24 October 2013

Principal’s Column

Term 4

Term 4 is 10 weeks long and concludes on Friday 13 December. There is a lot on this term so please make sure you check the calendar in the newsletter and on our website regularly. Some important dates for your diary include:

- Friday 25 October – World Teacher’s Day and Day for Daniel (wear a red t-shirt)
- Friday 15 November – last day for ordering Booklists through OfficeMax
- Friday 22 November – last day for ordering uniforms for delivery by Jan 2014
- Thursday 5 December – final Assembly for the year and Year 7 Graduation
- Friday 6 December – Years 4-7 Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 11 December – Semester 2 Reports distributed to parents
- Thursday 12 December – Class Party Day
- Friday 13 December – Clean Up and Moving Day

World Teachers’ Day 25 October

This Friday we celebrate the great work of our teachers on World Teachers’ Day. The quality teaching in effect in our classrooms every day has a powerful effect on students’ performance. Visit http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/world-teachers-day.html for more information.

QSchools App

Now that our new website is up and running parents can keep in touch more easily by downloading the QSchools app for your iPad, iPhone or android device. The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information all schools you are interested in – not only Pereigan Springs SS.

The app is designed to integrate with our website. When we publish content to our website, the app is automatically updated, meaning parents can remain up-to-date with the latest news, events and newsletters. Emergency announcements, such as information about natural disasters and school closures, can also be published via the app. The app is particularly useful to parents who have students in different schools, as the app manages updates from multiple schools in a single view.

Features of the app to benefit parents/caregivers:

- access the latest school news and calendar events
- receive emergency announcements and information around school closures
- search for the nearest school by current location, postcode, school name or suburb and view school contact details
- follow multiple schools
- available to download free via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play.

Free for schools and parents

- QSchools is available to the school community as a free download via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play.

Download and stay in touch today! If you have the alerts setting on, dates such as those above will pop up on your phone.

Student Free Day in October – Geography and team building

Monday 21 October was a Student Free Day. Teachers were engaged in professional development about the newest Australian Curriculum subject to be implemented – Geography. Geography (and History, implemented this year) used to be taught as part of Studies of Society and Environment. Your children may know this as SOSE. The Australian Curriculum has teased History, Geography and Civics Education out of SOSE and these subjects will now be taught, assessed and reported on as discreet units of work.

Teachers and Teacher Aides were also involved in team building exercises designed to help us all work together more harmoniously and productively. Now that we are such a big school we have to make an effort to get to know each other well. Staff relationships with each other have a strong influence on students and we believe it is an important area to put effort towards.

Student Resource Scheme and Booklists for 2014

To enable parents to be organised and to plan their budgets we have distributed information about the Student Resource Scheme for 2014 (remaining at $100 per child) and Booklist...
requirements for 2014. These items will soon be added to our new website as well. (Chris Wise and I are still learning how to operate the software!)

The Student Resource Scheme payment can be made at the school office or directly into the school bank account.

Booklists can be ordered through OfficeMax (our P&C’s preferred supplier) or from any other source suitable for you. Remember, if your child is participating in the mLearning Program in Years 5-7 they need less stationery – make sure you choose the right list. Ring the office if you are in doubt.

**mLearning, wifi, devices in classrooms and the changing state of learning in our schools**

Technology and the Internet are changing the way we learn, the way we define education, and the way we think about work in some pretty rapid and radical ways - all of which has huge implications for our children and their futures. Parents (and many teachers) find it difficult to grapple with what look like mind-boggling ideas! Raising Modern Learners (http://raisingmodernlearners.com/about/) is a dedicated website helping parents stay abreast of these changes in timely, thought-provoking, concise, and interactive ways, and to help them find ways to understand and support modern, student-centred change in their schools. We are extremely fortunate at Peregian Springs to have so many teachers focused on what kids need in their futures and who work to implement modern learning in their classrooms.

**Nude Food Day – Wednesday 23 October**

We had a go at rubbish-free lunch boxes on Wednesday. This is part of our education plan to reduce our environmental footprint and encourage students to bring less packaging and healthier food to school.

As with our Travel Smart days, this was hugely successful – judging by the look of our rubbish bins at the end of the day. Thank you to all parents who got into the spirit of the challenge and provided Nude Food for their children’s lunch boxes. Let’s all make an effort to do this more often. Some schools are managing to do this every day of the week!

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**Preparing for Prep 2014**

Just a reminder if you have a little one starting school next year

- Enrolment forms are due now
- Pre-prep playgroups have started – don’t miss out
- Uniform orders are due by 22 November

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**Indoor Sports Centre**

I have been notified that the build on our Indoor Sports Centre will start on Monday 28 October. This is very exciting and also very disruptive! It seems you can’t have something really valuable with a whole lot of pain! Our playground areas will be curtailed for the next 6-9 months and children will be playing in different areas of the school. Class teachers will have new playground maps if parents are interested in this.

Our Indoor Sports Centre also includes two new classrooms. This is a huge bonus as it means classrooms won’t be built in our precious playground space.

**Infected cuts and scratches**

We have a lot of children with infected cuts and scratches at the moment. One of our parents has done some research around this and believes it is related to the continual building program in our community. This creates a lot of environmental dust and microscopic debris that sits on the skin and causes a reaction when children get nicks and cuts. Her suggestion was that parents buy a cheap body scrub and mix it with antiseptic wash and scrub their children from top to bottom a couple of times a week. This may help reduce minor scratches and cuts become large infected sores.

**Award**

Congratulations to Alex Huxley for winning the inaugural Award for Exemplary Practice from the Modern Language Teachers Association last weekend. It’s not every day you get to have dinner with the Minister for Education. Great effort, Alex!

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**Day for Daniel**

Tomorrow (Friday) is Day for Daniel. This is not a celebratory or memorial day. It is a day for raising awareness about child safety. Children can wear a red t-shirt to school. There is no need to bring a gold coin for this. All week teachers have been providing lessons for students to build their awareness and skills in keeping safe.

**Visual Arts Program**

Our trial Visual Arts Program this year has provided three specialist art lessons a term for Years 2 to 7 with our resident artist, Karen Elzinga. Unlike the other specialist lessons, class teachers attend these lessons with their students. There have been some amazing pieces of art and installations produced and many are on display throughout the school.
Last Friday Karen left an unexpected gift at Assembly – a piece of work she has done which is all about our school. It is beautiful and the more you look at it, the more you see. The painting is on display in our foyer for the whole school to enjoy. Thank you, Karen – this legacy to our school is very much appreciated.

Cybersafety and online behaviour

At Peregian Springs State School we take our responsibility to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff very seriously. This responsibility includes considering issues related to cybersafety.

Cybersafety is a broad term referring to behaviour in the online environment – it covers online privacy and information protection, good and bad manners, and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues. Comments posted online about people and organisations may impact permanently on their digital reputation. This includes teachers, other staff and students and the school. There can be very real negative consequences from online posts – relationships between school staff, students and parents can be permanently changed for the worse.

Facebook and other social networking sites are generally not private communities and, depending on an individual’s security settings, comments can be read by many people and remain online indefinitely.

If you or your child is posting information online about the school, staff or students, I ask that you consider the ramifications of these comments on the school and any individuals in the school community concerned. As a rule of thumb:

- Public discussion is most effective when it is conducted in a polite and respectful manner;
- Before posting, consider whether those people you are posting about want information, including photos and comments regarding them and their children, posted on Facebook or on other sites. Perhaps ask them before you do it;
- Rather than airing complaints or grievances in a public forum like Facebook, come and talk to the school first about how to resolve your concerns;
- Remember that as a parent you have a responsibility to supervise and regulate your own children’s online activities at home and their impact on the reputation and privacy of others.

For further information on managing cybersafety, please go to http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/behaviour/qsaav/info-parents.html

If you have any concerns and would like to discuss further I invite you to make an appointment with me.

Until next fortnight...

Gwen

Enrolments for Prep 2014

By now enrolment documents should be returned to enable our office staff to book your child in for Pre Prep Playgroups and interviews.

Phone: 5351 2222 or call into the office for enrolment enquiries or to make your bookings if you have not already done so.

Pre Prep Programme has commenced.

You must return your enrolment documents before you can book in for this.

Deputy Principal’s Column

The term is getting very busy and exciting. We are already looking at announcing the end of year activities and Christmas.

Giving Tree

The student leaders will be organising a gift collection for families in need. A Christmas tree will appear in the office foyer in Week 6 and all donations will be kindly distributed by the Coolum Salvation Army. They will pick up all the gifts at the end of week 9 on Friday 6 December.

Student leaders 2014

Nomination forms will be distributed this week to any student in Year 5 or Year 6 who wishes to nominate for the position of Student Leader in 2014. A parent and the class teacher must sign all nomination forms.

Important dates to remember are as follows:

- Wednesday 23 October nominations forms distributed.
- Wednesday 30 October nominations close.
- Friday 8 November shortlisted applicants will be notified and will need to write a speech.
- Tuesday 12 November all speeches to be handed into the Deputy Principal to check.
- Wednesday 13 November speeches are presented to all students in Year 4 to Year 7 who will be eligible to vote.
- Thursday and Friday 15 and 16 November short listed applicants interviewed by Principal or Deputy Principal.
• Week 7 all applicants notified as to whether they were successful or not.
• Thursday 5 December School Leaders presented with their badges.

Travel Smart Classroom Challenge Week 5

We will conduct a Travel Smart classroom challenge during Week 5 this term.

Classes will complete a tally sheet recording the number of students who walk, ride, bus or car-pool to school. Winning classes in Prep to Year 1, Years 2 to 3, Years 4 to 5 and Years 6 to 7 will have a choice of Travel Smart prizes.

What an amazing piece of art work!

Sandy Cathcart

Head of School – Student Support

During our Pupil Free day in Term 4, teaching staff participated in activities from our successful Rock and Water program. This program focuses on building self-control, self-reflection and self-confidence skills in students. They build confidence in social and emotional learning, including themes of safety, assertiveness, communication and listening to their body.

The themes mentioned above are interrelated in the program by four leading threads:

• **Grounded, being centred and focused:** learning how to stand firm and relaxed, how to concentrate your breath in your belly and focus attention (first external, later transformed to an internal goal).

• **The golden triangle of body-awareness – emotional awareness – self-awareness:** Emotions are expressed in the body by way of muscular tension. Therefore, increased body awareness can lead to more insight and experience of one’s own patterns of reaction, which in turn can offer a chance to deepen and further develop the emotional awareness and self-awareness. In fact, this concept is the basis of every martial art that has an eye for the development of mental and inner power.

• **Communication:** the development of physical forms of communication as a basis for the development of other, more verbally oriented, forms of communication.

• **The Rock and Water concept:** the tough, immovable rock attitude versus the mobile, communicative water attitude. This concept can be developed and applied at various levels: the physical, the mental and the social level.

At a social level – for instance in a conversation – it is also possible to choose between a rock and a water attitude and the same choice applies to the way in which one maintains relationships with others. Finally, at a spiritual level, the apparent opposites between rock and water disappear. Then the insight and experience come about that both ways are needed to reach happiness and that people, in their deepest essence, are connected to each other and go along a path together.

David Foxover

Head of School - Curriculum

Geography

Our Teachers were very busy this past Monday, learning about the new Australian Curriculum subject of Geography. They worked collaboratively to discover and understand the seven concepts, which form the basis of the Geography curriculum: place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, change and scale. All staff will continue working to understand and learn about this new curriculum area across the rest of the year.

We are beginning to collate a bank of visual resources to support all classes with their Geography studies in the future years. One of the best sources of these are old calendars of places and icons around Australia and the rest of the world. If you have any old calendars collecting dust at your house, we would love to take them off your hands. Please bring them to your child’s Class Teacher or drop them in to me at the Office.

The Australian Curriculum: Geography will be implemented from Prep – Year 7 in Queensland State Schools from 2014. You can read more about the Australian Curriculum at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Rose Marszalek

Resource Centre News

Library Bags

One of the school requirements especially for students from Prep to Year 3 is a library bag. After much discussion about the quality of the original library bags, we have sourced a waterproof bag and I encourage all new families to purchase one for each of your children. It will save you money in the end if you have to pay for replacement books that have been water-damaged by leaky water bottles. Thank you to all the creative parents who have custom-made colourful and practical bags that are also waterproof. When sewing for next year, please consider adding the name of your son or daughter and lining the bag with waterproof fabric.
Outstanding Library Loans

On the Student Free Day this week, you may have received a phone call from our library teacher-aide, Meryl Todd, reminding you that your son or daughter has extremely overdue books. This is the second reminder because she has previously contacted you in a letter about this. We are not like the public library. We are a small school library with a much smaller budget and fewer staff and volunteers trying very hard to service over 700 students and 40 staff. We can’t afford to lose books when some students just can’t be bothered returning them. Mostly what concerns me is that students who don’t return their books can’t re-borrow and other students may be waiting for those items to be returned.

Annual P& C Fundraiser and Book Fair (Friday November 8 – 15)

We are very proud that our Book Fair supports a local business, Annie’s Books in Peregian Beach Village and for the past 2 years we have been able to purchase nearly a $1000 worth of books for the school library as a result of your support. So thank you and please continue to support us this year.

Cartoon Dave

Dave Hackett will be at the Book Fair after school on Thursday November 14 from 3.15pm. You can have books signed by him after his session.

Maree Johnson

Engaging Adolescents Program

Getting prepared for adolescence for parents

Being the parent you want to be by knowing:

• what is happening inside the teenage brain

• how to stay connected with your teenage kids

• how to deal with the difficult issues when you need to

Where: Peregian Springs State School library
When: Friday 1, 8, 15 November from 9:15 – 11:45am
Cost: $10 for the Parent Workbook
Bookings: Return registration form attached to this newsletter to the school office by 30th October.

Gerard O’Brien
Behaviour Support

Mental health and wellbeing: an overview

Studies show a strong link between the quality of parent-child relationships and young people’s mental health. Healthy family relationships may reduce the chances of your child experiencing mental health problems.

Your support can have a direct and positive impact on your child’s mental health. Here are some ideas to promote your child’s mental health and wellbeing:

• Show love, affection and care for your child.

• Show that you’re interested in what is happening in your child’s life. Praise his good points and achievements, and value his ideas.

• Enjoy spending time together one-on-one with your child, and also as a family.

• Be there for your child. Encourage your child to talk about feelings with you. It’s important for your child to feel she doesn’t have to go through things on her own, and that you can work together to find solutions to problems.

• Deal with problems as they arise, rather than letting them build up.

• Talk to family members, friends, other parents or teachers if you have any concerns. If you feel you need more help, speak to your GP or another health professional.

Physical health is related to mental health. To help your child stay emotionally and physically healthy, encourage your child to do the following:

• Keep active – physical fitness will help your child stay healthy, have more energy, feel confident, manage stress and sleep well.

• Develop and maintain healthy eating habits.

• Get lots of regular sleep. Quality sleep will help your child to manage a busy life, stress and responsibilities.

• Avoid drugs and alcohol.
Adapted from: http://raisingchildren.net.au
Your Special Education Program Staff Team:
Jane Thiselton, Janet Crow, Amanda Tinney, Melissa Martin, Maree Burgess, Natalie Trappett, Lisa Seagg and Trillian Wansbrough

P & C News
pandc@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au

Uniform Shop
Opening Times: Wednesdays 2.00pm-3.15pm and Fridays 8.30am-9.30am.
Additional Hours for the remainder of the Term: Thursdays 10.00am – 11.30am.
Library Bags: $12.50
Our new library bags have finally arrived, they are a lot sturdier than our old ones and also waterproof to help against those nasty spills in our backpacks. We look forward to our library books being more protected.

New to our uniform shop is our very own:
Pencil Case: $8.95
Hair accessories: $3.95 to $8.25

Many Thanks
Lynne, Sonia and Terri

Student Celebrations
We have amazing kids in our school achieving in their chosen interests at high levels. If your child has achieved something wonderful outside school please let us know either through the office, your child’s teacher or email the.principal@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au.
We love to hear about what our kids are doing!

Dental Van
We are currently finishing check-ups on Preps and Year 5s. Medical histories have been handed out to all Year 3s and 4s. All forms should now be in. Any late returns will be seen, but may have to follow us to the next school for treatment.

A reminder that children will be asked to positively identify themselves by stating their date of birth before any procedure commences.

The staff working in the dental van is happy to assist you with any concerns you may have with regard to your child’s oral health.

Please call the dental van direct on 0408 008 154 between the hours of 8.00am – 8.30am and 3.30pm – 4.00pm.

Lori Lacey
Dental Therapist

Payments Procedure PSSS
Due to the requirements of Education Queensland with regards to banking and cash on premises, the school office is unable
to process payments after 12.00 p.m. each day. Payments can be made online.

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<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>Last day to pay via EFT</th>
<th>Last day to pay via Cash/Card</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 Gubbi Gubbi Dance</td>
<td>Tuesday 29 October</td>
<td>Wednesday 30 October</td>
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<td>Year 3 Goombuckar</td>
<td>Wednesday 6 November</td>
<td>Thursday 7 November</td>
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<td>Senior Shirts 2014 Years 5 and 6</td>
<td>ORDERS CLOSE 1 NOVEMBER 2013</td>
<td>PAYMENT CLOSES 6 FEBRUARY 2014</td>
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<td>SRS</td>
<td>PAYMENTS SHOULD NOW BE FINALISED FOR 2013</td>
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<td>2014 Agreements are available now. Payments can now be made.</td>
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**UNIFORMS**

Please ensure students have the correct uniform at all times by ordering items from the Uniform Shop.

All children require **black shoes**. We recommend black joggers as children are engaged in a lot of physical activity at school. Currently there are many children wearing shoes of other colours or wearing shoes that do not support vigorous activity.

Our school community is proud of our school uniform and takes pride in the way children present themselves. We note that children who present at school in clean and tidy uniforms are often better behaved and more attentive in class.

Your cooperation in ensuring your child is wearing the correct uniform is appreciated.

**Follow us on Facebook**

We have 350+ families following us on Facebook. Simply search Peregian Springs State School and click ‘Like’. We are regularly posting news and reminders. Our feed also appears on the opening page of our website. **This service is for parents.** Children must be 13+ to be allowed a Facebook page.

**Community Notices**

Free Breast Cancer Screening in Noosaville

Noosaville Professional Centre, 90 Goodchap St.

Saturday Appointments Available

This FREE service is available to all women aged 40 and over. Women aged 50 - 74 are particularly encouraged to attend.

No doctor’s referral is needed.

Phone 13 20 50

Breast cancer is a serious disease that affects one in nine Queensland women in their lifetime.

Having a regular breastscreen every two years is the best way to detect breast cancer early and gives you a better chance of successful treatment and recovery.

For bookings or further information on BreastScreen locations please phone 13 20 50.
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