27 February 2014

Principal’s Column

Schools Clean Up Day

Our school will be involved in Schools Clean Up Day on Friday 28 February and you are invited to participate along with your child. If you can make it, please inform your child’s teacher. On the day, please arrive at your child’s class at 1.40pm.

There are also various community clean-up activities being held on Sunday 2 March 2014. The Clean Up Australia Day website lists the planned venues and activities.

http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-australia-day

Fundraising in our school

Schools get asked to raise funds by many organisations and causes – sometimes our students also get passionate about a cause and want to assist.

In consultation with our P&C we have developed and had in place in 2010 a policy for fundraising in the school. This policy is designed to ensure that children are not going home asking for money for this and money for that every week and parents not really understanding where all this money is going.

Fundraising occurs in one of three ways at school:

1. Fundraising for resources and equipment for our school is run by our P&C with events approved by the P&C at monthly meetings. Anyone who wants to do this needs to come to a P&C meeting and put their proposal to the meeting. Generally, these requests and ideas are handled by the Fundraising Subcommittee according to a program that is approved at P&C Meetings.

2. Fundraising for charities is operated under the Project Compassion Program – one event per term coordinated by a staff group. These are well advertised as events, and as a school, we all support them.

3. Fundraising for student leader activities is done through a gold coin donation for not wearing uniforms on the last day of each term.

There is no fundraising by individual classes or interest areas. This is to ensure we do not cut across the P&C efforts and the Tuckshop sales.

Great Results Guarantee

As you know our school has been granted some extra funds this year to be used to assist student in the early years of schooling. We have employed an extra Learning Support Teacher (Amanda White) and a number of Teacher Aides who will soon start their training and will be working in the classrooms of Year 1 and 2 students. This is an amazing bonus for our children’s learning.

Our focus is on ‘Every student succeeding’. Parents will be asked to support us on this journey. If your child is identified and receiving extra support you will be notified by Amanda White and your child’s teacher.

Reading Levels

Teachers use a range of strategies to assess reading levels of students. These strategies encourage students to display a number of reading behaviours, which are crucial to children becoming competent readers. Our reading levels are graded from A to Q/R and each level represents approximately 6 months growth in the reading behaviours of students. Therefore your child will spend a year at school on 2 to 3 reading levels.

The reading levels are not a competition to see who can achieve the highest level. It is really important that children achieve word recognition, fluency and comprehension over a wide variety of texts before being moved to the next level. The focus is on making meaning. If children cannot retell what they have read or answer questions about what they have read, they are not reading, they are merely ‘barking at the print’ in front of them.

If you have concerns about your child’s reading level please make an appointment to see your child’s teacher. There will be very good reasons why they are on the level they are on.

Most importantly, read to your children as often as possible as you are able to read texts they can’t yet decipher and this broadens their general knowledge and makes it easier for them to try more difficult texts themselves.
Cleaner Greener Schools Accreditation

Last year we began the process of becoming accredited as a Cleaner Greener School and have already been awarded two stars out of a possible five stars for our programs and procedures in place. These include programs in which students are invited to take on leadership roles, to take on actions and to investigate and explore issues. The two stars also recognise that our school community supports our school’s Cleaner Greener Action Plan in which we are focused on LITTER, WASTE, WATER, ENERGY and BIODIVERSITY. Data collection is important and we have conducted litter audits, lunch waste, paper waste, and resource waste. We actively measure our water and energy use. When a school gains 2 Stars it is the time to start investigating litter and introduce a litter prevention campaign. One of these is the introduction of nude food days and we will be doing a lot more of these during 2014.

Our accreditation board is proudly displayed on our fence!

Make every day count in 2014 - newsletter

Make 2014 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

In the words of Noel Pearson ‘Unless children are at school, they will not achieve.’

If your child is going to be away from school please email absences@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au stating your child’s name and class and reason for absence or call the Student Absence phone number on 5351 2266 and leave a message.

If you are taking holidays in school time please complete the form available from the office and submit for approval. This process is required by law (Education Act 2006).

Champion Swimmers at District Trials

Well done to our District Swimming Team who competed against all the other schools in our District at the Noosa Aquatic Centre last Friday 21 February. The quality of our swimming program is really paying off – our team broke records, won an impressive array of places, walked away with Age Championships and were the best behaved kids at the pool – you can’t ask for more than that!

10 Ways Parents Can Work with Teachers

When parents work with us, we can achieve miracles. This image has a few tips on how parents can help their child’s teacher be the best teacher they can be!
Swimming lessons for Year 1, 2 and 3:

The Swimming lessons are progressing well for the term and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who have volunteered their help at the pool. Unfortunately, the pool is not large enough to allow parents to sit and watch their children swim. The Swim coaches have been paid to teach the students how to swim and they appreciate any support the parent volunteers provide with monitoring the students being taught.

Parent Links:

Every class now has a volunteer Parent Link Co-ordinator who will assist the class teachers and the P&C to disseminate information to the parents. Teachers will be requesting verbal, written or emailed consent to access their email addresses. All email addresses will be hidden from the view of other parents so as to maintain privacy. All information forwarded by the Parent Link will be pertinent to school issues only and will not promote outside businesses.

Student Shirts year 6 and 7:

Unfortunately, due to Manufacturer’s shortages, the printing of the shirts has been delayed until the beginning of Term 2. However, there are still many students who need to bring back the form that provides permission to print their names on the back of the Commemorative Shirt. It would be appreciated if we can have this finalised in the next two weeks.

Clean Up Australia Day:

The students have been asked to bring gloves or a bag to cover their hands as they clean up the school grounds on Friday 21 February. Each class has been assigned an area of the grounds and it is hoped that they will continue to take pride in this area for the rest of the school year. Your family may wish to join a local group on the weekend to Clean Up Australia. Check out the website: http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au

Sunshine Coast Daily tokens: Every day, the Sunshine Coast Daily will publish a token which we are encouraging our students to collect and either give to their teacher or place in the box at the back of the outside office area. The school that collects the most tokens will receive a set of 10 iPads.

Coolum High School:

Our strong links with Coolum High School ‘Across the Footbridge’ will continue this year. On Thursday 27 February, a group of Year 10 Art Students will be visiting Year 2M to talk about a number of art topics. The High School will students will then design a collage depicting the student’s ideas.

TravelSmart- Ride2School Day

Wednesday 19 March, 2014 is National Ride2School Day! Don’t forget to register your participation prior to this day to be eligible for the following great prizes:

Go to council website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au to register and be eligible for:

1st Prize - $500 voucher at a Bike Shop of your choice
2nd Prize - $200 voucher at a Bike Shop of your choice
3rd Prize - $100 voucher at a Bike Shop of your choice

Plus many more random draw prizes ie. helmets, bike locks

Why Ride ?

• Be part of the fun with over 250,000 kids across Australia expected to ride
• Students feel fresh and alert at the beginning of a school day
• There are fewer cars around the school which eases “drop off congestion” and makes it safer for the active traveller
• Students are more likely to reach the recommended 60min a day of physical activity

TravelSmart is an initiative of the Sunshine Coast Council. For more information, please visit www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or contact our office by phone on 5475 7272.
What really matters?

By now your child will have settled into their school routine and know generally on a day to day basis what’s happening in their classroom. And for almost all classes homework has begun. Homework is going to look very different from class to class and year level to year level. Our school homework policy (available on the school website) sets out the nightly time allocations for each year level, ranging from 5 – 10 minutes for Prep up to 20 – 30 minutes for Years 5 – 7.

Homework tasks are generally directed at improving essential skills in literacy and numeracy. The tasks will reinforce work that has been started in class. The most common homework tasks are reading practice, sight word practice and spelling practice.

In many upper school classes homework there is not ‘homework sheet’ as such, and students are instead tasked with continuing and completing project based work and other current activities based on their negotiated learning goals.

But what can you do when homework becomes a hassle and a nightly fight? The best thing is to stop, put it away and try again another time. There is no point having homework turn into a big drama, which then flows on to other household areas, family members and also back to school. Parents, you know your child’s best times of the day and homework is best attempted in a quiet and calm environment, where everyone can focus. If homework becomes a hassle, then speak with your child’s teacher to explain what’s happening, and 9 times out of 10 your child’s teacher will say to just leave it and read with them when they’re going to bed and let it go.

Yes, homework is important, and so is your sanity!

Rose Marszalek

Cybersafety – How to screenshot

At Peregian Springs State School we are committed to ensuring our students, staff and parents have access to relevant and supportive Cybersafety education throughout the year.

It is also important that we know procedures on how to deal with inappropriate texts, messages, posts or photos that may be received on a range of devices.

If you or your child receives or views an inappropriate message, photo or post, it is important that you capture it to assist in reporting it to the relevant person or authority.

A great site to take you step through step on how to screenshot on a variety of devices is www.take-a-screenshot.org

Below are steps on how to screenshot on iphones, ipods,ipads, macs and window devices.

David Foxover
Who’s Who at the Resource Centre?

Beware the ‘Ides of March’ and the library paparazzi because, before you know it, you (students, library staff, teachers, parents or volunteers) may find yourself in this salubrious publication!

Spotted in the Reading Room on Tuesday morning tea were hard working monitors, Tiffany 4S, Jemima 4G and Maggie 4H. They are only 3 of the 27 students who have volunteered to help in the library this term.

Spotted on the couch at break time was India 1D with three girls from 3T.

Spotted on our wheelbarrow storytelling chair were more students from Mr Thomas’ class, Aria 3T, Alana 3T and Ariella 3T.

Spotted in the Media Room were book-lovers and budding artists, Mia 7D and Amelie 6M. This year we have invited all year levels to visit the library at either break. Years 5 to 7 are allowed to use the Media Room to work on projects and complete homework.

Spotted first thing in the morning was Meryl Todd, our library technician, busy filing books and this reminds me to ask yet again for HELP of any kind and any period of time. The more help we have, the better it is for your children.

Library bags are for sale at the uniform shop for $12.50 and as they are totally waterproof, this is a very worthwhile investment.

Voices on the Coast Literature Festival is on in the first week of Term 2, so very soon, I’ll be sending invitations home with the Year 7s. Watch this space for more information about this popular event.

Ever savouring words and ideas, 
Maree

District Swimming Carnival

On Friday 21 February, our school was confidently represented by 29 students at the Noosa District Swimming Carnival. On an extremely hot day, all students demonstrated commitment, passion and a strong team spirit that represented the values that our school holds in high esteem. Congratulations to all students who placed and to those 16 students who qualified for the Regional trials.

Very special congratulations are extended to Jarvis Pattison who achieved Age Champion in the 11 year old boys division.

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**Tuck Shop Convenor**

**About the Job**

Do you have any experience in a catering role?

Peregian Springs SS has an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated person to join our Tuck shop as a part time Convenor.

Employed to service nearly 800 students & staff, the successful candidate will have the support of the existing staff, dedicated P&C liaison officer & Parent Volunteers to continue providing a healthy food menu to our school.

Initial offer is 8hrs/wk; however you may be able to increase hours by using your experience in the operation & financial management of a tuck shop/retail food outlet to help improve profitability & therefore sustainability of our tuck shop.

Candidates must have, or be eligible for a blue card & food safety certificate.

Email resume & Expression of Interest to pandc@pergianspringsss.eq.edu.au by Mon 3rd March 2014.

Job description available upon request.

**Book Club Delay**

Apologies from Scholastic Australia. The dispatch of your orders has been delayed. We will have your books to you as soon as they arrive at school.

**Parent Link**

In 2010 the P&C set up Parent Link as way of increasing involvement in our school community by parents and carers alike. Most classes now have a volunteer Parent Link Coordinator who will work to keep families informed of events in class, social gatherings and news from the P&C via email. See your class teacher if you would like your email shared with this group so that you too can be kept in the loop.

Classes 2P and 2M are the only ones missing a volunteer. If you feel that you can take on this valuable role which really doesn’t take up too much of your time please contact me via email or call in at the office.

Thanks very much.

_Elaine Williamsz. Teacher Aide/Parent Liaison ewill300@eq.edu.au_

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**Rebecca Mc Cann**

**P&C News**

**Tuckshop**

Huge thanks to all of the fabulous volunteers who have helped Mel out in the Tuckshop recently. Mel our Convenor is really appreciative of any time you can spare on a Thursday or Friday. We even had Class teacher from PTW Kerri-Lee Treskow and her husband Rob in there last week as it was the turn of PTW on the roster to offer Tuckshop support. Well done Guys!

**Tuckshop roster: This week.** Week 5 - Class PA
**Next week.** Week 6 - Class PH