



Coomera Link

~ Coomera State School ~

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24 February 2009

Message from the Principal

Student Enrolment

Our school currently has 887 students enrolled from Prep to Year 7 and 24 students in our Early Childhood Developmental Program. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into the reorganisation of classes in Week 3 to create our 36th class and class routines are now well established and students continue to be actively involved in classroom learning activities.

Staffing Update

With our initial 2009 staffing entitlements directly linked to student enrolments, additional staffing appointments are now almost complete. Last Friday, we welcomed Ms Leisa-Maree Arnott who commenced as our Behaviour Advisory Teacher. Ms Arnott, an experienced teacher with more than nine years experience in the area of behaviour management, will be at our school every Friday and alternate Mondays. She will provide additional assistance and support in various aspects of behaviour management here at our school.

Because of our increasing enrolment of students with disabilities, additional staffing has also been provided in this area. This week we welcome Ms Robyn Symes who will be a full time teacher working in our Special Education Program and Early Childhood Development Program. Ms Symes comes to us from Logan Special School with a wide range of experience teaching students with disabilities and her skills and knowledge will be very beneficial to our school.

Permanent arrangements for components of our teacher aide allocation will not be finalised until the end of this term. While the relevant processes are being completed, Ms Kirrilee Angus and Mrs Colleen Pellen will be temporarily undertaking the valuable role of teacher aide in some of our Prep classes.

For your information, a current staff list is included in this newsletter.

2009 Year of Creativity

In 2009, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts has a focus on celebrating and developing creativity within Queensland schools. Our school was invited to participate in the official Launch of the Year of Creativity by the Education Minister, Mr Rod Welford MP, on Friday 13 February at the State Library. Mrs Underwood and Mrs Henderson put together a wonderful display to promote our school's "Dream A Better World" Film Festival which will be held on Sunday 6 September this year. There was a great deal of interest in the display and feedback about the Film Festival and our participation at the Launch was very positive indeed.

Creativity is in all aspects of life – social, economic, aesthetic and cultural. It is:

- applying knowledge in new and innovative ways to resolve issues and challenges
- a process involving the generation of new ideas or concepts to produce original solutions and outcomes of personal, social, economic and /or cultural value
- applied across many fields including science, mathematics, technology, humanities and the arts
- necessary to drive innovation and productivity in virtually every industry from cars to fashion, construction and health, food products and information technology.

'Creativity capital' is predicted to be the most valuable asset of the 21st century. Creative skills will help solve world issues such as drought, climate change and many local issues such as improved public transport and skill shortages. It will drive productivity and growth in new industries and have social benefits including improved learning outcomes and greater appreciation and respect for others.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts recognises the value of creativity and its role in preparing young people with these essential skills. The Year of Creativity aims to provide opportunities for students to explore and develop their creative skills and support teachers to embed creativity in their teaching practice. It is an acknowledgement and renewed emphasis on the place of creativity in education for the future.

Facilities Update

Work is continuing on a number of facilities projects here at our school. The underpinning of a previous extension to one of our Prep rooms is almost complete with remaining ground work to be completed as soon as the area has dried out from recent rain.

A number of contractors, including workplace health and safety officers, have visited our school recently in preparation for facility upgrades which are part of the State Schools of Tomorrow - External Finishes Program. The replacement of aged roofing and gutters on our original Admin buildings (current 3MB and 3KV classrooms, computer lab and Uniform Shop) is planned to commence mid March. This project will involve the temporary relocation of the two classrooms, closure of our computer lab and reorganisation of access to our Uniform Shop. Specific details will be advised once they become available. While there will be some access issues to the buildings and surrounding areas during the work, completion of this project will be a huge improvement to the buildings involved.

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2009 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

This year, the three day National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for students in years 3, 5 & 7 is scheduled for 12 - 14 May. A series of tests will assess the areas of language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation), writing, reading and numeracy (including number, measurement, chance and data, space, working mathematically, algebra function and pattern). Results from the tests will provide important information about children's progress in literacy and numeracy. Following the tests, schools and students will receive a statement of performance in relation to the national benchmarks.

An Information Letter from the Premier, Anna Bligh, has already been issued to families of students in Years 3, 5 and 7.

Teachers have already commenced a range of test preparation activities with students and specific practice tests, including the administration of last year's tests, will be undertaken in the weeks ahead.

Further information about the testing program, including preparation materials, is available from the NAPLAN website www.naplan.edu.au or the Queensland Studies Authority website www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment

Mathletics

Our school subscribes to the mathematics website, Mathletics. Many of our students are already using the website and receiving relevant awards for their participation. In coming weeks, the use of Mathletics will be expanded to enable as many of our students as possible to utilise the site.

Mathletics is seen as the next generation in learning, helping students to enjoy mathematics and improve their results. It is now used by more than 2000 schools and over 500 000 students worldwide. Covering all aspects of mathematics, it has more than 750 learning activities for students aged 5 – 18 years and responds to students' individual learning needs. The site can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides step by step animated support for students, a variety of challenge opportunities as well as reports and results to show student performance.

Further information can be obtained by viewing the Mathletics website <http://www.mathletics.com.au>

School Resource Scheme

State Education provides instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students in State Schools. To ensure students are prepared for learning, parents are required to provide a range of resources as outlined in our Student Requisites Program which has the following components:

- Year Level Booklists: A Core List of items for every class at a given year level. These are available from the school in Term 4 of the previous school year.
- A Supplementary List: Items which may be required from class to class depending upon individual teacher policy and class needs. This is a minimal list of items which may be requested early in the school year once class groupings are confirmed.
- A School Resource Scheme (\$70.00 per child): Funds provide a range of materials and resources to enhance classroom learning programs.

The School Resource Scheme provides a range of materials and resources to enhance classroom learning programs. The School Resource Scheme benefits students by enabling them access to appropriate learning resources and the school's bulk purchasing arrangements saves parents time and considerable expense in resource provision. The Scheme is discussed annually with the P&C Association and has its support and endorsement.

While participation in the School Resource Scheme is voluntary, parents/caregivers are encouraged to participate. Now that

class groupings are confirmed, information, including the School Resource Scheme Agreement Form and Invoice will be provided to families in the coming week. Your support for our School Resource Scheme is greatly appreciated.

Presentations for 2009 Student Leaders

Congratulations to our 2009 Student Leaders who will play a very valuable role in our school during the year. Badges and Certificates will be presented by Hon. Margaret Keech, State Member for Albert and Minister for Child Safety and Women at a special assembly this Friday 27 February at 8:45 am. The ceremony will be followed by Morning Tea for our Student Leaders and their families.

Thank you everyone!

We have all been touched in so many ways by the recent Victorian Bushfire Tragedy and the flooding in North Queensland. Special thanks to everyone for your donations for our Student Leaders' recent fundraiser to provide some financial support for those involved. Just over \$1500.00 was raised. Thanks everyone!

P&C Annual General Meeting

Our Parents and Citizens Association plays a valuable role in our school community by promoting the interests of the school and assisting with the school's development and ongoing improvement. By fostering general interest in educational issues, providing advice and recommendations to the Principal on issues affecting students and school operations as well as providing financial and other resources, the members of the P&C work together for the benefit of students and the school.

Our P&C Annual General Meeting will be held in the staffroom on Monday 16 March commencing at 9:30 am. All members of our school community are invited to attend. Any assistance you are able to give throughout the year would be most welcome and greatly appreciated.

Please Park Correctly

As previously advised, parking can be a challenge at many school locations, particularly at peak drop off and collection times and wet weather certainly does not help the situation. Discussions about current parking concerns were held at last week's P & C Meeting and contact will again be made with the relevant government representatives to meet and follow up the issues. A special thank you to Mrs Helen Milner who has provided a great deal of assistance with the parking concerns.

A huge Thank You to everyone for your assistance in entering or exiting the school grounds through the pedestrian gates and greatly reducing parking in the school grounds. Safety is always our first priority and parking within the school grounds is limited to staff, selected visitors, disabled persons and others authorised by the Principal. Parents who drive their children to or from school should park outside the school grounds (at the front of the school, on Beattie Road or near Viney Park) and park correctly when dropping and collecting students from school. In special circumstances, parents can apply in writing to the Principal for a School Parking Permit for limited parking in the school grounds.

Collection of students in the afternoons is probably our most challenging time. While the school day concludes at 3:00 pm., school staff provide supervision of students at our front pedestrian gate until 3:20 pm. each afternoon. Please consider delaying your pick up time by a few minutes in the afternoon. This would greatly assist with the current parking congestion and lack of parking spaces experienced right at 3:00 pm. Any students who have not been collected from the front gate by 3:20 pm go back to the school office with staff.

For the safety of everyone, please park correctly. The school has been advised by Police that from the beginning of March, they will be conducting programs to address correct parking in our local area. Please ensure you are parking legally ... check the location of yellow lines, do not double park etc.

Thoughts on the Victorian Bushfires

People are dead. It is devastating. I can't imagine what these people are going through. It's just terrible. You don't know what it's like because it's not you. But what if it was you? How would you feel? All these people have lost their loved ones and their homes. The fire is worse than anything! People in the floods, their homes are ruined, but they can salvage stuff. But the people in Victoria can't. Over 200 people have died and there may be many more to come. Animals' lives have been lost.

But the generous people of not only Australia but also America and New Zealand have lent a helping hand. They have raised 26.7 million dollars, so far. Children, adults, people of all ages, are just hoping they find their family and friends. Pets and cattle have been killed. Some of the people have protected their towns by getting water from the lakes but it is very hard for them because they don't know which way the fire is going to go. To make it worse, people have been lighting these fires. This is devastating. Hopefully no-one else gets killed.

By Amber Schuback 7BF

The staff and students of Coomera State School have raised over \$1500 for the appeal efforts for the fire and flood victims

Support - a - Reader, Writer and Number Training

If anyone is interested in doing the training for Support-a-Reader, Support-a-Writer and Support-a-Number training please come and see Jacqui Larson ASAP.

This is a great way to help your child at home and with this training you may be able to assist with some work with children in the lower years.

These courses are being held at Burleigh on Thursday 12th March for SAR, Thursday 19th March and Thursday 26th March for SAW and Thursday 2nd April for SAN. They run from 9am-1pm and cost \$33 for each course (\$66 for Support-a-Writer as it is run over 2 days).

Student Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following classes and students who have received awards this week!

Class of the Week: Junior - Prep KU Senior - 7BF
Tuckshop: Junior - 3MB Senior - 4NM
Tidy Class: Junior - 1JE Senior - 7SL
Peer Mediator of the week: Week 4 - Chloe S 7BF

District Swimming Carnival

On Monday 16th February the Gold Coast North Primary School Sports Swimming Trials were held at the Southport Olympic Pool.

Congratulations to Jessie O (6JS) who competed for Coomera State School on the day in 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly. Jessie improved her personal best time in 50m Freestyle by almost 2 seconds at this higher level of competition. This was a great effort! Well Done Jessie !

Also on Wednesday 18 February the Gold Coast North Secondary Schools held the Broadwater District Swimming Carnival at Somerset College's Olympic Pool.

Megan W (7SL), 13 years old qualified in all her races, including 50m, 100m and 200m Backstroke and Breaststroke. A fantastic effort on the day!

Megan will now participate at an elite level in her age group in the High Schools Regional Swimming Carnival soon to be held in March. Well Done Megan!

Kids Free Sport

On behalf of the Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children (Federal Department of Families, Housing, and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), we invite our school families to take advantage of the FREE sport activities offered on Tuesdays, after school at Viney Park, 3.00pm - 4.00pm.

Should you have any enquiries feel free to email the program Coordinator:

Shannon.davis@kidssports.com.au

Mobile: 0434 436 721

Mathletics

The most used educational website in Australia is available free to Coomera State School Students because of our school's licensing arrangements. Many of our students are accessing this invaluable resource at home and at school, improving their mathematics skills whilst having fun! They love competing against students from all over the world and Australia, their own classmates and even siblings. We have had positive feedback from both students and parents who have reported a change in attitude toward Maths and noticeable improvement in mathematical skills and recall.

All students from Year 1 to Year 7 at our school have been issued user names and passwords and can begin reaping the rewards.

Students who gain over 1000 points within a week (Mon. - Sun. midnight) will be awarded a **BRONZE** certificate through their classroom teacher. Points automatically roll over each week and do not accumulate. This is to keep students constantly active in the program.

Students who have achieved 5 bronze certificates will receive a **SILVER** award on parade. **GOLD** certificates are awarded to students who have achieved 4 silver awards.

Lexile Reading

All students from Year 4 to Year 7 and some students from Years 2 & 3 (who have reached the required independent reading level) can participate in the program. Students are required to have a lexile book in their possession at all times and should be quizzing at least once every 14 days.

Students have been tested and given a 'Lexile' score which measures their level of reading comprehension. There are over 5000 books to choose from in the Lexile Reading Program including the most popular titles. The Lexile score helps guide children to books that they can read independently. Once they have read the book they can sit an ON-LINE quiz to test their comprehension of the book. The number of points awarded to a book depends on its length and complexity. Students may **ONLY SIT QUIZZES AT SCHOOL**. Quizzing at home is not permitted. This ensures fairness in the award system and also ensures that information on student progress is accurate as it is a measure of their **INDEPENDENT** READING level.

Ribbons are awarded at end-of-term parade for 25, 50, 100, 200, 500, 750, 1000 etc.

Certificates are awarded weekly for 10, 150, 300, 600, 900 etc.

Book Fair is coming!

Date: Monday 23/2/09 – Fri. 27/2/09

Where: In the library

Times: 12:30 to 3:30 Monday

8:30 to 3:30 Tues.-Fri.

This fair's theme is... Jurassic Book Fair!

Please help support your school

Fun Run Fundraiser

Our school will participate in a "Golden Circle School Fun Run" Fundraiser. Our school has selected this activity for their children to participate in as it sends a healthy message to our school community and we value your ongoing support. The event will be held towards the end of Term 1 with more details to be provided to families leading up to the event.

Balls on Roof collection

Balls or other items that find their way on the roof of school buildings will only be collected off the roof on Fridays. Children must report the item and building that it is on to the office and these will be returned to classrooms. Please ensure all items have student's name and class clearly labelled.