Principal News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As the half way point of the longest term in 2016 is reached, it is again worth considering the expectations of all students at Drayton SS. I have been very pleased to note students doing all they can to:

- Be SAFE
- Give (their) best EFFORT
- Show RESPECT
- Take PRIDE
- Be RESPONSIBLE

If these expectations can be reinforced at home, together we will be able to build a culture that promotes learning within and outside of the school fence. Thank-you to our families that do discuss these expectations with their children – that is of great benefit to us all. Even a couple of minutes each night reinforcing the words SAFETY, EFFORT, RESPECT, PRIDE and RESPONSIBILITY will be of great benefit.

I appreciate all the hard work parents and families contribute to make our school absolutely wonderful.

Enrol Now for Prep 2017

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.

National Tool for School Improvement

At Drayton SS, we are very much engaged with the National Tool for School Improvement. This tool is used to assist every school in Queensland focus on our core business. While not a report card, there are 9 ‘domains’ that allow us to focus our time and efforts. These are:

1. An explicit improvement agenda
2. Analysis and discussion of data
3. A culture that promotes learning
4. Targeted use of school resources
5. An expert teaching team
6. Systematic curriculum delivery
7. Differentiated curriculum delivery
8. Effective pedagogical practices
9. School-community partnerships

Within each ‘domain’ are indicators to suggest how the school could be operating. For example, within Domain 2 (Analysis and discussion of data), areas that would describe outstanding practices would include the school using data …

“throughout the school to identify gaps in student learning, to monitor improvement over time and to monitor growth across the years of school. A high priority has been given to professional development aimed at building teachers’ and leaders’ data literacy skills.”

These indicators are very useful to us, as they enable the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with staff, to continually review what we do in the school and within classrooms, so that student improvement and achievement can occur. We believe it is good practice to consistently refer to evidence-based practices within our teaching and learning cycles, which is another benefit of working through the National Tool.

Hence, over the coming months, I will highlight some of the work that is occurring in our school that falls under the 9 domains above. While this is now becoming common practice in Queensland, the nationally adopted tool will gradually be rolled out Australia-wide, as it becomes part of ‘the culture’ within each school community, as it is in our school.
Facilities Update

Just a brief note to let you know that over the coming weeks, there will be some major drainage work that Building and Asset Services, known as BAS (formerly Q Build) has commissioned, in partnership with the Department. Whilst the bulk of the work will be completed after school, on weekends and during the upcoming June/July school holidays, there will be works that will occur through the day also. This will result in some temporary fencing that will be installed throughout the school, and will cause minor disruption to traffic within the school.

Whilst there should be minimal disruption to student learning, you will notice a number of construction personnel within the school over the next 6 weeks, commencing this Friday 27th May. They will be installing a number of drainage pits so that water run-off and pooling is no longer an issue from rain. (Yes, I know what you’re saying … we need it to rain first and what is the chance of that?) However, history has shown us that we are subjected to many areas of the school becoming flooded which impacts on all buildings and covered areas.

Thank-you for your patience and understanding in this. Cosmetically, we may not really see the fruits of the labour and the investment. However, given most of the work will involve digging up concrete and installing pits and pipes, this is vital infrastructure that will benefit everyone in the long run.

Expression of Interest to attend Creative Generation (CGen)

You would recall from previous newsletters that during 2016, Drayton SS has Morgan, Mai Lan, Reid and Ella performing in Creative Generations – State Schools Onstage. This showcases student talent from Queensland state schools in the performing arts.

We now have an opportunity to be able to call for Expressions of Interest from students who would like to attend the CGen Matinee performance on Friday 15th July (Week 1, Term 3). We have received a limited allocation of tickets from Harristown SHS, with the cost at this stage approximately $50 - $60 (subject to change once final numbers are established) including the cost of the bus and the show.

Essentially, students would travel as part of the Harristown SHS student group selected to attend, and would depart in the morning, returning by the early evening. Given we only have a limited allocation, students will be selected on a first-in first-served basis, with student behaviour and their year level taken strongly into account.

If you are keen for your child to attend, you are asked to express your interest by visiting the school office (in person) and asking the Administrative Officer to write your name on this list. This will not constitute a booking. Rather, it will provide a guide as to the interest level, from a first-in first-served base. More information about this will be provided in coming weeks.

On That Note …

We have a number of events occurring in the coming weeks, with Drayton’s Got Talent occurring at lunch breaks, excursions to the Empire Theatre happening on consecutive Fridays, and Canberra Trip Deposits required by Friday.

As we move into Report Card season, I extend my best wishes to all students commencing or completing assessment over the coming weeks.

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 discuss an aspect of the amazing work happening at Drayton State School around the teaching of reading. It will also feature some tips for parents around the teaching of reading and the important role they play in this process.

Over the last few weeks we have seen an astounding increase in student reading confidence, ability and levels due to the focused teaching occurring during our Project Literacy time.

Our Prep to Year 5 students currently participate multiple one hour literacy blocks each week where students work in small groups and participate in focused teaching based on their learning needs. These areas are identified by data analysis and individual tracking. The strategies used by teachers include collaborative planning, evidence-based resourcing and a sustained focus on literacy instruction.

Parent tip: Read to your kids! Even after children learn to read by themselves, it’s still important for you to read aloud together. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers’ understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.

Regards,

Chantelle Bauer
Acting Head of Curriculum
Visiting Heritage-Listed Venues in our Local Area with 3BG and 3/4V

On Thursday 19 May, 3/4V and 3BG we went on an excursion to St Patrick’s Cathedral and then on to the Empire Theatre to gain a better understanding of what it means for a property to be heritage-listed. We have been learning about this topic in our Geography lessons.

We began at St Patrick’s Cathedral where we sat out the front and drew a field sketch in our booklets. Here is Jake working on his sketch.

Father Peter explained that a church becomes a ‘cathedral’ if it has a bishop and also that the bishop’s chair inside was called a ‘cathedra’.

The cathedral first started being built in 1885 and was opened when the first section was finished in 1889. The second stage, with the wings, was opened in 1935. Here is a photo of our group in front of one of the foundation stones.

The students listened to the tour with rapt attention. Father Peter pointed out to us the leadlight windows at the front of the church that are in a butterfly pattern. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at St Pat’s and Jake and Kendall expressed as such to Father Peter before he left to conduct Mass on the other side of town.

We then journeyed not far from there to the Empire Theatre. The theatre was first built in 1911 for movie-goers, it was extended in 1933 after a fire, and it sat empty (except for pigeons and squatters) from 1976-1995 until it was decided upon by council to not become a carpark but rather to be restored like it was at first. It now seats 1567 patrons!

W illiam, our host, showing us the old fire stair exit.

Matthew, Abby and Emcee enjoying the theatre seats of yesteryear.

Mayrha, who was so happy to be with the group.

Billy in the change room thinking about his show to come!

W illiam, telling us about the 82 ropes that lower, raise, close and open things on the stage.

A marvellous day was had by all! Well done to students and staff alike who treated both people and property with such care and respect.

Thankyou!
Footsteps Dance

There are still some outstanding accounts for Footsteps Dance,
The cost is $15.00 per student,
Please make sure you have paid.
Thank you

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

YEAR 3s will be learning to play the recorder very soon. Since the Year 7s are now at high school we are able to offer Instrumental Music Lessons to Year 4 students, therefore we need to prepare them. Learning the recorder is an introduction to reading and playing.

Any Year 3 student who owns a recorder should bring it to music lessons from now on but those who do not will be able to use school recorders. These instruments are thoroughly rinsed with disinfectant after use and prepared for the next time using Milton Bacterial Solution.

Later on we will again be selling second-hand recorders and cases at the Uniform Shop.

Drayton’s Got Talent – The Senior Heats will be held at 1st break over the next two Wednesdays and on 8th June we will hold the FINALS> Good luck to all contestants.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUNIOR WINNER – MAI-LAN RUHLE

SING OUT CHOIR - Please return your Forms and money for this very special opportunity as soon as possible.

ORSAL HEALTH CARE FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

Free dental care through the Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service (School Dental Service) is offered to all Queensland students from the age of four to the completion of Grade 10 who are permanent residents of Australia and named on a Medicare Card. The dental team consists of a dentist, dental therapists, oral health therapists and dental assistants. You will be advised if your child needs specialist dental treatment.

A dental registration form will be issued to the eldest child in every family. If you would like your child/children to participate in the free dental care program, please complete each section of the registration form, sign and return it to the School Office.

Please note that by signing this form, you are only advising our service of your wish to participate in the dental care program and providing personal information to allow us to contact you. Using the information that you provide to us, a staff member will contact you to arrange an appointment.

Please remember

The dental van will be at the school mid June.
• Parents/Guardians must attend all appointments
• There are limited appointments available before and after school and most appointments will have to be during school time
• Oral Health does not accept any responsibility for transport of the children to and from their appointments
Our ‘Drayton Dragon Awards’ program exists in every classroom & aims to build the capabilities of every student with positive messages & lessons in each class about our school rules:

Be SAFE - Give your best EFFORT - Show RESPECT - Take PRIDE - Be RESPONSIBLE

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

**Week ending 13th May:** Congratulation to all those who received Drayton Dragon Awards on the day.


Congratulations to our award winners!!!!

**Year 2/3 Playground**

The new 2/3 playground is really taking shape now, with thanks to the families that have volunteered their time over the last few weekends to help out. The playground is now ready for the posts to be concreted and the soft fall sand to go around it.

**Tuckshop**

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who have kindly helped in the Tuckshop over the last 2 weeks. Also, it is great to see so many orders going in to the Tuckshop each week, supporting a new healthier tuckshop menu. The response has been amazing. Thank You!

**Planting on the Oval**

As you may have noticed, some lovely trees have been getting planted out around the bottom oval. This was suggested as a way to create some shade for the students, as well as some privacy with surrounding areas. Thanks to Greg Dyer, Diana Ruhle and some helpful students for organising this and getting the planting done and watering system sorted. We are sure the plants will grow beautifully!!!

**NEXT MEETING:** June 8th 6.30pm in the Bendigo building. All welcome!

Karyn Kleidon
Secretary

**Uniform Shop**

If you haven't already noticed, the long sleeved rugby shirts are in!! They are a great addition to our school uniform range, either on their own for a little added warmth or under a jumper on those colder days (whenever they get here)!! They are selling at the same price as the polo shirts ($28), and we have a range of sizes coming in over the next few days so if we have run out of the size you need please leave us your details and we can let you know when they come in.

Also, the uniform shop is looking for a volunteer to help out on Monday morning from 8.30 to 8.45, if anyone is available and would like to help out please contact me on my mobile 0412675038.

As always we accept cash and cheque only (sorry no eftpos), and orders can be arranged through the office if you are unable to come in either Monday morning 8.30-9.15am or Friday afternoon 2.30-3.15pm.

Alisha O'Neill Convenor
0412 675 038
Text Messaging system

Our school has a text messaging system for Absences.

At around 10.00am each day text messages are sent to any parents whose child has been marked absent on the teachers electronic roll. You can reply on the phone number 0427 016 460 with a text message. Please put the name of the child, date and reason for the absence.

If you are coming in later that day when you sign the student into the office this action will correct the absence text message.

Please note you will continue to receive absence messages if you do not let us know a reason for the absence.

School Crossing Behaviour

We would like to thank everyone for their good behaviour while crossing the road. We would like to draw your attention to some guidelines that will make the crossing more safe.

Please do not run or race up to the crossing

Please do not push people to cross the road without checking if crossing is closing

Please for drivers attention slower than the limit is careful not careless.

Everyone must be aware children will copy adult behaviour (Any adults) especially incorrect or risky behaviour

Thanks again for the good start to the year
Kristine & Diane
Crossing Supervisors

Position Vacant

Keep an eye on the Queensland Smart Jobs web site

For the position of Community Liaison Officer at Drayton State School

Position Vacant

Term 3

Casual Cleaner for 3 hours a week. Please submit a letter detailing your experience to the Business Services Manager by Friday 9.00am 27 May.