



Coomera Link

~ Coomera State School ~

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10 March 2009

From the Principal's Desk

Staffing Update

Ms Rebecca Hancock, one of teachers who works with our students with disabilities commenced maternity leave at the end of last week. It is a very exciting time for Ms Hancock and our very best wishes and sincere thanks go to her as she prepares for the arrival of her new baby. Mrs Kerrin Donaldson, who taught some of our students with disabilities last year, will be replacing Ms Hancock while she is on leave.

Facilities Update

Due to our increasing enrolment of students with disabilities, we were recently advised that an additional purpose built relocatable building will be provided here at our school. The building will be of similar construction to that of our existing special needs facility near the front of our school. A site meeting was held towards the end of last week and preparations for installation of the new building will commence as soon as possible. The new building will be located near the senior precinct on the top side of the staff car park area. Construction will necessitate the removal of a number of trees in the area and work on this will commence shortly. This will be a very welcome addition to our facilities here at our school.

We have been advised that this Friday, 13 March, contractors will begin setting up the work area around our original Admin buildings in preparation for commencing replacement of the aged roofing and gutters on Monday 16 March. 3NG and 3KV classrooms, computer lab and Uniform Shop are currently located in these buildings. This project will involve the temporary relocation of the two classrooms, closure of our computer lab and reorganisation of access to our Uniform Shop. The work area will be out of bounds while work is undertaken and every effort will be made to minimise the disruption to school activities. While there will be some access issues to the buildings and surrounding areas during the work, completion of this project should take about two weeks and will be a huge improvement to the buildings involved.

One of our permanent buildings housing some of our Year 1 and 2 classes, has had water damage from time to time, especially during recent wet weather. Following a recent site meeting with facilities staff and plumbers, a rectification plan has been provided and work will commence in the near future to address these issues.

Tenders will be called shortly by Regional facilities staff for some type of covered area in the central area of the senior school precinct. Regional and school funding will be made available for this project which would be the first stage of the development

of this area. Will provide more information when it becomes available.

Work associated with the underpinning of a previous extension to one of our Prep rooms has now been completed and the surrounding area tidied. Planning for further development of this area will commence shortly.

Parent –Teacher Interviews

In line with Education Queensland's reporting requirements, each year we are to offer two opportunities for parent teacher interviews as well as two written student reports. This year, we will offer parent teacher interviews towards the end of Term 1 and Early Term 2 and again at the end of Term 3 and Early Term 4. Written student reports will be provided mid year at the end of Semester 1 and again at the end of the year at the end of Semester 2. While parents and teachers may communicate regularly throughout the school year, providing information about student progress via interview or written report is beneficial. Teachers will be advising details of interview arrangements in a letter issued on Wednesday 18 March. I encourage all parents to take the opportunity to meet with teachers as this enhances the positive relationship between parents and teachers and helps lay the foundation for ongoing student success.

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 and 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.

Last week, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 completed the series of 2008 NAPLAN Tests as part of their preparation program for this year's tests. Further practice activities, including a wide range of literacy and numeracy activities will continue to be undertaken as part of classroom programs to prepare students and have as many students as possible achieving the National Minimum Standards in Literacy and Numeracy.

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

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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 were presented by our invited guests at a special assembly last Friday 27 February.

Our student leaders were very impressive in the way they conducted themselves during the ceremony and it was wonderful to have our invited guests and so many family members and friends join us for this very special school event. Congratulations also to all our students at this special assembly. Their behaviour was excellent and it was terrific to have this acknowledged by our invited guests on the day. Well done 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.

Parking: Please Park Correctly

As previously advised, parking can be a challenge at many school locations, particularly at peak drop off and collection times. 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.

Head Lice

Recently cases of head lice have been detected here at our school and while parents have the prime responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, our school community is able to provide information to assist parents where required. It is important for children to be checked for head lice on a regular basis. If you do find head lice, commence effective treatment immediately and be sure to complete the process of treatment. This will help prevent the spreading of head lice. To assist you, a Queensland Health Fact Sheet has been included in this newsletter.

Student Behaviour on Buses

A considerable number of our students travel to and from school on buses and from time to time the behaviour of a few of these students can be of concern despite regular discussion and issuing of breaches of the Bus Code of Conduct. Student behaviour expectations when travelling on buses has recently been revisited with students and information about the Bus Code of Conduct advised. Safety is our priority and school staff will continue to work with the local bus company where required to address behaviour issues. I seek the support of our parents as we address this important safety issue. Further information, including the updated Bus Code of Conduct can be found in the Assistance and Services section of the Department of Transport website: <http://www.transport.qld.gov.au>

Tuckshop News

Meal Deals

Friday 13 March - 5xNuggets, Sauce, 'SoJuice' juice, Red Rock Deli Chips & Jelly - \$5.50

Friday 20th March - Special Fried Rice, Pop Top Juice, JJ's Chips, Fresh Fruit - \$5.50

Friday 27th March - 1xChicken Drum Stix, Popcorn, Fresh Fruit, Cheese & Crackers,

Cake, NEW Frozen Ice Block - \$5.50

Friday 3rd April - Home made Beef Burger (Pattie, Lettuce, Carrot, Sauce), Cheese & Crackers, Cold Noodles, frozen Juice Cup and Pretzels - \$5.50

NEW "Mini Meal Deal" Specials, now available at the tuckshop, between \$2.50 and \$4.00

Available from Monday to Thursday each week. Purchase BEFORE 9am, on order bags.

Slushy Deals - Slushy & Jumpy's \$2.00 ea. NO Pre Orders - counter sales only.

"Breaker ipod Competition is still running, Closes 3rd April 2009.

To enter - Simply purchase any BREAKER Product before 9am or on your Bag Orders to receive your entry.

Entry Box at Tuckshop Counter.

A very warm welcome is extended to the new group of ladies who have joined the P&C team in our Fundraising Ventures.

Thank you for volunteering your time and energies in advance.

As well, a very warm welcome to Elizabeth in the Tuckshop, your very generous volunteer time is much appreciated.

Before and after school care for Prep students

Gulliver Swim and Sports World are now including Prep students in the Before School Care, After School Care and Vacation Care Program.

We invite parents to enrol students from Prep - Grade 7 by contacting Gulliver's Reception on 5561 7733.

Before School Care - \$13.50 per day, After School Care - \$20.50 per day, Vacation Care - \$47.50 per day less the CCB.

Don't forget FREE swim lessons are included in the After School Care and Vacation Care Programs - our programs are sports based.

Come join us and have lots of fun!

Seeking host families for International Students

We are currently seeking families to host students for our international students program. For your chance to be involved in this cultural experience please contact either Cathryn Bruton or Kim Finlayson on 55 738 587 or email international.hshs@eq.edu.au

SEP News

We would like to welcome Robyn Symes to the SEP staff. Robyn will work with the Year 5 students as well the ECD students. Robyn joins us with a wealth of experience in Special Education.

The Smith Family is again seeking applications from parents who may wish to apply for a Smith Family Scholarship.

If successful the Learning for Life scholarship consists of \$100 - \$150 per semester for up to 3 children. Please see Julie Hall for more details.

Helping Children with Autism.

\$190 million federal funding package for children with autism and their families. All children aged 6 and under who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and are not yet at school will have access to up to \$12 000 in essential early intervention support.

The package also includes:

- Medicare rebates for ASD diagnosis and 20 visits to allied health professionals (Speech and - Occupational Therapists and Psychologist)
- Workshops and information packages
- Professional development for 450 teachers and staff to support students with ASD.
- Respite support

The Autism Advisor Program is now available

- to provide support and information about ASD to families and carers
- To provides information about all services that a family/carer could access
- To organise payment of the HCWA Early Intervention fundin

For more information visit the *Helping Children with Autism website* or see Julie Hall

Student Weekly awards

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

Class of the week – Junior: Prep MS, Senior: 4/5AS

Tidy Class – Junior: 2ML, Senior: 4CS

Tuckshop – Junior: 1CB 1KC, Senior: 4/5AS

Peer Mediator of Week: Atiya L

2009 Students of the week awards

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate all students who have received awards so far in Term 1.

4CS Entire class	7BF Chloe S	7BF Chloe S
6JM Amelia F	7BF James W	7BF James W
4RH Courtney F	4RH James K	4RH James K
7BF Jordyn B	5NM Lauren B	5NM Lauren B
4HK Jack E	5DC Liam F	5DC Liam F
4NM Moana B	6KM Matthew M	6KM Matthew M
6AW Jasmine S	6KM Curtis P	6KM Curtis P
6AW Jorel H	5MH Madalyn M	5MH Madalyn M
PKU Luke A	4NM Frankie S	4NM Frankie S

PKU Jazmine N	4RH Jake H	4RH Jake H
PCK Jacob S	6JS Sophie H	6JS Sophie H
1DB Taylia P	6JS Jedd G	6JS Jedd G
1KD Alistair M	5NW Dion B	5NW Dion B
PKP entire class	6JM Irene H	6JM Irene H
PMS Trey B	7SL Robbie S	7SL Robbie S
3NH Ebonee C	7BF Billy M	7BF Billy M
2KF Gus O	7BF Criscilla S	7BF Criscilla S
3MB Harrison V	4HK Aiden D	4HK Aiden D
2JL Summer N	3MB Elliot J	3MB Elliot J
2ML Daniel H	PKP Trinity W	PKP Trinity W
1KC Taleah G	PCK Karlson C	PCK Karlson C
1CB Joe M	PKU Lily M	PKU Lily M
PST Ben W	2JL Tairone H	2JL Tairone H
7BF Nicolas A	1DB Krish K	1DB Krish K
7BF Hannah D	3KW Tina H	3KW Tina H
6JS Daniel E	1JE Dannii B	1JE Dannii B
4RH Jessie	1CB Hayley G	1CB Hayley G
4RH Korbyn	1KC Jackson M	1KC Jackson M
4/5AS Dylan B	3/4SC Isaiah J	3/4SC Isaiah J
4HK Ben B	PKP Hayley A	PKP Hayley A
7SL Bailey H	3KV Shannon M	3KV Shannon M
4NM Kaitlin F	3KV Shandi M	3KV Shandi M
6AW Meghan S	3KV Jordan T	3KV Jordan T
6KM Chanel N	3KV Kyle D	3KV Kyle D
5MH Monique M	PMS Liam N	PMS Liam N
6KM Kaitlin T	PKP Haley A	7BF Chloe S
5NW Lochie C	2JL Tori B	6KM Curtis P
6KM Chelsea C	2ML Adam K	5MH Madalyn N
6JS Daniel E	1CB Ella H	4NM Frankie S
4/5AS Lacey H	1KD Monique M	4RH Jake H
4/5AS Kimberly W	2KF Lucas K	6JS Sophie H
4CS Harry H	3KV Jaison B	6JS Jedd G
5NW Dion B	3MB Elliot J	3KW Tina H
6JM Irene H	PKP Trinity W	1JE Dannii B
7SL Robbie S	PCK Karlson C	1CB Hayley G
7BF Billy M	PKU Lily M	1KC Jackson M
7BF Criscilla S	2JL Tairone H	3/4SC Isaiah J
4HK Aiden D	1DB Krish K	PKP Hayley A
3KV Shannon M	2JL Tori B	2JL Tori B
3KV Shandi M	2ML Adam K	2ML Adam K
3KV Jordan T	1CB Ella H	1CB Ella H
3KV Kyle D	1KD Monique M	1KD Monique M
PMS Liam N	2KF Lucas K	2KF Lucas K
PKP Haley A	3KV Jaison B	3KV Jaison B
2JL Tori B	PKU Luke A	3NG Nathan A
2ML Adam K	PKU Kady N	3NH Deen A
1CB Ella H	3KV Hope P	2ML Madison M
1KD Monique M	3KW Allyssa M	1CB Steven L
2KF Lucas K	PCK Kayla A	PMS Kira E
3KV Jaison B	2KF Brooke D	PST Ben P
3NG Nathan A	2JL Luke F	PGD Hayley S
3NH Deen A	2/3SC Sam N	1DB Ellie Rose D

2ML Madison M	1KC Eva E	PKU Taya C
1CB Steven L	PKP Kai T	PCK Jake G
PMS Kira E	1KD Ebony M	1KD Sarah R
PST Ben P	3MB Luke S	3KV Kristy Lee W
2/3SC Deegan E	PMS Lachlan E	3NH Kayla D
3NG Jordan M	PST Dionte E	2JL Chloe B
3NG Taya C	2KF Chloe G	3MB Tanisha R
2ML Madison M	1KC Michael D	1DB James D
PKP Tyla S	2ML Jake L	1CB Shailah C

School Nurse Visit for Prep Students

The Child Health nurse will commence Health Screening for all Prep Year children on **Tuesday March 24th 2009**. Health Screening enables health concerns to be addressed early, thus ensuring the best opportunity for learning. Screening includes vision and hearing, observation of growth and development, speech, language and social skills. If you wish to have your child participate in this very important health screening, please complete and sign the consent section of the Health History Card sent home with your child and return this to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

Children in Years 1 to 7 that may have a vision or hearing concern may also be seen by the nurse. Children may be referred by a parent or teacher **however all children must have a Health History card completed and signed by the parent**. A Health History card is available from the school office. Please return the completed card to the school office as soon as possible. All parents will be advised in writing of the outcome of your child's screening.

**Gayle Mowbray, Clinical Nurse
Child Youth and Family Health**

Student Information Cards

All parents will receive a copy of student information cards that list contact details, medical information and emergency contacts. It is extremely important that these be accurate so that school staff is able to contact you in case of emergency and know how to best support your child.

Please read the details on the card and make any changes clearly on the form. All forms are to be returned to classroom teachers, whether changes have been made or not, by the 20 March 2009.

If during the year your details change please contact the office so we have an accurate record on file.

Term 1 Key Event Date

In our next newsletter, a school calendar with key dates for the school year will be included. In the interim, the following dates for Term 1 are provided.

Term 1 2009 Key Dates

Date	Activity
Tues10 March	Chess Competition
Fri 13 March	"Clean Up School Day"
Mon 16 March	P&C AGM 9:30 am in staffroom
Wed18 March	Year 2 'Rockin Ranger' Activity in Undercover Area
Mon 23 - Fri 27 March	Year 4 Bike Safety
Fri 27 March	Sushi Day, Earth Hour activities
Tues 31 March	Year 1 Teddy Bear Picnic
Fri 3 April	School Fun Run
Mon 6 April	Senior School End of Term Assembly
Tues 7 April	Junior School End of Term Assembly
Wed 8 April	Term 1 Behaviour Reward Session
Thurs 9 April	Easter Bonnet Parade for Prep to Year 2
Fri 10 April	Good Friday
Fri 10 - Fri 17 April	Easter Holidays
Mon 20 April	Student Free Day
Tues 21 April	First Day of Term 2 for students