From the Principal...
Welcome back for Term 4. I hope everyone is well rested and looking forward to our last term of the year. We have so many activities coming up this term, so please keep reading the newsletter to keep up to date with what is happening.

Behaviour Audit commendations
Our school has received the final audit report from Auditor, Kerri Jones. I have included some of the highlights of the report. Overall, our school received very positive feedback from her and she was impressed with many aspects of our whole school behaviour systems in place. The entire report will be uploaded to our school website if you wish to access the full version.

Commendations and affirmations
- The school implements Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) and has a number of positively stated school wide expectations and appropriate behaviours that are clearly defined. These expectations are highly visible, continually communicated and are evident in the behaviour of most students.
- The Principal and SWPBS Team are driving an explicit, detailed and positive approach to managing student behaviour.
- Behavioural expectations, which are highlighted through the consistent use of B.U.D.S: are highly visible and engaging throughout the school environment.
- The B.U.D.S wall is evident in all classrooms and is used as a reference for both teaching and monitoring student behaviour.
- The RPBS clearly articulates expectations for student behaviours, a clear process for managing student behaviour and strategies for teaching students appropriate behaviours. The plan also provides clear guidance to staff members on the appropriate language to enhance student engagement and acknowledge positive behaviour.
- The SWPBS process is well applied and will further assist the school to reaffirm expectations, systems and processes to enhance the continuation of the school learning culture to ensure consistency of practice in the school.
- A variety of reward systems are in place to reinforce appropriate student behaviour. These awards are linked to the B.U.D.S focus of the week.

P&C Association
Tuesday 14th October 2014

SCHOOL HOURS:
School commences at 8.55am
School finishes at 3.00pm
Please be prompt.

Library bus will be here on Thursday 16th October.

EVERYDAY COUNTS!
Good attendance is vital to getting a good education as well as the law in QLD. Also, it is a requirement that absences need to be explained. Please phone us or send a note if your child is away. Holidays and other non urgent appointments should be scheduled for school holiday times.

A huge thank you to the P&C (and family members) and staff who have spent many hours working at the school over the school holidays. Many maintenance tasks were completed including sanding and oiling the Prep deck; replacing the playground edging (completed over the course of a week) and topping up with new sand. Our playground area is all brand new again!

Around the Classrooms ..
Prep—Yr 2 (Mrs Samuelsen)
This term we are looking at procedures. We are going to read, write and follow a variety of procedures and later in the term invite parents in for a demonstration.

Yrs 3/4 (Mrs Peach)
Poetry is the focus of our English Unit this term. We are going to read several Australian poems and discuss the language used. The assessment task for this unit involves comprehending a poem and writing an adaptation of a poem.

Yrs 5/6/7 (Mrs Kowitz/Mrs Martin)
We have started a new English unit, which compares the novel ‘Storm Boy’ by Colin Thiele, to the movie version. Students will be required to write a comparison, highlighting the similarities and differences between the two.
SCHOOL NEWS...

PREP OPEN DAYS - NOW TAKING 2015 ENROLMENTS
Please remember the following days and times for our Prep open days this term.

8.30am - 11.30am
Bring a hat, a piece of fruit and some morning tea
Day 2: 16th October
Day 3: 27th October
Day 4: 14th November
Day 5: 24th November

If you know someone who is planning on enrolling at our school in ANY YEAR LEVEL next year please have them contact the school ASAP.

STUDENT FREE DAY
A student free day, for all schools, is coming up on Monday 20th October. This is the only one that affects families in the school year. All staff will be attending professional development on that day in Gatton. So please remember to make arrangements for your child/ren for that day as there will be no staff here at the school.

JUMPROPE FOR HEART
Students are encouraged to keep fundraising. Remember this year we are part of the give back program:
50% of all funds raised go to our school
50% of all funds raised go to the Heart foundation
The top fundraiser for our school will win a Jumprope sports pack: 2 tennis racquets, 2 bantam racquets, a football, a basketball, a skill ball, a flexi ball, a skipping rope and a Frisbee.

Every child will receive a gift for participating.

We only have 4 weeks left to raise funds!

JUMP OFF day will be Wednesday 29th October.

FOOTSTEPS DANCE LESSONS
Our dance instructor was sick today so students were unable to start the first of our 3 dance lessons. So the lessons will now commence next Thursday. This activity is being paid for from school funds.

SWIMMING
Swimming lessons are scheduled to commence on Thur Oct 30. Approx cost will be $15 per child for the 4 lessons. This includes pool entry and coaching. The P & C have kindly offered to cover bus costs. For swimming all students are required to wear a sun safe swimming shirt and a swimming cap. Please check that your child has these prior to swimming lessons commencing.

For those students who are enrolled at Lockyer District High for 2015, the first of the transition days starts next week. Students have nominated their preferences for the activities that they would like to do during these afternoon visits. Please note that the transition days are different for Yrs 6 and Yrs 7. Your child will need parent transport to and from high school on each of these occasions. The afternoon visits are scheduled from 1:30pm - 3:10pm. There is also a letter, attached, from the high school outlining more information about the transition program.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos will be taken on Thursday 23rd October at 9.00am. Please find an order form/payment envelope attached to the newsletter. Please ensure that all details are filled out correctly as the school does not process the orders. These will be handed directly to the photographer. Please note that students should be wearing full school uniform on that day and also arrive on time, so photos are not held up waiting.

P&C NEWS
We would like to thank Janetta walker, Mrs Peach, Mrs Dionysi us, Mrs Samuelsen, Gary & Kym Samuelsen, Dan & Lindy Samuelsen & Bruce Samuelsen for their help on Saturday 26th September at the working bee. An extra BIG thank you to Bruce, Dan & Gary for giving up every afternoon for the following week to complete the new edging on the playground. THANK YOU it looks great!

DREAMWORLD
As part of our schools continued focus on improving students learning, we also focus the SWPBS team (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) presented to the P&C the idea of having an end of year rewards trip.

Students must exhibit positive behaviours at school to be allowed to go on this rewards excursion. Students must have received at least one ‘Behaviour Award Certificate’ this semester. Students who engage in any major behaviours (as defined in our Responsible Behaviour Plan), in the lead up time, will also be excluded. The Principal reserves the right to make discretionary decisions based on the individual circumstances if any major behavioural incidences occur. Therefore, it is important that all students make the effort to make positive behavioural choices.

The P&C has agreed to support this excursion and is assisting with the cost of the bus. The school is also going to contribute to the cost of this rewards day, a small amount will remain for parents to contribute: $20 per child. No money is required at this stage.

Parents are welcome to join us at $55 each entry fee. More details will be provided closer to the date.

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Three ways to help your child's learning at home

The literacy and numeracy skills gained in early childhood set children up for life – so what can parents do at home to help their child get the best start?

Marianne Stenger reports:

1. Talk to and interact with your child whenever possible
   - **T** = Take time to talk, making yourself available for interactions
   - **A** = Ask questions to which you do not always know the answer
   - **L** = Listen actively
   - **K** = Know your child and the language they use. Build on this.

   A study on the power of “Talk” shows that the quantity of words spoken to a child in the first three years of life is associated with his or her language skills, vocabulary size and even IQ later in life.

   Also, children who are engaged in more conversation by their caregivers have been shown to know more colours, letters and shapes by the age of three than children who aren’t engaged in as much conversation early on in life.

2. Don’t limit your child to “baby talk”

   Research shows that the size of a child’s vocabulary in kindergarten predicts his or her ability to learn to read, so by using only “easy” words and simplified or even made up terms around your child, you are greatly limiting their ability to expand their vocabulary.

   Aside from this, making up words or changing the way they sound (saying “wuv” instead of “love,” for instance) can be confusing for a child who is just learning to speak. Don’t be afraid to use a more sophisticated vocabulary around your child – they pick things up quicker than you might expect.

3. Make reading materials readily available

   Research shows that having reading material available, whether it is owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children's achievement in reading comprehension.

   With this in mind, it's important to create a home environment where reading is valued. Even if you don't always have time to sit down and read one-on-one with your kids, you can still ensure that they are able to access a wide variety of age-appropriate reading material.

   You could also consider creating a room or quiet area in the home that is specifically dedicated to reading. Here you can keep all your reading materials, and also set up a cozy reading nook with a comfy sofa or bean bag, pillows and blankets, and plenty of good lighting.

   Just remember that creating a literacy-rich home environment doesn’t have to cost a lot of money; the most important thing is your support and involvement, whether that means playing and interacting with your child, reading to them, or taking the time to explain and discuss new words.

From the end of last term...

The nose knows!

At lunchtime, students were given the opportunity to see how good their sense of smell is. Working in pairs and blindfolded they took turns to sniff selected containers and try identify what it was inside.

This was a popular activity and many students had a go. Our champions were Alex and Josie from the upper class and Lucy-Ann and Ilsa from the middle class. They each correctly identified: Nutella, vegemite, cocoa powder, soya sauce and vinegar. The tough one which stumped all students was treacle (Mrs Thorpe was prepared to accept “golden syrup” for this). Between them the girls thought it could be honey or coffee!

Year 3 /4 students POOCH

Year 3/4 students enjoyed a second lesson practicing POOCH problem solving. POOCH is the problem solving strategy taken from the Peer Skills program which our senior students do. They very successfully managed to work through the strategy to deal with a number of presented problems and then to the at times frustrating game outside. It was good to see that even in a fast, hot game the students were able to “take that step back” and consider how to better deal with a potentially tricky situation. Well done!