additional class teacher, which is good news. The additional teacher, if allocated, will be used to create an extra year 4 class as we have experienced a large increase in student numbers on this level. If this eventuates, it will be necessary to relocate students from the current year 4 classes to make up the new class. Our admin team are presently drafting an additional class should we receive

staffing approval. Any families of students who will be relocated to an additional year 4 class will be directly advised as soon as possible.

Parent Teacher Meetings

All families of students in Years 1 to 7 should now have received an invitation to our Meet the Teacher afternoons to be held on **Tuesday February 17th** and **Wednesday February 18th**. If you haven't done so already, please complete the return slip indicating your preferred meeting times. Confirmation slips should be received at home via your child by early next week.

School Network Access and Usage Statement

Tomorrow, all students will bring home a form to be signed in order for them to access the school computer network. Education Queensland requires that everyone who makes use of computers in Queensland state schools is aware of their personal responsibilities in doing so. Parents are asked to read through the information and discuss the expectations with their child/children in terms they will understand. The student and parent are then asked to sign the form and return it to school by the end of this school week. **If the signed form is not returned, the student will not be able to access any computers linked to the school network** (even for non-internet usage).

Change of Family Details

Now that our 2008 school operations are smoothly up and running it's important that our school database of family details is completely up to date primarily for student safety reasons. Please advise the school office as soon as possible if any of the following circumstances have changed in your household since the end of the 2008 school year:

- Residential address of student/s
- Home, work and/or mobile contact phone numbers between 8.00am and 4.00pm weekdays
- Emergency contact people during school hours
- Student surname changes
- Adult caregiver changes
- Legal changes to parental custody arrangements (please provide copies of any court documentation where relevant)
- Student medical and medication details

As you can appreciate we need this information to be as current as possible should an emergency situation arise at school involving your child. Confidential information can be provided directly to me or any of our Deputy Principals. Appointments can be made through the main school office.

Reading, Writing and Numeracy

The core business of our school is to ensure your children develop their competencies in these 3 vital areas of learning to the very best of their ability throughout their time with us. To get the best out of all our students your help at home, with some easy to administer literacy/numeracy tasks will make a big difference. I've included some relevant tips in this edition that you might find useful.

I hope you and your family have a great year.

With regards

John Faragher, Principal

Exploring numeracy with your child

While board games and puzzles may appear to be just fun activities, they can also help to improve your child's numeracy skills and encourage them to think logically.

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life. Many opportunities to be numerate happen at home. Here are a few ways you can explore numeracy with your child:

- *show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks*
- *talk about the numbers and patterns your child comes across each day while playing games or sports*
- *encourage your child to count and sort objects into groups. You could use books, clothing or shoes and discuss how they sorted them into those groups*
- *explore ways to use and count money through budgets and shopping. Let your child calculate the cost of items and help them add up how much change you will receive*
- *ask questions such as "does that make sense?" or "can this be done another way?" to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems*
- *talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.*

If you would like to know more about exploring numeracy contact your child's teacher or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

How you can help your child with reading

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and it is important to encourage your child to read outside of the classroom. Our school is asking all parents to help their children to improve their reading skills. You can do this by:

- *visiting the local library – this is an economical way to provide access to different kinds of books and learning materials and allows children to borrow from a wide range. Your library may also offer a reading program which makes reading an exciting experience and allows them to mix with other children*
- *asking 'why' questions as you read a book or story together to help your child understand and asking them to think about alternate endings to make much-loved books even more interesting*
- *reading to your child as often as you can and by trying to carry a book with you when away from home*
- *letting your child hold the book and turn the pages when you are reading together – this lets your child join in and allows you to talk about the pictures*
- *congratulating your child on their reading – this will encourage them to enjoy the reading experience*
- *pointing out words as you read them, especially long or interesting words – this will create a word bank or a spelling list which will help your child with their writing*
- *making a message board or space at home and encouraging your child to read and leave messages for other family members – this will also give them an important job in the household.*

For more tips and online resources about literacy and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

How you can help your child with writing

The best way to help your child with writing is to encourage them to use real occasions in family life to practise. This can include writing notes, messages, reminders or even helping to keep a family diary.

Here are some other ways to help your child with their writing:

- *if they are unsure of how to spell certain words, encourage them to have a go. Keep a dictionary close by and start a spelling list*
- *read your child's writing and discuss what you like about it. This makes writing fun and encourages children to keep writing*
- *if possible, give examples of your own writing to your child to show how it is important in your daily life and your work*
- *talk to your children about the types of writing they do at school and praise their efforts as well as correcting grammar or spelling*
- *encourage them to use a computer keyboard if there is one available*
- *encourage your child to make greeting cards for special times of the year and suggest they write their own verses or messages*
- *when reading their draft writing and commenting on what you like about it, remember not to change the writing. Leave all the creative decisions to the writer.*

If you would like more information or tips about helping your child with their writing visit

www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Welcome back to all and in particular welcome to all our new families and staff. I have been trying to help you all create a "community gathering spot" (to chat with your friends or make new ones) outside the tuckshop and the uniform shop since the beginning of term. I have had plunger coffee available to help kick start this project. I am seeking donations of more coffee for that purpose to keep it going on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 9 and 10 am. It's just the right time to meet after dropping off your children

and before the business of the day takes off.

I have changed my timetable a little this year. I will be starting at 7:45 am and finishing at 3:30 pm. I am making myself available to adults, e.g. parents, carers, staff between 3 and 3:30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school. So if you have a need or want to chat, these are the appointment times. I will attend the fundraising P&C meetings this year and help with the school musical.

SEMESTER ONE INVOICE

This week you will receive invoices for semester one excursions/activities. Payments can be made at the office from 8am-2pm Monday to Friday. Credit card and EFTPOS facilities are available.

STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received an award on assembly:

Year 1: River Sosene, Jordan McGrath, Cooper Thistleton, Jordan Millward, Liliana McLennan, Gabrielle Fahey, Michael De Wit, Alicia Bruback, Ella Whitley, Nathan Wilson, Declin Suridge, Sonia Komonen.

Year 5: Jeremy Boyle, Sheridan Brazel, Raquel Greenlees, Brandon Truong, Maddison Millanta, Nicholas Fahey, Brendan McCrystal, Amber Palmer, Emily Cooper, Brayden Pearce.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Welcome back to a new school year!

The menu you should be using at present is titled "Term 4 2008, Term 1 2009". It is printed on white paper. Please ensure you are using the correct menu.

As usual I am looking for more helpers in the tuckshop. Some of last year's helpers have left the school or found work & so I am extremely short staffed. If you are able to help out (even for a couple of hours now & again) please come & see me so that I can organize my roster (phone 3714 1258 after 11:30am). The children love to see mum or dad in the tuckshop. Grandparents are also welcome. So come in, have a coffee and a chat with us. Your lunch is provided.

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is open Monday and Fridays 8.45am to 10.45am.

Thank you to all the parents who were so understanding about items that I ran out of.

At the time of this going to print sports shorts and polo shirts should be in either this Friday or Monday (There has been a slight delay with the stock clearing customs). For those of you who have placed an order for them I will be delivering them to your child's classroom next week. For those of you who will be coming into the shop to purchase, then I suggest Friday 13th because if they do not arrive until Monday I will need time to unpack them. Home folders, chair bags and schoolbags are also due either late this week or early next week and the same applies for prepaid orders and purchases, as for the sports uniforms above.

There will be a small delay on the home folders as they are coming in, in two shipments, the first should be next week, then another shipment the week after. Small size surf hats are due in hopefully next week and the small bucket hats approx 4 weeks before they are due in - this is due to the production time to have the hats printed.

While I try and make every attempt to have enough stock over this busy period it is always hard to be exact, also factory closures over Christmas don't help the cause, so thank you for your patience.

Due to the drop in the dollar I have been informed by my suppliers to expect price increases. Any price increases will be notified in the *It's Thursday*, so keep an eye open for them.

If you cannot make it into the shop you can order by credit card over the phone and I will deliver the items to your child's classroom. If you are phoning through an order could you please phone after 10am, as it is very busy first thing in the morning (phone 3714-1256).

Unfortunately there was a slight mistake in the price of the chair bags on the book list. I ordered a better quality chair bag and this increased the price from \$7 to \$9 and I forgot to let the office know before the book list went out, so my apologies.

Lay-by, EFTPOS and credit card facilities available. If you are paying by cheque I have to clear the cheque before you can take the goods.

THURSDAY'S THOUGHT

May the most you wish for, be the least you get. May the best times you've ever had be the worst you will ever see. Old Irish Blessing

COMMUNITY NEWS

RAIDERS NETBALL CLUB INC. – Sign On

When: 7th February – 3pm

Where: Western Districts Netball Association, Faulkner Park, Graceville. Enquiries: 0411 776 496

FOREST LAKE JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

When: Sat 7th Feb – 9am – 1pm

Where: Warren Ritchie Sports Complex, 1449 Boundary Rd, Carole Park. Under 7s to Under 15s – FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

Enquires: Renaie 0407 595 563, Farren 0419 131 896

Email: forestlakemagpiesjrlc@hotmail.com

FOREST LAKE JUNIOR AFL – Sign On

When: Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th Feb between 10am -2pm.

Where: CJ Greenfield Oval, Freeman Rd, Richlands and Forest Lake Village Shopping Centre.

Sign on will be for AFL Brisbane Juniors 16 week competition, Under 8s through to Under 16s, also Club Auskick program for 5 and 7 year olds for boys and girls. Contact Paul Manning – President on 0409 264 324.

WESTS JUNIORS AFL CLUB - Sign On

When: Saturday 7th Feb 10am-2pm and

Sunday 8th Feb 10 am-2pm.

Sign-on before 11th Feb and receive a \$20 discount.

Where: Cnr Union St and Moggill Rd Toowong.

A photocopy of the player's birth certificate is required for new members. Contact Carrie Ritchie 3870 1746 or 0402 094 910.

Lady Cilento Parenting Centre (LCPC) 2009 Services

LCPC is a community run parenting hub offering a range of services to support families. Located at 2 Baty Street, St Lucia (behind the St Lucia C&K Community Kindergarten), we offer:

Drop In Play Centre

Need a child friendly venue to meet up with other school mums? Try our exciting child-friendly play space for the 0-5s and their carers set up as a great meeting space for mothers groups/ friends to get together or a way to link up with other families in the area.

Mondays-Wednesdays 9am-5pm. \$4 per visit per family. No booking necessary. For more information, please drop in during morning session

Triple P Parenting program

Learn positive and effective ways to manage children's behaviour.

Tuesday nights for 8 weeks in Term 1. \$190 for course and workbook.

Bookings Essential. Ph 38707353

Teacher led Playgroups

Stimulating playgroups for children aged 0-5 years, facilitated by a qualified early childhood teacher.

Open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.15am-11.15am

\$14.50 per session. Bookings Ph 38707353 or drop into centre during these hours.

TRIPLE B PROGRAM- WEST BRISBANE BEGINNER BASKETBALL

The West Brisbane Basketball Triple B Program is designed to introduce primary aged school children (aged 6-11) to the game of basketball.

Day: Tuesdays

Venue: Centenary State High School, Moolanda St, Jindalee

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Starts: Tuesday February 10

Cost: \$10 Registration (includes first session fees)

After participant registered \$5 per session

Further Information & a Registration Form can be found at the West Brisbane Falcons Website: www.westbrisbane.basketball.net.au

CENTENARY STORMERS SOCCER CLUB

SIGN-ON 2009 SEASON

Thursday 5 February 2009

Atthows Park, Westcombe St, Darra 6.00 – 8.00pm

Sunday 8 February 2009

Atthows Park, Westcombe St, Darra 3.00 – 6.00pm

Final sign-on Saturday 14 February 2009

Atthows Park, Westcombe St, Darra 10am – 12pm

Players wanted for the following age groups:

Prep ball - ages 4-5 years (boys and girls)

Small sided games 6 – 10 years (boys and girls)

Juniors – 11 – 16 years (boys and girls)

Also men's, women's and over 35s players welcome

Orientation day/club bbq: Sunday 1 March 10.00am – 12.00pm

For more information please contact Alan 0407 038565

For your interest: The Salvation Army is holding a Saturday workshop called "LOVE YOUR SPOUSE, Paired for Life". Offered for just \$50 from 9-3pm on 28th Feb. or Option B: Romantic getaway \$200 per couple for the one day workshop per couple and night at Gold coast with complimentary Sunday breakfast. All excellent value. If you're interested you can email loveyourspouse@lakessalvos.org.au. I have brochures available too.

Included in this fortnight's newsletter: Nil