Principal’s Report

Meet the Teacher

Parents should soon receive an invitation to a Meet the Teacher opportunity next week. This is arranged to extend over a couple of days to best provide for families with children in a number of year levels. I urge all parents to come along to the Meet the Teacher and become as knowledgeable and involved in your child’s schooling as you possibly can. I say this because there is a significant amount of evidence that suggests that parental support and involvement is linked with better school outcomes for students. Even if you have had previous children in the class or personally know the teacher, it is likely that there will be new information to present at the Meet the Teacher meeting.

The process of teaching and learning is something that we know a lot more about now than when I started teaching. Teachers are steadily updating classroom practice and there may be some things that happen in the classroom that are different to when you attended school or even when an older sibling was in the class. When teachers are updating the way things happen in the classroom, it means that they have identified a ‘good practice’ to replace with an even better practice to further benefit your students. This is exactly the same as when dentists, pilots, and carpenters do things differently now than previously. I will give you two examples.

No hands up except to ask a question

In many classes, teachers use alternate methods of selecting students to answer questions than ‘hands up’. This is to ensure that there is full involvement in learning from all students. Some teachers use pop sticks, others use student selector apps or other methods to ensure that there is total involvement in the thinking in the classroom.

Student response systems

Teachers need to know what each student is thinking during the learning process whilst the teacher led and guided learning is occurring. They may employ a number of methods to find out or see how the students are going with the learning. This could be using ‘thumbs up, thumbs down’, ‘show me’ boards or other methods to see how the learning is going. This information informs the teacher as to whether to offer more explanation or not.

Teachers are also looking at the way they collect and mark student work. Feedback to students is most beneficial when it is timely and focussed upon a couple of aspects where the students presently are with their learning. Parents will need to understand and support teachers if they are adapting their marking routines. This again is because they have selected ‘good’ practices to replace with even better practices in order to make the very best use of their preparation time for the class.

I outline this to whet your appetite and raise your interest in coming along to the Meet the Teacher to find out about the curriculum, learning policies and other aspects planned for the class this year.

Day 8 process

It is established practice in Education Queensland schools that class allocations and teacher numbers are confirmed based upon the effective attendance on the eighth school day. Thursday, 6 February, is the magic day this year and following an enrolment check on this day, we will have final staffing and hence class allocations confirmed for the year. It is a fair process as it allows families to return from summer trips and settle back into the yearly routine and also ensures that teachers go where they are most needed on a fair basis across the state.

Each year, we plan classes based upon the anticipated enrolments as informed by families. Things happen in the meantime and we gain and lose students in different classes as school starts. We are expected to make adjustments to classes to ensure they fall within class size limits and that we have adequate room for growth for students moving into our school catchment. Please understand that where changes are made it is for these reasons. Where changes are made, we will make contact depending upon how significant the change will be and anticipated impact. We thank you for your support and understanding of our Day 8 process to settle classes down for the year ahead.

January Pupil Free Days

I wish to update our families on the work that was completed by teachers and teacher aides prior to school starting this year. Teachers have chalked up almost a week of professional development and meetings at school prior to Day 1. This time...
was spent on site engaged in significant professional activities in order to further benefit students here at Coomera.

I report on a couple of the agenda items that were covered by teachers.

An amount of time was spent upon our Coomera Pedagogical Framework. For many of the core aspects of the curriculum, teachers will be using an Explicit Instruction framework whilst making use of cooperative learning structures and ongoing monitoring of learning and feedback to students. It is expected that students will know what they are expected to learn, how to do well, how they are going and their next learning step. Teachers have time to develop proficiency with this pedagogical model and it acts as a framework and they continue to make professional decisions and choices as to how they apply this to best meet the needs of their class.

Teachers also spent time interpreting the national curriculum expectations, including the new Geography curriculum to prioritise the learning for their class. I congratulate all teachers on their level of professional team work and involvement in order to better benefit their class.

Deputy Principals Updates

Mrs Mary McCallum departs us this week for some approved leave until the end of term. We wish Mrs McCallum well for her travels and well deserved long service leave. We will certainly miss your experience and guidance as we start the school year.

Given that we have some changes to Deputy Principals this year, I have listed the relevant Deputies which will apply from next week:

Deputy Principal (Prep – Year 1) – Mr Ben Manthey
Deputy Principal (Year 2 – Year 4) – Mr Andrew Collis
Deputy Principal (Year 5 – Year 7) – Mrs Zoe Harlow (from Monday 10 Feb)

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Sheree Salazar and her husband for the safe arrival of their baby daughter.

The Deputy Principals and I will endeavour to get to as many Meet the Teacher sessions as we can so that you can put a face to a name.

Have a great week,

Chris McMillan
Principal
Coomera State School

CSS Office News

Finance Window

The finance window is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.15am to 9.30am. No other cash or EFTPOS payments will be accepted outside of these days/hours.

Payments Due

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity for payment</th>
<th>Amount due</th>
<th>Last day for payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canberra deposit – Year 6 and Year 7</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>Friday, 14 February 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Homework/Library Bags

Please note that these are now available for purchase from the Uniform Shop and will not be available from the finance window. The Homework/Library Bags remain at the same purchase price of $10 each.

Loading Zone for drop off and pick up of children

We have at the immediate front of the school (Dreamworld Parkway) a designated Loading Zone for the purpose of dropping off and collecting children. This has been provided to assist families with a quick and easy option to deliver and collect children from the school. This area is the zone which runs parallel to the school fence and is clearly marked with special parking restrictions. The way that this operates is that people drive up to the front of the zone where they can drop off or collect children without stopping or getting out of your vehicle. This area is assisted by school staff in the afternoon who will call out your family name to bring your children to your car. Please note that you should not park or leave your vehicle in this area. It will be patrolled by officers from the QPS.

Families who wish to use this area can assist by having their family surname marked on a card placed in a conspicuous place in front of the driver so that our staff can read and announce the name.

Parking around the school

Please note that there are parking restrictions denoted around the school through signage and also road markings. Families are advised to be very aware of these restrictions as this area is also regularly patrolled by the QPS in order to maintain road safety around the school. Our advice for good parking is to look for quieter parking spots further away from the school as there is easy access into the school along Dreamworld Parkway, Yaun Street, Beattie Road and Lorenzo Drive via an easement. The other option is to use the Loading Zone, as mentioned.

Please note that the QPS provides school patrols in the interest of the safety of children. You will find that ignorance of the signs or the fact that other drivers park in a certain place are not going to get you off a possible infringement notice. This is an unfortunate lesson learnt from others in the past. The other possible painful lesson to be aware of is that the fines around a school zone can be quite steep. The school seeks to have no families fined through making you aware of the existence of parking restrictions and patrols. The rest is up to you as a driver. Thank you for your assistance with this important safety consideration.
Greetings to the parents and families of the Coomera State School community, my name is Amy Skelton and I am the new Chaplain at Coomera State School. I would like to take this opportunity to share a bit with you about who I am and the function of my role as Chaplain within the school and local community.

My great passion is to work alongside children and young people, supporting them to achieve and excel to their full potential. I have experience in previous roles working with at-risk children and young people, community support as well as involvement as a youth leader.

During my role as a Chaplain I look forward to supporting the students within the school, whilst also being a support network for our teachers and parents of our students. It is a privilege to be a part of this school and to be welcomed by your wonderful children and staff members. A chaplain is a safe person within the school that young people are able to connect with, providing a compassionate presence, a listening ear and positive support network. Chaplains provide care and guidance for students who may be having struggles with a range of issues. These issues may include but are not limited to: family problems, relationship issues, friendship struggles, peer pressure, self-esteem issues, bullying, anxiety and stress.

All Chaplaincy services provided within the school community are operated in accordance with the Education Queensland Chaplaincy Policy. The network between the School and Chaplain as supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations provide a support system to benefit our young people to help face current issues, providing hope, meaning and purpose.

As the new chaplain I will continue to operate the positive, fun activities for young people- both internally and externally to the school in order to provide a supportive, safe and caring school community.

I am currently available at Coomera State School on Monday and Tuesdays. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me during the school hours, via the school office.

Thank-you again for your time,

Amy Skelton
Chaplain
Coomera State School

School Banking

School bank has commenced and will continue to occur every Thursday.

Tuckshop Menus

Menus are available from the tuckshop, front office and also on our school website.

Uniform Shop Operating Hours up until Friday 15 February 2014

The Uniform Shop operating hours will be as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.30am – 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8.30am – 9.15am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.30pm – 3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8.30am – 9.15am</td>
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Uniform Shop Opening Hours from Monday 17 February 2014

The Uniform Shop operating hours will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.30am – 9.15am</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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</tbody>
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Please be aware that the Uniform Shop is operated by volunteers and therefore is subject to differing operating hours due to the availability of our volunteers.

The uniform shop has been made available to purchase from on FlexiSchools.


You can select to have your items sent home via your child’s class or you can pick up from the shop during opening hours.

Volunteers Needed Urgently!

We urgently require volunteers to help in the Uniform Shop and Tuckshop. If you are able to assist please drop by the Tuckshop to pass on your details.
Community News

WAITANGI DAY UPPER COOMERA

Pacific Arts & Cultural Heritage Inc a newly founded not-for-profit Arts & Cultural organization based in Upper Coomera is proud to present WAITANGI DAY Upper Coomera 2014, a free community event.

The grounds of Upper Coomera Stage College will burst to life as we enjoy multicultural food, entertainment, arts & workshops on Saturday 8 February 2014 9am-5pm at Upper Coomera State College, Performing Arts Centre (PAC), Gate 2 137 Reserve Rd, Upper Coomera, Gold Coast.

Waitangi Day has been celebrated as a public holiday in New Zealand since 6 February 1960 and it commemorates a significant day in New Zealand history being the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi New Zealand’s founding document, that was signed in 1840 in the town of Waitangi in the Bay of Islands between the indigenous Maori people of New Zealand and the British Empire. The Treaty made New Zealand a part of the British Empire and guaranteed Maori rights to their land and also gave Maori the rights of British subjects.

Proceeds from this event will be donated to Bravehearts Inc who work to EDUCATE, EMPOWER & PROTECT KIDS.

The day will also be used to promote to young people an Anti-Bullying message as told by the cast of the new “Free You Be You” Anti-bullying music video campaign, ITS NOT COOL TO BE A BULLY!!!!

Please email PacificArtsInc@gmail.com for more info.