Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY
20 Zone Swimming
24 Parent Info / Badge Ceremony
25 Playgroup 9—11am
26-27 State Principal’s Conf.
MARCH
16-20 Parent/Teacher Interviews
17 Colonial Performance
25-26 Emu Gully Camp
27 Softball/Cricket Carnival

Our school newsletter is published every fortnight and also available on our school website.

P&C Association
Tuesday 10th March
School library
3.30PM
All Welcome

SCHOOL HOURS:
School commences at 8.55am
School finishes at 3.00pm
Please be prompt.
Late arrivals need to sign in

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 sick. Holidays and other non urgent appointments should be scheduled for school holiday times.

From the Principal…

2015 School Priorities
This year we are focussing on Mathematics across the school as well as continuing the great work around Literacy from last year. We are particularly paying attention to ensuring every child understands the basic concepts required in Maths, through using diagnostic testing and intervention to correct student misconceptions. In addition, teachers are explicitly teaching a framework for improved problem solving in real life contexts. Some students are receiving extension work through the school’s involvement in the IMPACT program. These 14 students are enrolled in a virtual classroom, which consists of 12 weekly lessons and follow up activities. Their teacher, Mr Holdorf, is based in Brisbane and conducts live lessons each Tuesday morning via the ‘Learning Place’. The cost of this program is being borne by the school and funds received from the Great Results Guarantee program will be used. Apart from a few technical hiccups, the program is very engaging for the students and we look forward to an exciting new way of learning.

Parent Information sessions
Teachers will be holding information sessions for parents in their classrooms this year. The date to note is Tuesday 24th February commencing at 4.30pm.
We encourage parents to come along to hear about classroom expectations and learning programs for the year. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and to clarify and concerns you may have. The teachers are happy to assist you and your child to get the most out of their education.

School Captain and Student Leader badge presentation Ceremony
This will also be held on Tuesday 24th February following the information sessions. Planned starting time is 5.30pm and should only take about 15-20 minutes. We look forward to celebrating the induction of this our Year 6 students as our 2015 school leaders.

Around the Classrooms ...

Prep—Yr 2 (Mrs Samuelsen) This week Preps have been learning the sounds made by the letters 'satipn'. Year 1 and 2 students have been learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives. In maths preps have been exploring numbers in the environment. Year 1 and 2 students have been looking at how whole numbers can be partitioned into smaller parts.
Yrs 3/4 (Mrs Peach) In Science we are looking at the factors which influence plant growth. We are setting up several investigations over the next couple of weeks looking at these factors.
Yrs 5/6 (Mrs Kowitz/Mrs Martin) In Science we have been revising the three states of matter—solid, liquid and gas—and we have been investigating melting and freezing. This week we are seeing if we can make coconut oil, castor oil, water and olive oil solid by cooling them.

Congratulations to our Buddy of the Week award winners. All of these students were following the expectation of ‘Move safely around the school’. Well done to (from back left): Lucas, Chyane, Deanne, Summer, Riley, Declan, Haylee and Adam.
Students need a healthy school lunch for optimum learning. Just like at home, students must eat their freshly packed food such as sandwiches/salad/leftovers from dinner, fruit/vege sticks, yogurt etc first. Treats such as any pre-packaged foods, poppers, cakes/biscuits must be the last thing consumed, and only if they still hungry as these items are usually low in nutritional value. Some students are confused about what constitutes ‘healthy’ and require guidance from adults in reading nutritional panels. Some foods should never be packed such as lollies, chips and chocolates.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**
Thank you those parents who have promptly return their form. Return of outstanding forms would be appreciated as soon as possible.

**EMU GULLY CAMP Yrs 5 & 6**
As in past years, students in Years 5 & 6 will be attending Emu Gully Camp on Wed March 25 and Thursday March 26. The cost of the camp for students will be $50.00. (Please note that the actual cost of the camp is $160 and the balance is being subsidised by our P&C Association and the school budget.) No action is yet required. Permission and medical forms and camp information will be sent home soon as well as request for payment. Any parents who are having financial difficulties should contact Mrs Kowitz to discuss the matter.

We would hate for any students to miss out on this very important leadership camp which is part of our personal development program.

**THLSS PLAYGROUP**
**OUR SCHOOL IS STARTING A PLAYGROUP ON WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY!**
Please see attached flyer for details

**Student Council**
Student Council will hold a variety of ‘fun days’ this year. The money raised from these events will be used to purchase sports equipment and games for students to use during lunch times.

**Tuesday 17th February: Pancake Day!**
Students are asked to bring in $2 each to participate in a Pancake Morning Tea. (Mrs Samuelsen and P-1-2 will be making the pancakes)

**Wednesday 4th March: Let’s Celebrate Autumn “Crazy Wind Blown Hair Day”** Everyone is encouraged to wear colours of Autumn (yellows, browns and reds) and see how wind blown you make your hair look? Gold Coin Donation to participate.

**Friday 20th March: Bullying No Way Day!**
This is a National day to take action against bullying. Everyone is to wear orange to school. No cost to support this cause!

**Thursday 2nd April: Last day of Term Casual dress day. Gold Coin Donation to participate.**

As a school this year we are going to support the Leukaemia Foundation.

**Our Groundsman Mr Samuelsen is going to shave for the cause!**

**Students will be able to sign up to ‘colour their hair on the day’ or brave students will be able to ‘shave’ for a cause too!**

Last year we raised $1600 for the heart foundation. What can we raise this year for the Leukaemia Foundation?

**FOOT STEPS DANCING**
This term we have commenced a 5 week Dance program which is taught by the Footsteps Company. Dance forms part of The Arts curriculum and the lessons are being funded from the school budget. The students absolutely love these sessions which are held on a Thursday afternoon. Feel free to pop in early to watch the students as they are put through their paces.

**P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
This week the P&C meet for first time for 2015. Some decisions were made regarding this year’s fundraising ventures. The P&C play a valuable role in supporting the school through fundraising and services such as uniforms and tuckshops. This proceeds from this year’s fundraising will contribute towards cost of camps, performances and swimming. The special project for this year is to install a water cooler for the students.
Food for Thought

One of the things that all of us benefit from is encouragement. When you are feeling tired or are anxious about a situation in your life, a few well thought out words from a friend or family member can give you that emotional lift that helps you to pick yourself up and keep going.

However, it is very easy to get so involved in your own needs and wants that you don’t even notice when someone other than yourself is struggling. In a school community large or small, there are many opportunities for you to get alongside someone who may not be having the best of days.

If you notice that someone seems unhappy, don’t just walk away. Why not take a few minutes to talk to them, to offer your support. If they need more help than you can give, why not accompany them to talk to someone. Speaking to a counsellor or professional person can be intimidating for some; a friend to be there might help the worried person take that step.

Looking out for others is something that we could all be doing. It isn’t hard to play your part – just ask “Are you okay?”

This all contributes to making our school a truly caring community.

Marg Thorpe.. Chaplain