Principal News
Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome Back

W elcome back to Semester 2, where we have 20 school weeks left in 2016 to ensure that our mantra of ‘every student succeeding at Drayton SS.’ I hope everyone’s winter holidays were relaxing and restful, where possible. To our returning and new students and families, I trust you will enjoy all the activities, learning and events that Term 3 will present. From District Sports Carnivals, to the Read-a-thon, to our newly named Creativity Expo (formerly, the Art Show), there is certainly something for everyone.

ARD School Supervisor Visit
We today welcomed our Assistant Regional Director, Debbie Hails to our school for her termly School Visit. Debbie spoke to the Senior Leadership Team about our strategic directions, and enjoyed her time walking around the school. Debbie is always welcome at Drayton SS and her positive and constructive feedback around our Explicit Improvement Agenda of Reading, Writing and Numeracy is always well received. It was great to hear her thoughts on our successes and our learning pathway moving forward. Debbie greatly enjoyed her interactions with staff and students and commended our school on our progress towards our 2016 goals.

Best of Luck to Creative Generation Selected Students
In 2016, as we know, Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage (CGEN) will celebrate its twelfth year as Queensland’s largest youth performing arts event at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre with four performances on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July. More than 1500 students from Prep to Year 12 will represent state schools from across Queensland. CGEN aims to mentor and foster the next generation of performers and provides opportunities for them to work with and learn from professional artists. This annual entertainment event has launched the professional careers of many students who have gone on to star in theatre, television and musical productions.

At Drayton SS, we know have four students who will be taking part in this event. The rehearsals are almost complete, and it is showtime in Brisbane across a number of shows later this week. All the best to Reid McAleer, Ella Morgan, Mai Lan Ruhle and Morgan McAleer. I’m looking forward to being in the audience on Friday night and marvelling at all your hard work on stage. Drayton SS is right behind you!

Enrol Now for Prep 2017
As a reminder from the last newsletter, if you are considering enrolling a child at Drayton SS for Prep in 2017, now is a perfect opportunity to secure a place on our list. We will be working with our prior-to-school partners, families and new Prep students throughout Semester 2. However, we have a number of students on our list, and we would love to see that number grow. Please spread the word to your friends and family who are considering Drayton SS for 2017. Contact the office on (07) 4637 7444 for further information.

Unexplained and Student Absences
You may be aware through the media regarding new formal Department processes surrounding a student absence. While we already follow the new procedures (and have done so for quite a while), all parents must inform the school when your child or children are away. If we don’t receive a phone call or a text, we will need to communicate with parents on the day the absence occurred. This is now a legal requirement for all state schools.

Also, yesterday we sent home letters to families who have unexplained student absences from Semester 1. Any unexplained absence is a risk to students, as it means that the school does not know why a student is absent. Could you please check and see if your child/children received a letter yesterday, and please note the absence reason and send the letter back to school ASAP. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Admin Staff will need to further communicate with families...
who have students with unexplained absences next week and have not brought back the letters (if one was sent home). Thanks for your assistance with this very important health and safety requirement.

On That Note …

Enjoy the many activities occurring throughout the next couple of weeks! From Creative Generations and District Sports, to Cycle Safety to Excursions at the Empire Theatre and Amaro Environmental Education Centre, there has never been a more exciting time to be a student or family member at Drayton SS.

Kind Regards,

Aleksandr Taylor-Gough.
PRINCIPAL

FROM THE HEAD OF CURRICULUM

Curriculum News

As part of our explicit improvement agenda, the Curriculum News section of the newsletter will continue to highlight aspects of the fantastic work happening at Drayton State School around the teaching of reading.

This week we shift our focus from the lower school to one of our year 6 classes. The teaching of reading in the upper years moves from the skills of decoding to a heavier focus on comprehension (see information below). What is especially great about these results, is the shift in the number of students who were reading well below their chronological age who are now reading at or above after only 5 months. Congratulations to these students and teachers!

What do ‘Good Readers’ do?

Good readers monitor their comprehension

All teachers have heard students who can read quickly and fluently, but who give no indication of understanding what they read – in some cases, they cannot answer simple content questions. Good readers, because they are reading for a purpose, monitor their comprehension to ensure that there are no gaps in their understanding. They relate the information to personal experience or existing knowledge; they evaluate the information as they read to determine whether it confirms or contradicts what they know; they ask questions as they read and search for the answers in the text; they create mental images as they read; and they differentiate between key information and supporting detail. They are able to do all these things because of their constant interaction with the text.

Regards,

Chantelle Bauer
Acting Head of Curriculum
Makerspace has started!

On the first day back of Term 3, Makerspace began with a team of 12 upstairs in C block. The ‘makers’ arrived on time with many exciting resources to share. They busied themselves in solving the problem they were given in a ‘hands on’ way. They will meet again next week to better their solution and product. Their products will be on sale at the Makerspace Stall at the Creativity Expo on Wednesday of Week 10 this term. Set aside the date and come and see what the geniuses have made! And … bring your wallet!

CENT SALE COMMITTEE MEETING

We will be holding our second meeting on Thursday 28th July at 3.15pm in Bendigo. We are still seeking parents to join our committee. If you would like to learn more about what a cent sale is or how you can help please feel free to come along to the meeting or contact Jennifer Cartmill via email jcart237@eq.edu.au. For this event to go ahead we are calling on your support. Please get behind this great fundraising event.

Bookclub news

Welcome back to term three. Issue five bookclub is out, and brochures will be going home with students in the next couple of days, if your child has not already brought one home. All orders are due back to the office by Wednesday 27th July. Please ensure all forms are carefully filled in. If you are paying by cheque - please make it out to Scholastic Australia. Only fill the credit card slip in if you are paying by credit card and remember to fill in all the details.
2017 Cent Sale Committee Expression of Interest Form

Name ______________________
Contact Details _______________________

Please indicate the jobs you would be interested in helping with in regards to the organisation of the 2017 Cent Sale.

| Visit local businesses to seek donations |  |
| Donate items or vouchers to the Cent Sale |  |
| Wrap donations |  |
| Advertise Cent Sale - flyers, radio, newspaper |  |
| Set up for the Cent Sale |  |
| Bring a plate for morning tea |  |
| Help prepare plates and serve morning tea |  |
| Bake for the Bake Sale |  |
| Clean up after the Cent Sale |  |