Principal News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As we approach the final weeks of the school year, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for continuing the message of Every Day Counts. With 17 school days left until the Christmas Holidays, all classrooms are busily completing final pieces of assessment, along with preparing for the end of year activities that sit as a highlight on many people’s calendar. I have a couple of reminders and notes that I wanted to share briefly with the community.

Prep Welcome Sessions

A reminder that our final Prep “Play and Stay” Open Morning, is next Thursday from 9:00am – 11:00am. We have had a wonderfully strong turn out for Sessions 1 and 2, and we are looking forward to the third and final session next week.

Also, new 2016 Prep Enrolments are taking place today and tomorrow. If you are intending to enrol your child for Prep for 2016, please contact the school office on (07) 4637 7444 so we can register your interest and arrange for an interview timeslot.

Electronic Roll Marking

As previously discussed with our P&C, through the Newsletter and in many conversations with parents and the community, we are moving to a text messaging based system to alert parents for Unexplained Student Absences. This will also extend to using the system to convey important school messages and reminders. I am pleased to note that at some point within the next fortnight, the text messaging system for Unexplained Student Absences should commence. This will require you to then either reply, or contact the school, so we can account for each child’s absence.

I am really excited at what this new technology will mean for our school and am looking forward to receiving feedback from all members of the community. As a school, we have endeavoured to move towards a more 21st century learning environment, and I hope that this system will benefit everyone.

Staffing Update

Contrary from what I advised in the previous newsletter, we have been fortunate enough to keep Year 6 Class Teacher, Paul Wells, at Drayton SS until the end of this year. However, having worked in his favour, I can confirm that Paul has been offered the Acting Principal position at Merinda SS in the North Queensland Region for all of 2016! The school, with about 4 classes and 80 students, is not that far away from Paul’s family and I know he will do a great job. We are currently undertaking a process to replace Paul for the year. Congratulations Paul!

Booklists

Similar to last year, we are getting very organised for our 2016 Booklists, and these lists will be sent home with today’s newsletter. As you will note from the booklist, our recommended supplier for 2015 is Browns Bookstore, located in the Bernoth Centre on Ruthven Street. The process for ordering through Browns:

- Place orders online or drop your order form into Browns before Friday 27th November
- Order forms will not be collected at school
- You can then pick up your order from school on Wednesday 9th December between 8:00am and 9:30am.
- You can also choose to collect your books from Browns anytime up to the beginning of school next year (Wednesday 27th January)

As always, you are welcome to purchase your booklist requirements through other retailers. Please purchase items of similar quality, as we have found that poor quality pencils and other supplies cause frustrations for children and teachers.
Families moving away and enrolments for 2016

We are beginning our planning for staffing and classes for 2016. As per previous years, to assist with this planning, we would really appreciate a phone call or written notification from those families who may be leaving Drayton SS and not re-enrolling their children here in 2016. Please also remind family and friends who are considering sending their children to our lovely school in 2016 that we need enrolment information as soon as possible. As mentioned above, this is particularly important for those children starting Prep with us in 2016.

Student Leadership in 2016

We have begun the process for selecting student leaders for 2016 from our current Year 5 cohort. Information will be sent home over the next few weeks for those students whose nominations are accepted, and positions for 2016 will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Monday 7th December, 2016 from 9:15am. Good luck to all those who are applying for positions.

Last Week of School Processes

There will be many celebrations and events during the last week at school. Dates are listed on our website and down the left hand side of our newsletter. Information will also be coming home about concerts, costumes, awards and the many other events – please keep an eye out for these, or check our website or Facebook for updates.

Hot Weather

With the hot weather beginning to come upon us, many of our students are having some difficulties coping with the heat. Please remind your children to drink plenty of water during the day, and not to run around too much at break times. Bleeding noses are also becoming a regular event in sick bay, again mainly due to the heat. Teachers are also reminding students about sensible behaviour in the heat.

Volunteer’s Morning Tea

As a small thank-you to our wonderful helpers and volunteers, we will be hosting a Volunteer’s Morning Tea next Friday 27th November from 9:30am – 11:00am. You may have already received, or will receive, an invitation shortly. We would really love to see as many people attend, and would ask that you RSVP as soon as possible on (07) 4637 7444 or to Chappy Kate on 0412 198 067 or email kateh@chappy.org.au.

Remembrance Day

Last Wednesday, we recognised Remembrance Day with a special ceremony in the new ANZAC Garden area near A Block. I would like to thank all the students for their moving tribute in memory of the men and women in Australia and around the world who have made sacrifices to ensure that the things we hold special as Australians will endure for future generations. It was great to see our Drayton students showing a high level of respect during the ceremony. In this centenary year, Lest We Forget.

Parenting Ideas Message

This week, Michael Grose discusses the topic of Parents using kids as bargaining chips. He discusses the micro elements children pick up from their parents and older loved ones. I trust we can all find a takeaway hidden in the article somewhere.

On That Note

With the Swimming Carnival occurring this Friday, I wish everyone all the best and look forward to seeing participating students give their 100%. Go Drayton Go! Also, the Student Council are rounding out their year with a BBQ Movie Night next Friday 27th November at 5:45pm – 8:15pm. Finally, I hope to have a Week 9 and 10, and possibly an early 2016 timetable to share with you next week, that outlines the various events on. Remember, in the lead up to the Christmas period, each day matters and I look forward to seeing as many student every day as possible. Have a great second last fortnight!

Kind Regards,
Aleksandr Taylor-Gough.
PRINCIPAL

Swimming Carnival

Hi everyone,

The Swimming Carnival is this Friday 20th November. Students who have nominated have received a permission form, which they must return to the office with a $4.00 bus fee, if they wish to go. Please ensure these forms and payments are sent to the office ASAP.

Students will come to school as normal on Friday and will be bussed to and from the Glennie Aquatic Centre. The carnival will run from 10.30am – 2.30pm, with students returning to school before 3.00pm. Parents are invited to come along to support the school carnival.

The order of events for the carnival will be as follows:

25m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke, 50m Backstroke, 25m Breaststroke, 50m Breaststroke, 25m Butterfly, 50m Butterfly, Individual Medleys, Relays, Presentations.

Students will need to bring appropriate swimwear,
packed morning tea and lunch, water bottle, house coloured t-shirts.

**Carnival Conditions**

All spectators must be seated away from the pool. The Judge's/Convenor's decisions are final. Incorrect swimming technique may result in disqualification in 50m/100m events, if another swimmer's placing is impeded. False starts may result in a re-start and re-offenders may be disqualified. 50m/100m events are counted towards Age Champion.

Times will be taken for 2016 Inner Downs selections. The main purpose of the carnival is for students to try their best, regardless of ability or placings. We will be promoting enjoyment and good sportsmanship throughout the day and I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in sport,
Chantelle Manteufel.
End of Year Events

Monday 7 Awards Morning 9.00am
Tuesday 8 Year 6 Graduation Time to be advised
Wednesday 9 Presentation Evening 4.30pm BBQ
Concert to start at 6.30pm

Christmas Stall

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December
Students are invited to bring an envelope with some money up to $10 to purchase a Christmas gift at the Stall.
Please include the students name and class on the envelope and drop into the office before

YOU CAN DO IT - CERTIFICATE EARNERS

Our ‘You Can Do It!’ program exists in every classroom & aims to build the capabilities of every student with positive messages & lessons in each class about being:
- Organised
- Confident
- Persistent
- Resilient
- Able to get along with others

This past fortnight has once again seen many of our students earning certificates for their efforts. They are as follows:


Congratulations to our award winners!!!!
News from Chappy Kate

Growing bodies and growing minds
As the end of the year rapidly approaches and we see our students maturing so much over the year, it is a good time to remember that childhood is a busy time. Not only are they growing physically, getting taller, losing baby teeth and growing adult ones, all our students are also learning new skills emotionally. Facing challenges (a big assignment or a difficult friendship) is all part of learning to develop confidence and the skills we need to build a happy life. Let’s encourage our students to attempt those challenges with the courage to give their best effort.

Year 6 Celebrations in Week 9
This term, we have been running Bella Girls for the Year 6 girls and Rock and Water for the Year 6 boys. We have some great community volunteers who come each week to visit our students and help each group learn to value themselves and to make good choices.

We will be holding some Celebrations in Week 9 for the Year 6 students to acknowledge their efforts. More information will be sent home next week. Graduation is just around the corner!!

Chappy Pancakes Fundraiser
Thanks to everyone who joined us for pancakes and milo last Wednesday. $260 was raised for the Chaplaincy Program. Thank you to Sally Conn and Angela Small for helping to make and serve our pancakes and thank you to all the staff who came to help serve our hungry students in first break.

Volunteer Thank You and Parent Morning Tea
29th November 9.30am-11am
Friday of Week 8 we would love to invite all our wonderful volunteers to join us for a thank you morning tea.

We would love for you to join us for parade and then a morning tea in your honour, to acknowledge all the lovely parents and others who help our school. You are very much appreciated!

If you have any concerns, please talk to your classroom teacher or you can contact Chappy Kate on 0412 198 067. Otherwise you can leave a message with the office or email me and I will get back to you as soon as possible. We are here to support you!

Chappy Kate can be found at Bunker’s Hill State School Monday and Thursday and at Drayton State School on Tuesday and Friday
Drayton 07 4637 7444 | Bunker’s Hill 07 4698 5319 email kateh@chappy.org.au
“SU Qld ... bringing hope to a young generation”
Scripture Union Queensland is a member of the worldwide Scripture Union International community.
It's been said that children are the unwitting victims of a breakdown between partners, but it doesn't take a separation for kids to be caught up in their parents' disputes.

In particular, kids of all ages can be impacted by games of one-upmanship that can be played out even when parents are together.

It happens when one parent criticises the other parent's child-rearing either verbally or non-verbally: a raised eyebrow can send a strong message. This type of criticism creates doubt and uncertainty in children.

It happens when one parent intentionally overindulges children by buying them toys, gadgets and clothes granting them excessive freedom out of spite. Competitiveness and disloyalty cause confusion and unhappiness in children.

It happens when a parent withholds affection and attention to children to punish their partner for some transgressions they may have committed. Callousness leads to feelings of unhappiness and guilt in children.

**Consistency is the greatest gift parents can give**

Kids crave consistency from their parents. They love to be able to predict how their parents will raise them as this puts them in control, which is vital for their healthy development. When they grow up in a predictable, caring environment they are more likely to take the learning risks necessary to grow and develop. In unstable, unpredictable environments kids either go into their shells to keep safe or they rebel. Consistency requires parents to use predictable routines, to stick to a known set of rules and to act always in their children's best interests when raising them.

**Avoid negative partnerships spill over**

Families have many relationships within them. Parents have relationships with children as individuals and as a group. Children also have relationships with each other and with each parent, if there are two. Parents also have a relationship with each other, which can be compromised when there is family breakdown. The challenge for parents is to prevent a breakdown in their relationship impacting on their other relationships including each person's relationship with children. Positive parent relationships also have a positive effect on children's learning and wellbeing. Conversely, anecdotal evidence suggests that the spill over to children from their parents' negative relationships is significant indeed in terms of negatively impacting children's learning and their wellbeing.

**Kids are mood detectives**

If two parents are in dispute there is an absolute imperative for the parents to keep the breakdown or conflict between themselves and to minimise the negative spill over to children. Inevitably, children will experience a tension if it exists between couples no matter how well their parents try to keep a dispute private. Kids are mood detectives. They are generally better than we think at picking up the nuances of relationship tensions.
Parents using kids as bargaining chips ...

Stick to the business of parenting
It helps if parents in dispute can stick to the business of parenting and don’t confuse it with the business of partnering. If a parent isn’t getting along with a partner, then this is a problem to be worked out between them. Acting in the best interests of children means that we separate the partnering from the parenting when it comes to childrearing. This means that parents may have to compromise about many issues ranging from the straightforward, such as bedtimes, to more complex issues such as how best to manage children’s behaviour. Giving some ground to the other parent may be problematic when relationships are troubled, but it’s not impossible. Plenty of separated couples do so successfully by consciously putting their children’s best interest before their own.

Putting aside differences in children’s best interests
Relationship breakdown can bring out the worst and the best in people. It brings out the worst when parents put their individual interest before the children’s, particularly when they interact with each other. Parents show their best side when they don’t let emotions rule their heads when they are in dispute with their partner. That means refraining from using kids as bargaining chips when interacting with their partner or a partner. Instead they stick to the business of parenting and make decisions in the very best interests of their children rather than their own interests. That’s the adult thing to do.

Michael Grose