30 January 2014

Principal’s Column

Welcome back!

Welcome back to our new school year. I trust everyone had a restful and fun break. It did seem to go very fast. We’ve had a great start with children settled and already working hard. Once all the new books and stationery were sorted all classes were hard at work. Even Preps were already learning at 9.20am on Tuesday!

New Staff

We welcome many new staff members to our school this year. Welcome to Hillary Dean, Jonathan Mitchell, Chris Cashman, Renee Chagoury, Kerri-Lee Treskow, Teagan Hunt, Lucy Jorgensen, and Jessica Birss. And a couple have returned after leave – Clair Allan and Elaine Williamsz. All bring with them a range and wealth of experiences.

School Structure for the beginning of 2014

We have started the school year with nearly 800 students from nearly 550 families! Where have you all come from?

Classes

Prep - Amanda White, Kerrie-Lee Treskow, Sandi Wenck, Sara Hollonds, Sarah Albertson, Clair Allan, Lucy Robson
Year 1 – Fran Valadian, Rachel Dowling, Diane Faulkner, Lee Gray, Aminie Holt, Lucy Jorgensen
Year 2 – Jan Green, Lisa Parker, Meredith Moody, Teagan Hunt,
Year 3 – Rebecca Brian, Jessica Birss, Renee Chagoury, Heidi Wise, Aimee Thomas, Pam Gore, Simon Thomas
Year 4 – Joel Hughes, Kathleen Gordon, Brooke Saunders, Jonathan Mitchell,
Year 5 – Emma Smith, Kirsten Holmes, Kent Campbell, Andrea Hall
Year 6 – Peter Schumacher, Rebecca McCann, Chris Cashman
Year 7 – Chris Wise, Justin Dixon,

Specialists

Sofia Hobson (Performing Arts), Cameron Hutchins (Physical Education), Alex Huxley (Japanese), Maree Johnson (Teacher-Librarian), Jane Thiselton, Hillary Dean, Amanda Tinney and Janet Crow (Special Education) and Melanie Timbs, Danae Steer and Alex Jennings (Learning Support, Gifted Education, ESL).

Leadership Team – myself, Sandy Cathcart (Deputy Principal and lead administrator for Year 2 and 3), Rose Marszalek (Head of School: Curriculum and lead administrator for Prep and Year 1), David Foxover (Head of School: Student Support and lead administrator for Years 4-7) and Jill Hamilton (Business Services Manager)

Office staff – Karen Siddle, Kaz Jones, Sonia Sheridan

Teacher Aides – Annette Alexander, Fiona Lewis, Jacquie Christie, Meryl Todd, Toni Goulевич, Lisa Seagg, Natalie Trappett, Melissa Martin, Tanya Valentine, Tania Robinson, Jodie Dennis, and Elaine Williamsz, Jane Catterall, Kylie Armitage

Facilities staff – Mark Coert, Craig Alexander, Marilyn Davies, Allan Hayes, and Robyn Felmingham

The office foyer features a display of all staff photographs to enable parents to identify people working in the school. Some teachers allow students to use their first name. This is not disrespectful – merely an individual choice and children soon get to know who everyone is.

Parent Information Afternoons

During the first few weeks all teachers will hold a Parent Information Afternoon in their classroom. Each teacher will let their parents know when this is. They will share with parents how their class runs and what their expectations are for the year. This is a great opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and ask questions specific to the class.

Before and After School - Pick Up and Drop Off

Despite our ample parking there simply isn’t enough spaces for 500+ cars before and after school. Please be mindful of our neighbours and keep off their lawns and driveways when you are parking. You may want to delay your pick up until 3.10pm. Children are safe either within the gates or waiting out the front and there are often lots of spaces by then.

We encourage parents to develop independence in your children as soon as possible by letting them walk or ride to school with their friends or in small groups with maybe one parent for supervision. We promote our status as a TravelSmart school and many children have developed great habits with getting themselves to school on their own steam.

Please wait in the central pathway or the Central Covered Games Area or out the front of the school until the bell goes at 3.00pm. It is very distracting for children and teachers to
have parents hovering at doors and windows when last minute messages are being given out at the end of the day.

**Back to School Reminders**

Earlier in the week we distributed an information sheet of Back to School Reminders. This is a good one to put on the fridge for later reference. You will also find it on our website in the newsletter section.

**Swimming for Years 1-3**

Swimming for Years 1, 2, and 3 begins on Friday 14 February for 8 weeks. Prep and Years 4-7 swim in Term 4. We swim every week – even if it’s raining! Please ensure you have paid for swimming by Friday 7 February.

**Art Lessons**

Last year we were able to provide specialist visual art lessons to students in Years 2-7. Karen Elzinga, our teacher for this program, is unable to continue with this in 2014 so we are on the lookout for a replacement for her. Until then art will be taught as part of the classroom program.

**Keep a watch over our school – 13 17 88**

To keep our school safe and free from vandalism we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. Keep the number handy and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

**Assembly**

Our first Assembly for the year will be tomorrow morning at 8.40am – I hope we all fit! All parents, carers and other family members are welcome to attend.

**Census Day**

On Thursday 6 February the Department collects the number of students in each state school and makes a determination about the allocation of staff and resources for the school year.

If your child is away for any reason next Thursday we ask that you notify the school office in writing (email is fine) stating the reason for the absence and the expected date of return. We must prove to the auditors that your child will be returning to school and therefore is able to be counted as an enrolment.

Thank you for your cooperation with this. Please don’t hesitate to call the school office on 5351 2222 if you have any questions about this process.

**Principal’s Blog**

I blog irregularly throughout the year about our school and education in general. This fortnight I have written about the importance of acknowledging people as we go about our business. You can find this post and all previous posts at http://peregianposts.blogspot.com.au/

**Until next fortnight...**

*Gwen*

**Dates for your diary**

Keep an eye on the calendar in Schoolzine (our newsletter service) and on the website. All important dates and changes are recorded there.

To help you get started for the year, here are a few urgent things coming up:

- Thursday 6 February – school Census Day
- Thursday 13 February – Brainstorm Productions. This is a visiting performance for Years 2-7. Make sure you have paid your Student Resource Scheme before this to enable your child to attend.
- Thursday 13 February 7.00pm – first P&C for the year
- Thursday 22 February - Brainstorm Productions. This is a visiting performance for Prep and Year 1. Make sure you have paid your Student Resource Scheme before this to enable your child to attend.
- Friday 23 February – District Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 19 March – National Ride to School Day
- Wednesday 26 March – Year 4 and 6 go on camp
- Thursday 3 April – Run Walk Challenge
- Friday 4 April – end of Term 1
- Tuesday 22 April – start of Term 2

Download the QSchools App and get these updates and more to your smartphone or tablet.

**Drop off and Pick Up Zone**

Our Drop Off and Pick Up Zone is an easy way to get children into school quickly in the mornings and pick them up safely in the afternoons. Just remember:

- No parking in there at any time – even if you are sitting in the car. The queuing area is reserved for cars waiting to move into the green zone to pick up children who are already waiting there. This applies even when there is no staff member to monitor the area.
- If your children are not in the green zone keep driving around until they are – when cars park here they cause a traffic jam that stretches out passed the roundabout and up to the traffic lights. This prevents buses from access to the school and creates more
congregation. Keep driving until your children are at the Green Zone

- If you have more than one child and they haven’t all arrived at the Green Zone either keep driving until they are all there or pick up the waiting one and keep driving. You cannot wait here until your child arrives.
- Teach children to open the boot of the car and the doors themselves – this saves time at Pick Up. When staff are there they are always happy to help.
- Tell others who pick up your children how to use the Zone – especially grandparents who are always the most apologetic for not knowing what to do!
- Be patient and practice respectful communication with all who use the area – remember your children are watching you and everyone else and learning from what they see. There have been raised eyebrows from children on more than one occasion!

Deputy Principal’s Column

Messages from Sandy

Welcome to the first week back at school in 2014! I always feel so excited when I see all the happy faces of our students returning for another year. There is such a buzz in the air as parents struggle along the paths with boxes of stationery and at the same time eagerly greeting other parents. As I visited the classrooms on the first day, every hand shot up into the air when I asked who wanted to learn even more this year. I would like to also express a special welcome to all our new families. There are so many of you who have travelled from afar to settle down in Peregian Springs.

Buddies Show Week 3 & 4

The Buddies Show has been invited to the school to help with the promotion of the message about Safe Internet Usage. The cost of the show has been included in the Student Resource Scheme. Students in Years 2 to 7 will attend on Thursday 13 February and students in Prep and Year 1 will attend on Thursday 20 February in the afternoon session.

Swimming lessons for Year 1, 2 and 3

Swimming will start on Friday in Week 3 for students in Year 1, 2 and 3 classes. Letters containing permission and Medical Forms will be distributed this week. Swimming is part of the curriculum and in Term 4 students in Prep, Year 4, 5, 6 and 7 will also attend lessons.

School Starting Time

As a safety precaution, the school discourages any students arriving at school before 8.15 a.m. If a student arrives prior to that time, they will need to wait outside the office area until 8.15 a.m. and an explanation will be requested by the Deputy Principal.

After that time, a staff member supervises students who need to wait in the Junior, Senior or Central Under Cover areas. Students are allowed to play hand-ball games or sit quietly with friends.

School Closing Time

All parents are requested to wait on the undercover central pathway until the 3.00 p.m. bell. After this time, parents are invited to walk to the respective classrooms. Classroom learning time is maximised when students are able to quietly work in their rooms without outside distractions until 3.00 p.m.

We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Have a happy year!

Sandy Cathcart

Bumper Stickers are here

Peregian Springs State School Car Bumper stickers for sale $2 at the office.

All proceeds go towards buying more school resources.

Head of School – Student Support

It is with great excitement that I look forward to a new year in my role as Head of School Student Support for 2014. This year we will again be focusing on assisting our students in responsible decision making and fostering resilience and confidence in them, as they socially and emotionally develop throughout the year.

I have included a great checklist on how you can ensure your child gets the best start to the year from parenting expert Michael Grose. Have a great start to the year and enjoy your child’s successes.

1. Routine. This is a simple concept, but it’s often hard to follow through with getting back into a normal schedule before the school year starts. It’s our job to do it. Moving into a normal schedule eases the kids back into bedtimes, breakfast times and basic management of the day. It also helps reduce stress and anxiety as you are doing all you need to do to get them up and out the door on time.

2. Nutrition. Our kids need to start off each day with a healthy breakfast as fuel for the day. Their brains and bodies are going to be working hard for the next 6-8 hours that they are at school. They need a healthy lunch to re-fuel and get them through the second part of the day also.

3. Keep the learning going in everyday situations. Take the kids to the store and use it as an opportunity to work on math skills. When travelling pull out a map and have them navigate. Lead them into learning without them even knowing.

4. Talk to your kids about school. Ask them how they are feeling. Support the positive feelings about it, and do what you can to ease the anxiety. Keep an open dialogue with them and let them know you are there to support them.
5. Be positive for them. Your attitude will help support their attitude to learning. Focus on the positives in the learning process at the start of the year.

6. Meet the teacher. Meeting the teacher can be a great way to ease anxiety for you and your child. It provides a sense of familiarity on the first day of school.

7. Travel routines. Plan school pick-up and drop-off routines so your child feels confident in getting to and from school.

8. Trust your teacher. You know your child better than anyone and often it is hard to drop them off with a new person. However, trust your teacher. They are trained professionals and they know how to deal with separation issues that your child may have. If it is beyond what they are able to comfort, they will call you.

David Foxover

Head of School - Curriculum

Welcome Back

Welcome to all our new families and welcome back to our returning families. I hope that you settle into your new school and class quickly, and enjoy our amazing school. We have another exciting year ahead - our 5th year!

My role, as Head of School - Curriculum, is to oversee all aspects of curriculum planning, implementation and assessment across the school. I am also the lead Administrator for Prep and Year 1. So if you are a parent of a student in those two year levels, your children will see a fair bit of me popping in and out of their classrooms to see what’s going on and to provide support to them and their Teachers.

Geography

2014 sees the introduction of the newest Australian Curriculum subject of Geography. A lot of concepts taught in Geography were previously covered in SOSE. The Geography curriculum has an emphasis not just on geographical understanding, but also geographical skills including a fieldwork component. Students will also be studying the local area and extending to the wider world across each year level. If you have any old calendars showing different environments (forest, desert, mountains, oceans, city, and country) or places around Australia or the World, we would love to have them. Please drop them into the school office or your child’s Teacher. These will help to provide visual connections for students in their quest for geographical knowledge.

Class Parent Meetings

All Class Teachers will be conducting Parent Meetings in the first few weeks of the school year. At this meeting they will outline their class programs, including their expectations for behaviour, homework, attendance and how they can help your child at home and around the school. Please make sure that you keep an eye out for when this meeting is happening for your child’s class. The best way to do this is to make sure that your child’s Teacher has your email address. Most of our Teachers regularly communicate and send information home to parents electronically, rather than on paper.

Multi-age and the Peregian Springs Curriculum Plan

It is inevitable, that in a growing school, we have a variety of multi-age classes, and this has been the case every year since 2010. In fact you could look at every class as a multi-age class, some are just not as obvious as others. For instance, in a typical Year 5 class when looking only at spelling levels, you would find a range anywhere from Level 3 – Level 5A (that’s over 30 levels’ difference!). So just because a class is not tagged as a multi-age class, all our classes are in fact multi-age. There will always be some doubling up of content and skills, regardless of which class grouping your child is in. The Peregian Springs Curriculum Plan limits repetition of content, where possible, and focuses on building of content, skills and applications over the years.

At the beginning of each year Teachers map out all of the subject areas for the year, with reference to the Australian and Queensland Curriculum, and what their current students were exposed to the previous year. This is reviewed at the end of each term, when planning for the next term. Teachers are familiar with the curriculum of the year level preceding and following on from their current year, so as to ensure continuity for our students, regardless of which class they are in.

Your child may come home and tell you ‘we did this in Science last year’. Fantastic! They are now the class expert and their Teacher will be extending them by asking them to apply their knowledge of the content or process in a new context, or have them demonstrate their understanding through reciprocal teaching. Also, at the start of every unit of work Teachers spend time revising knowledge and skills previously learnt and activating students’ prior knowledge. This way the Teacher knows what, and where to start. And sometimes students will hear some things again. We cannot stop Year 4s in a Year 4/5 class for example, from listening to what their Teacher is specifically saying/teaching to the Year 5s.

Basic skills such as handwriting, number facts in all 4 operations, spelling and reading strategies, are revisited daily in every year level. Without automaticity and understanding in the basics, everything gets a whole lot harder and more frustrating for students when they are asked to explain their thinking and reasoning.

Rose Marszalek
Welcome back to all our students and families, and a special welcome to all our new Prep students and their families.

The beginning of the school year is an ideal time to reflect on the importance of working together in partnership.

Children benefit when the important people in their lives work together and have a shared understanding of their development and their needs.

By exchanging information and working together cooperatively, families and staff can better understand children’s emotions, behaviour and needs and find the best ways to support them in their development and promote their mental health and wellbeing.

Good communication between families and staff helps a child feel like they belong and are well cared for.

Sharing information about children’s interests, family background and daily experiences creates a common understanding about the child.

We can promote good communication by:

- Learning each other’s names, greeting each other and getting to know one another.
- Sharing and showing an interest in children’s activities both at home and at school.
- Letting each other know their involvement and support is valued.
- Acknowledging both can learn from each other.
- Creating invitations for families to be involved in ways that suit their needs and circumstances.
- Sharing experiences that might be affecting children’s feelings and behaviour.
- Sharing the best way to communicate with each other, for example, face-to-face, email or telephone.
- Respecting each other’s differences and being committed to working together.

Adapted from Kids Matter: http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families

Looking forward to a positive year working together.

Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they possibly be. (Rita F. Pierson)

http://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion.html

Your Special Education Program Staff Team:

Jane Thiselton, Hilary Dean, Janet Crow, Amanda Tinney, Melissa Martin, Maree Burgess, Natalie Trappett, Trillian Wansbrough and Jodie Dennis

We would like to welcome Elaine Williamsz to the position of First Aid/Health co-ordinator.

All students with health care plans, medications including asthma preventatives and epipens will need to ensure they have provided updated medical plans and information to Elaine as soon as possible. Please ensure ALL medications are labelled and have not expired.

Medication at school

All medication brought to school must have a Doctors or Chemist label on it stating Childs Name/Dosage/Expiry Date. It is imperative that the appropriate paperwork is filled out by the parent to enable staff to administer the medication. Without this paperwork no medication can be administrated. This is an Education Queensland directive.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Uniform Shop

If anyone would like to help out in the uniform shop please let me know by sending an email to uniforms@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au. It’s a great opportunity to meet new people, learn some new skills and help the school out.

Current open hours are:

- Wednesday 2.00 – 3.15 pm
- Friday 8.30 – 9.30 am

To avoid queuing, appointments can be made by either calling the office or sending an email to uniforms@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au. Alternatively, flexi school orders can be made.

BOOK CLUB

Library Fundraising with Scholastic Book Club.

Our school participates in Scholastic Book Club each year. Allowing children to choose the books they want to read certainly encourages reading and a love of books.

You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites in the Book Club brochures. The books span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests and are offered at great prices. The Brochures are Wombat (Prep-Yr 1), Lucky (Yr 1-2), Arrow (Yr 3-4), Star (Yr 5, 6, 7) & Extra for all ages. Additional copies are always available at the office & library.
Twice a term, students will bring the Book Club brochures home. Together you can look over the brochures and perhaps choose a book or two. Each order helps earn free books for our school library; however there is no any obligation to order.

Last year we were awarded with over $2000 rewards points. Maree Johnson uses these rewards points to buy wonderful books for your children to borrow from our School Library.

It is easy to order, just fill out the form at the back of the brochure with your Student’s Name & class printed clearly. A phone number is helpful too, in case we have a query about your order. Then return the order form & payment to the school office by the due date for processing. In 2014 our preferred payment method is by Credit Card (over the phone or online) or Cheque made out to Scholastic Aust. We are happy to accept cash if the order is under $10. If you are paying with cash please be sure to send the correct amount and seal your envelope very well. The books will arrive back to your child’s classroom within two weeks.

We hope you enjoy Scholastic Book Club again this year.
Thank you again for your support.

February Book Club Orders Will Be Due: FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2014.

School Banking

School banking is on Tuesdays, commencing next week Tuesday 4 February.

We are still looking for volunteers to help out. Please email the pandc@peregiansspringsss.eq.edu.au if you are interested in helping.

Lysette and Amber

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

Congratulations to the Peregian Springs State School team known as the Peregian Springers who won the U12 Grand Basketball Final at the end of last year. The team was very successful last year and hope to continue the success this year, we need a couple of new players to help us succeed so if you are interested and are born in 2003 or later please contact Shauna Jenkins on 0414 995510 for details. Well Done Peregian Springers keep up the great team work!

Student Resource Scheme

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

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.

L – R Aidan Barry, Ethan Jenkins, Kaidan Campbell
Jazpa Housley, Amber Barry, Max Trappett

Many Thanks
Andrew Barry

We love to hear about what our kids are doing!

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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<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>Senior Shirts</td>
<td>GET YOUR ORDERS IN ASAP</td>
<td>PAYMENT Closes 6 FEBRUARY 2014</td>
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<td>2014 Years 5 and 6</td>
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<td>Year 1 – 3</td>
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<td>Student Resource</td>
<td>DUE NOW, $100.00 per child. Thank you to all those that have made payments already.</td>
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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 418+ 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.

Thank you to our Sponsors

Susanna Galer
Singer • Guitarist • Songwriter • Instructor
Bass, Rhythm & Lead Guitar • Drums/Percussion • Vocals
P.O. Box 294 • Tewantin, Qld 4565 • 0414-724-158

Style Dance Academy
It’s fast, fun and energetic! Come along and join in!
Call Vickie on 0421 002 040
email: vickie@styledanceacademy.com.au
web: wwwstyledanceacademy.com.au
facebook: QldStyleDanceAcademy

The Dance Centre