23 April 2015

Principal’s Column

Welcome back to a new term. The recent holidays were a treat and we were blessed with some beautiful weather. This is a 10-week term that concludes on Friday 26 June.

I hope all our new families have settled in – we have had 16 new children starting in classrooms all over the school. We have over 860 students in our school this term!

QParents

This week most families will have received their invitation to QParents. An introductory letter was sent home on Monday with students and an email with your child’s unique identifier was also sent home.

Parents without a registered email address with us will have received the email in paper form. Over 80 parents have already signed up for this service!

QParents allows parents to connect instantly with their child’s school to access and manage their child’s student information, including:

- Attendance and absence details, as well as the ability to notify the school of an absence?
- Academic report cards?
- Viewing unpaid invoice details, payment history, and making payments online?
- Viewing and updating personal student details, including medical conditions and address?
- Enrolment details?

QParents will assist both staff and parents in sharing and responding to information in an efficient and effective way. It won’t replace the traditional ways you communicate with our school, but it will provide another way to communicate with us.

If you need help setting this service up please call the office for an appointment to have someone help you through it.

Please bear in mind that this is a trial we are participating in and not everything will work perfectly – this is usually the idea behind a trial. I am passing all feedback and issues onto the developers so they can iron these out before the QParents app goes state wide.


ANZAC Day Ceremony at school

Our school ceremony will be held tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. in the Indoor Sports Centre. Our ceremony is led by our very capable Student Leaders and is structured in such a way that it teaches children about the important parts of the ceremony.

All visitors are welcome.

ANZAC Day Ceremony – Dawn Service at Coolum Peregrin RSL

All families are invited to join us for the Dawn Service at Coolum Peregrin RSL. We meet in Seacove Court just south of the RSL at 5.00 a.m. for the March Past at 5.25 a.m. The RSL likes to have all children inside the grounds, which provides a view of the ceremony. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about this special heritage and tradition. Children are asked to wear school uniform for the March Past – please wear a school jumper or jacket or other navy jumper – it may be cool. It is also a good idea to eat something before coming – standing for 40 minutes on an empty stomach can be a little demanding!

Prep 2016

Enrolments for Prep for 2016 will commence on Monday 18 May. Information Packs will be available from the front office or you can download all enrolment forms from our website.

We encourage all parents with siblings starting school next year to complete forms as soon as possible to enable us to plan for orientation and induction in Term 4. This includes information sessions for parents, parent and child interviews and playgroups. As in previous years we are expecting over 100 enrolments in Prep again in 2016.
P&C

Congratulations to the representatives of our new P&C Executive Committee. This year’s committee comprises the following:

President: Jeff Watson
Vice-President: Damien Swan
Treasurer: Sandy Goodall
Secretary: Amanda Hargans
QCPA Rep: Jodie Curran

We are extremely fortunate to have this group of willing parents volunteering to coordinate our P&C – many thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm and hard work. Our P&C run our Tuckshop, Fund Raising Program and Social Events Program. The Executive Committee is helped by many parent members. Please come along to our next meeting on Thursday 8 May and find out about our school and programs that are operating.

Our P&C also operates a number of sub-committees. These can be fun to be part of. Contact Elaine in the front office if you are interested.

Our P&C Sub-Committees for 2015-2016 are:

Fund Raising Committee President: Sarah Wedgwood
- Treasurer: Lisa Watson
Book Club: Jane Catterall
School Banking: Kim Lewry

Two Surveys

We have conducted a couple of surveys recently – one was about your child’s learning goals and this would have been given you by your child’s teacher. Responses to this can be forwarded to the school office. The other was an online survey about communication from school to home.

Thank you to parents for the many positive and encouraging comments. Thank you also for commenting on the things you find less helpful. We have already made some changes to our processes and thank parents for their input. See below for a few of the comments parents have made and what we have thought about.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent’s Comments</th>
<th>School’s response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can we please start getting reminders for events 3 days out from their occurrence or even a week out?</td>
<td>The office runs a report for teachers two days prior to events to enable them to send reminders about payments due. Other reminders of a more general nature are posted to Facebook and the website and the electronic noticeboard up to a week before events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have not heard from Parent link this year</td>
<td>We changed Parent Link this year to make the role a little easier and more social orientated. The role of the Parent Link Coordinator is</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondent’s Comments

This is the second year my child has attended the school, overall, a great experience so far. The only disappointment is the lack of a “parent link coordinator” for my daughter’s class for the second year in a row- I feel the role is a great opportunity to get the class connecting on a more communal level as well as a great way to remind parents of events and general school activities.

I believe I am kept up to date with communications mostly from emails and newsletters from teachers. I’m a bit confused by “parent link” though. Why, after giving parent link permission to be contacted via email, can’t parent link class coordinators have our emails addresses?

Some days there are numerous messages that come from the office. Corrections in relation to previous emails and so forth. When there are so many emails coming from the office important emails are overlooked and missed.

Two Surveys

The office staff are committed to ensuring that the emails they send are as accurate as possible before pressing send. They will also ensure that from now on they will only send one email a day and cue up other emails to send on other days.

Newsletter is way too long. I don’t bother reading it any more. Information overload

Our newsletter is the single point of truth – we try to put everything in here that parents need to know about. We have tried to simplify it with links. It has been designed as an online document to be referred back to during the fortnight of publication.

Have you thought of an SMS collectively for important things? This could be set up for free

We can set this up for free using the mobile phone numbers provided to the school on enrolment. Each SMS then costs 10c. SMS to the whole school for one message could cost between $60 and $70 for each message. We need to think about whether we can afford this cost.
Levels of communication directly from the class teacher can have a huge impact. If there is minimal communication directly from the teacher then it is difficult to know what is actually happening in the class. Parents are welcome to email or ring teachers or make an appointment to see teachers if they have questions about anything happening in the classroom. Parents can also contact the lead administrator for that year level – Prep to Year 1 (Rose Marszalek), Year 2-3 (Michael Slocombe), Years 4-5 (Dave Foxover) and Year 6 (Gwen Sands)

Deputy Principal’s Column

**REAP Food Rescue**

A big thank you to the amazing support that we received for our Project Compassion in Term One, our Pantry Drive. Michele Lipner from REAP OzHarvest Food Rescue advised us that they received around 550 cans of food to assist those in need from your efforts. It was another great example of our community joining together to promote a worthy cause. This term our Project Compassion is for Guide Dogs Australia. Towards the end of term we will have a dress up day to raise funds for them. We will advise the date in the near future.

**ICAS 2015 International Competitions and assessments for school**

If you are interested in having your child participate in this year’s ICAS Competitions, you can collect an entry form from our office, or your child may bring one home if they want to nominate themselves. This testing is completely non-compulsory, and is available for students from Year 2-6. Competitions available to sit this year are English, Mathematics or Science. Dates of tests are on entry forms. Entries will need to be returned to the office by Wednesday 29 April. If you would like further information, please go to: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

**Regard**

Dave Foxover
Deputy Principal

**Head of School – Curriculum**

**Maths is different now**

Parents have had many questions over the past few years about how we do Maths now. Since the introduction of the Australian Curriculum some aspects of the way we approach Maths have changed. The major change is the focus on “going mental first”, i.e. using mental strategies for calculations, rather than having to write a sum (vertical algorithm) on a piece of paper. We no longer do pages and pages of sums. Instead students are exposed to a variety of mental strategies, and

**Class Newsletters**

All class teachers distribute a newsletter either by email or in the ‘old fashioned’ way of paper at least once a term and in many cases more regularly than that. They will be doing this over the first two weeks of this term so keep an eye out for this – it always includes news pertinent just to your child’s class. See your child’s teacher if you don’t hear from them.

*Until next fortnight …*  
*Gwen*
encouraged to make sense of them themselves and then apply these in a variety of situations. You may have heard your child or your child’s teacher talking about the split, jump or compensate strategies. These strategies are adaptable to all four operations (+ - x ÷) and can be used on their own or in combination. We will explore these in coming newsletters.

There is a great book ‘Maths for Mums and Dads’ by Rob Eastaway and Mike Askew, which has some fantastic information and explanations of how Maths is taught/learnt these days. It is from the UK and refers to the UK Maths curriculum, however the Australian Curriculum is similar to this. The authors have listed some do’s and don’ts, for parents to help influence the way their child thinks and feels about Maths.

DON’T

- don’t expect them to ‘get it’ after you’ve explained it once or explained how you would do it
- don’t tell them that you are hopeless at maths

DO

- do play maths with your child – dice and board games (e.g. Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders), card games, hopscotch
- do let your child win or be ‘better than you’ – you can still win sometimes!
- do make maths a casual part of what you do while you’re doing something else, e.g. as you load or unload the dishwasher say ‘oh I hope there are going to be enough plates for dinner tonight – let’s check’
- do lots of hands-on everyday maths – clocks, cooking and cash are perfect for this
- do make it silly, gruesome, scary or dangerous
- do recognise there’s more than one way of doing calculations
- do be a geek – we are all secretly geeks in some area and so are our kids
- do learn to be an actor – encourage their effort and say it like you mean it, even if it’s taking a long time!

If you get excited about maths, your children will get excited too, and you never know you might just start to enjoy it too. Later this term, I’ll be running some Parent Maths workshops, which will explain a little bit more about how we do Maths and I’ll show you some easy games you can play with your children at home. Keep an eye on the newsletter and Facebook page for when the dates/times are announced. In the meantime you may be interested in the following workshop:

Parent Information Night on Mathematics at Coolum High School

Many parents in our school have been attending the information sessions we have offered on numeracy and mathematics. Coolum SHS has invited our parents to join them for a session with Rob Profitt-White (Regional Maths Coordinator) who is an inspiring teacher and makes maths sound ‘oh, so easy!’ I encourage our parents of students in years 5 and 6 to take advantage of this – Tuesday 28 April at 5.00 p.m.
Research into the prevalence and effectiveness of Anti-bullying approaches

Our school has volunteered to be part of a national study to discover what schools are doing to tackle bullying.

Schools from across Australia will tell of their anti-bullying approaches and what is working well. Information will be collected from students, parents and teachers.

A final report will be available in December and will summarise what is being done about bullying by Australian schools. The report will not name individual schools.

Over the next 4 weeks, students from our school who are in years five and six will be invited to complete an on-line survey during school time.

Students may only participate if they return the consent form signed by their parents.

All parents will be provided with the opportunity to give their opinions and staff at our school will also join in the study.

We think this is important research and we are pleased that our school will contribute to a better understanding of what Australian schools are doing to tackle bullying.

Michael Slocombe

Head Of School – Diverse Learners

ANZAC DAY - Please find attached a social story to read with your child that explains the importance and significance of Anzac Day and how we will pay our respects at Peregian Springs State School this Friday.

Austian Early Development Census #AEDC starts next month. The AEDC shows how well Prep kids are developing. Here’s how it works

http://www.bit.ly/1FGVOHn

Regards
Anne Slattery

Performing Arts

At the end of this term I will be taking a group of approximately 50 students from our Peregian Singers lunchtime club to attend the African Children’s Choir workshop (www.africanchildrenschoir.com) during its second visit to the Sunshine Coast in 2015. It is a unique and unforgettable cross-cultural workshop for our students and I have been organising our involvement thanks to the wonderful support from Cool Harmonies who have helped to make this happen.

Participating in an ACC workshop is an experience our students will find hard to forget as it has been formulated to provide a stimulating and gratifying grass roots encounter with the ACC children. Participants will learn a Ugandan song and dance and experience drumming the Ugandan way. They will also learn about the Ugandan culture and find out about what the children eat and where they live. The workshops are led by the charismatic Barnett Twesigome and are a fun cultural exchange for all the children.

‘Music replays the past memories, awakens our forgotten worlds and makes our minds travel.’
-Michael Bassey Johnson

Sofia Hobson

Resource Centre End of Term Update

Term 2 Library Date Claimers and Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When?</th>
<th>For?</th>
<th>What?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of April</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Invitations to attend Voices on the Coast Literature Festival on the 16 &amp; 17 July. To be paid this term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May - 28 August</td>
<td>All classes invited to participate – I will introduce this during their library borrowing sessions in early May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Readers’ Cup Team compete at the Regional Competition at Immanuel College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>All classes invited to participate</td>
<td>National Simultaneous Storytime at 11.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your child didn’t bring a book home on Monday, it was because our library system wasn’t working. We allowed students to borrow one book that we then scanned on Tuesday morning when the system was fixed. Sorry about the delay but there is nothing else we can do when our system isn’t functional. Thank you for your patience this week and last term when we had similar issues. It’s beyond our control.

Maree Johnson
Teacher-Librarian

Students are required to wear Peregian State school jumpers or a navy blue jumper/cardigan in this cooler weather.
Uniform Shop

The new carnival shirts are now in stock and look fantastic:

They are priced at a very reasonable $10.00
Also, size 4 polo shirts are finally back in stock - apologies for the long wait.
The shop is open at the following times:
Wednesday 2.00 – 3.30 p.m.
Friday 8.30 – 9.30 a.m.
For all available uniform, orders can be made using Flexi schools:
https://www.flexischools.com.au/ and I will email you when the order is ready for collection.

Sonia Sheridan
Uniform shop coordinator
Administration assistant

Partnership with Star Real Estate

Remember to mention our school if you or a friend is selling through Star so that our school can benefit from the $1000 donation when the property sells!
The donations will fund the building of adventure play equipment for our senior students.

P&C News

From the President’s Desk

Wow, what an impressive start for the new P&C Committee since the Annual General Meeting late last month. The new members quickly involved themselves in a very enjoyable pizza day with a number of volunteers having fun distributing around 880 pizza slices to hungry children… hope they enjoyed the day as much as we did!

And the Easter raffle was drawn with the winners being Mrs Skye McLachlan, Padgett-Houghton family and Mrs Martine Blair. Congratulations and we hope you enjoy your prizes, but it’s our children who were the real winners with lots of money raised, with thanks to everybody for your generous support.

As your new President, I should introduce myself.
My name is Jeff Watson and I have my three grandchildren at the school, Jakob in 4L and Jesse and Jasmin, in Prep H and Prep A respectively. I served as President of the Brisbane School of Distance Education’s P&C when my children attended there as home-schooled students, so I had plenty of experience to offer when the President’s position remained vacant.

Even though I thought I’d ‘retired’ from service 15 years ago, I’m really looking forward to my new role in such a fantastic school!

And what a committee we’ve got with Vice President Damien Swan, Treasurer Sandy Goodall and P&C Qld Rep Jodie Curran retaining their roles, with newcomer Amanda Hargans taking on the Secretary’s job.

Really exciting news is that we finally have a specialist fundraising team under the direction of Sarah Wedgwood with Lisa Watson assisting. They have been working hard right through the holidays on fundraising activities and have been busily setting up their next fundraising event, the Mother’s Day Stall.

With this team, I expect a good and productive year… with an emphasis on enjoying ourselves!

Until next time, keep safe.
Jeff Watson
P&C President

Ongoing ways to help our School

Discounted Movie Tickets

Purchase adult movie tickets from $10.50 and children’s tickets at $10.00 and help raise money for our school, please copy the above link into your browser, the school receives $1.00 per ticket purchased.

Book Covers

Needing Book Covers for the new school year, try these ones; EZ Covers are environmentally friendly, recyclable, reusable and only $1.20 each regardless of the size, plus the school receives 10c for every cover purchased.

http://www.ezcover.net.au/school_rebate.htm

Tuckshop

TERM 2 FRIDAY SPECIAL will be happening in TERM 2 First Friday 24th April.

Please remember that with a Friday Special it is a lunchtime special therefore there will NO SUSHI/PIZZA/SANDWICHES/STIR FRY sold. Only SAUSAGE ROLLS/PIES/FRUIT SALADS/MUFFINS and COOKIES.

Go to flexischools.com to order online.

Scholastic Book Club Issue 3 for April/May

The Term 2 Book Club brochures will come home in school bags next week.

Please place your orders in the P&C Green Lock Box at the office by FRIDAY MAY 8. We accept cash for orders up to $10 and credit card or a cheque payments for all orders over $10.

LOOP makes ordering easy: you can now order your chosen books and pay online with the Scholastic LOOP option. Log on to http://parentpayments.scholastic.com.au/ and follow the prompts to order and pay online. There is no need to submit your order form to school if you use the LOOP ordering option.

ISSUE 3 ORDERS are DUE FRIDAY MAY 8

Thank you for your Support
Book Club Coordinator
Jane Catterall

Hi School Bankers!

Just a reminder to please ensure deposit slips are filled out correctly with FULL NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, STUDENT ID, DATE and CORRECT DEPOSIT AMOUNT. A few have been coming through not filled out at all, or incorrectly. Thank you for your co-operation.

For the safety of coins, notes and tokens could I please advise to keep in the velcro side of your bank book wallet to avoid loss.

Also a reminder, 10 silver tokens can be re-deemed for one of the fantastic prizes on offer released each term.

As tokens are tallied electronically per student per deposit, siblings or friends tokens cannot be used for a reward redemption. On hand tokens should match the electronic tally. If you would like to know your tally please leave a note in with your next banking. If you feel there are any discrepancies please let myself or Natalie know so this can be adjusted.
We have 299 student bankers which is great! Our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit). Whilst your savings grow you also contribute to our school. A whopping $961.87 commission was made last year. Let’s beat it this year!!

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking Program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2015 School Banking Program Information Pack from the School office.

**Thanks and Happy Banking**

**Kim and Nat**

### Payments Procedure PSSS

Please ensure when you are making a payment to the school for an Excursion or Camp by EFT or Cash/Card that the permission forms are also forwarded to the office. We are then able to match payment to permission forms and stamp them paid and hand them on to the teacher concerned. Please do not send any money to your student’s teacher. All money is to come directly to the office. Payment times are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. every week day.

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.

### Student Resource Scheme

These funds cover costs associated with art, cooking and other special activities including Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter and other special events.

The Student Resource Scheme payment can be made at the school office or directly into the school bank account. PSSSS is registered with Centrelink and you can arrange through the BSM to have payments deducted directly each fortnight from your nominated benefit. If you wish for this to happen please make an appointment to speak with the BSM Jill Hamilton.

### Student Celebrations

Tahnee Swan. Little Athletics Under 6 at Bli Bli.

**Tahnee has achieved all 3 McDonalds Achievement Levels Green, Red and Blue.**

1st level – Green which represents a good level of performance.
2nd level - Red which represents a very good performance, and is achievable by approx. 65% of athletes; and
3rd level - Blue represents an excellent performance achievable by approx. 20% of athletes.

An athlete must reach the relevant level in all events applicable to their age group in 3 event groups.

Example: Under 6 is 70m run, 100m run, 300m walk, shot put, discus and long jump

Tahnee broke the Club record for 300m walk by almost 1 minute – 2min19sec91 and just missing out on club record for long jump but broke the girls with 2m38

**Achieved Athletics skills award program (ASAP) – Level 2**

The Athletics Skills Award Program (ASAP) is a development program endorsed by ALA as the recommended programs for fundamental motor skilling (FMS) in Little Athletics.

**Age Group Highest Points Trophy for Under 6 Girls Runner Up**

**Well done Tahnee!**

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!

### UNIFORMS

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

All children require **black shoes with navy or white socks**. 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

Search Pereigan 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
Chair Drive!

Please help by participating in our chair drive. We'd like every family to purchase just one chair! Each locally produced chair will be branded with a plaque stating the family name. Deposit your $120 into our school bank account or make your donation to the school office.