Principal News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Given we have only 2 ½ weeks left of Semester 1, I would like to encourage all families to ensure that student attendance is maximised as best as possible. Critical and crucial learning, assessment and reflection often takes place during the final weeks of a term, and this will be no different. Our whole school attendance rate is currently 94.1%, a little shy of the target of 95%. I look forward to seeing this rate continue to steady and increase as the term comes to an end.

National Tool for School Improvement – An explicit improvement agenda

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, 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. Whilst 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 teaching and learning
8. Effective pedagogical practices
9. School-community partnerships

Over the coming months, I will highlight some of the work that is occurring in our school that falls under the 9 domains above. This fortnight, I would like to share some of the work occurring in our school that falls under Domain 1 – An explicit improvement agenda. As you would be aware, our focus areas for 2016 include:

- Reading

These three areas make up our sharp and narrow focus across the school. To achieve this, we have resourced all classrooms both physical and human, to maximise learning in reading, writing and numeracy. Amongst others, during 2016, we:

- Have Embedded Focussed Rotations in all classes;
- Are working towards LEM Phonics as the adopted whole school phonics programme;
- Are working towards achieving quality in the Curriculum into the Classroom (C2C) units in English, Mathematics and other learning areas;
- Have initiated the conversation and planning processes in STEM; and
- Have refined our Behaviour Management processes, allowing for the pre-conditions of learning to be achieved.

Drayton SS is driving forward a culture of 12 month’s improvement and achievement, for 12 month’s quality attendance.

Coupling the activities (the output), is maximising staff capability and capacity. After all, the Department of Education and Training is emphasising 2016 as the year of capability and capacity building for all staff. This is achieved through releasing class teaching staff one day per term for TATAL (Team Approach to Teaching and Learning) planning days to allow consistency of planning, reviewing of student data and moderating assessment practices.

Additionally, staff are working with their Line Manager through the Developing Performance Planning processes, along with our Master Teacher further refining pedagogical (teaching) skills.

There is no doubt this is an exciting time to be part of the Drayton SS family. With the recent formation of an ICT Committee, our Business Services Manager and I working yesterday with Regional Office on the brand new State Schooling Infrastructure Plan (SSIP),
and other committees and processes currently in place, Drayton SS is firmly focussed on an Explicit Improvement Agenda, designed to ensure that every student who attends our school, succeeds.

**BPAY**

For parents who have been utilising the BPAY method of paying invoices, we regret to inform you that it will no longer be available. We have removed BPAY to limit the possibility of your payment being applied to the wrong invoice. BPOINT is our preferred method of payment. This is a credit card payment system managed by the Commonwealth Bank. The details for use can be found on page 5 of the newsletter.

Of course, you are still free to visit the office to pay invoices in person by either cash, Credit Card or by using the EFTPOS facilities as per normal. We trust this will enhance and simplify the payments process.

**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 the 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. We have a number of students on our list, and we would love to see that number grow.

I have had conversations with many parents over the past couple of weeks, with extremely positive feedback. 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.

**Report Cards**

Just a reminder that Report Cards will be sent home on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. I know that all student will be here to collect them, after two days of intense participation at the Athletics Carnival earlier in that week.

**On That Note …**

We have a number of events occurring in the coming weeks, with the final of the Drayton’s Got Talent occurring today, a Year 1 excursion to St Matthew’s on Monday, Sing Out occurring at the Empire Theatre next Wednesday and of course, the Athletics Carnival during the final Tuesday and Wednesday of the term. As Principal, along with the Physical Education specialist, we are both impartial and the ‘Switzerland’s’ of the school. So, here’s to great sportsmanship and participation during the Athletics Carnival on Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 11. Go Drayton!

Kind Regards,

**Aleksandr Taylor-Gough.**

**PRINCIPAL**

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**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.

As mentioned previously, we have seen amazing results in our focus area of reading. To show you exactly how outstanding our results are, here is one of our Year 1 classes and the improvement in student reading levels. To give you some idea how awesome this is, normally we expect students to improve by around 2-4 reading levels over a term, depending on the student and their age.

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**Phonological awareness and why it is so important?**

**Phonological awareness** is a broad term that refers to the ability to focus on the sounds of speech as opposed to its meaning, and it has a number of different levels or components. It is the realisation that a continuous stream of speech can be separated into individual words, that those words can also be broken up into one or more syllables, and that syllables are made up of separate, single sounds (phonemes).

The most significant of these components for reading development is awareness of the individual sounds or phonemes, that is, **phonemic awareness**.

A phoneme is a single "unit" of sound that has meaning in any language. There are 42 phonemes in English each one representing a different sound a person can make. Since there are only 26 letters in the alphabet, sometimes
letter combinations need to be used to make a phoneme. For example, ‘cat’ has 3 phonemes (sounds) ‘c’ ‘a’ ‘t’, the word ‘third’ also has 3 phonemes ‘th’ ‘ir’ ‘d’. Being able to blend together and to segment (stretch-out and hear/say) phonemes are the crucial phonemic skills for reading and spelling.

**Parent tip:**
When your child is learning their spelling words for homework, ask them how many sounds (or phonemes) they can hear in each word. Being able to hear and listen for the individual sounds/phonemes in words will greatly improve their spelling results. If they can hear the sound/phoneme, they can write it.

Regards,
Chantelle Bauer
Acting Head of Curriculum

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**Hi everyone,**

**Drayton Athletics Carnivals – Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd June (Weather permitting).**

Our Athletics Carnivals are coming up in the last week of Term 2. All students will participate over both days. Tuesday will be field events (High Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, Discus, Ball games & Novelty events) and Wednesday will be track events (800m, 200m, Sprints and Relays). All students will be participating in all events, with the following exclusions: 800m (9-12 year olds who have nominated), 200m (9-12 year olds), Discus (9-12 Year olds, with 7 & 8 year olds participating in a modified discus activity). 5 & 6 Year olds will participate in modified field activities, just for fun and experience. They will compete for places in their sprints.

All students are encouraged to dress in their house colours for the carnivals. Students must wear a sleeved shirt and joggers and must bring their hats, water bottles and packed lunches to both days.

See the attached programs for further information. Parents and families are invited to attend our carnivals and support our students.

**Carnival Conditions of Competition:**

- **Field Event Ribbons** – awarded to 7-12 year olds who come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in High Jump, Shot Put & Long Jump and 9-12 year olds who come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Discus.
- **Track Event Ribbons** – awarded to 5-12 year olds who come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the final of their track event. (800m, 200m or sprints).
- **No Ribbons will be awarded for Ball games and Relays.**
- **All Judge/Teacher decisions are final. Fouls and disqualifications will occur in accordance to the rules governed by Athletics Australia. Any protests must be presented in writing to the recorders tent and will be dealt with at a later time by the convenor and Principal.**
- **Good Sportsmanship will be expected from all students, staff and spectators.**
- **A Drayton Athletics Team will be selected from places and distances achieved at our school carnivals and students will be notified by letter. They will compete at the Cambooya District Athletics Carnivals, held in Term 3. This includes all age groups.**

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,
Chantelle Manteufel – PE Specialist
E: cmant26@eq.edu.au

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**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

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**NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM**

**SING OUT** A reminder to all Senior Choir members :- SING OUT NOTES AND FEES need to be returned tomorrow, Thursday. Please check that you have all the uniform requirements and have named all bags, hats, coats etc before next week.

Parents who wish to attend the Twilight Concert (5.30 – 7.15pm) should have purchased their tickets for the evening session, Wednesday 15 June, from the Empire Booking Office.

The Senior Choir students have been working hard to prepare for this exciting day – ready to perform “The Mummy Song”, their favourite, by themselves and in the massed choir of 500!!
**Sustainable Makerspace is coming to our school…**

**What is a Sustainable Makerspace?**

A Makerspace is a place where people can come together to use, and learn to use materials as well as develop creative projects. Our Makerspace at Drayton State School is a Sustainable Earth Makerspace. This is where we will be creating products by using recycled materials as well as using other scientific instruments.

**When will this take place?**

The Makerspace classes will run on a Monday afternoon for 2 weeks at a time for all of Term 3.

**Who will be involved in this program?**

This opportunity will be available in particular to selected kinaesthetic learners along with students who have shown talent in Geography/Science in Years 3-6. There will be 12 makers per session.

**Where will this program take place?**

The program will take place in Miss Costello’s classroom, nestled between 3BG and 4P, in C Block.

**What happens to the products that the students create?**

They will be for sale at the Art Show at the Makerspace stall to raise funds for Chaplaincy in our school.

**Why are we running a program like this?**

For a number of reasons.

1. To promote personal sustainability practises – by developing a culture of creating as opposed to consuming;
2. To encourage creativity, innovation, scientific and collaborative thinking more in our school; and
3. To spark an entrepreneurial spirit in students for the future well-being of our country.

**How can you help?**

You are invited to contribute to our Sustainable Makerspace by bringing in the following:

- Shoe boxes (or slightly larger boxes)
- Recyclables (eg clean juice containers with lids, 1L clean fruit juice poppers, clean plastic containers, etc)
- Clean, brightly coloured bed sheets
- Unused, clean denim jeans, twill pants, material that is tough that will grip well
- Styrofoam sheets
- Crochet hooks
- Knitting needles size 12.0mm or similar
- Colourful, unused bathroom tiles

Please give any contributions to Mrs Laird in your Geography lesson!

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**ORAL 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

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**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 absent text message.

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

Label all items

Have you lost an item at school?
Please ensure all items are labelled, especially lunchboxes and all items of clothing.
It is so much easier to return items if they are labelled.
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 27th May:** Congratulations to all those who received Drayton Dragon Awards on the day.


**DRAYTON DRAGON AWARDS**

_Congratulations to our award winners!!!!_

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**P&C News**

**Year 2/3 Playground**

Watch this space as we see the final work done on the playground over the next few weeks. Thanks to all of those involved in the building of the playground!!

This week’s meeting: 6.30pm 8th June 2016 at the Bendigo Room. All welcome

Karyn Kleidon
Secretary

**Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop is still looking for someone who can spare a small amount of their time Monday mornings to help out in the shop. If anyone is able to help please let me know, we would really appreciate it!

The cold weather is now definitely upon us, so if there is anything your kids are missing from their Winter wardrobe please pop in and see us or contact us via the office if it outside uniform shop hours. If anyone has good quality second hand items that they no longer require and would like to sell on, please contact us or bring your items in.

It is that time of the term where we remind parents and guardians to please check the lost property for any items your child may have lost through the term, and also have a good look around classrooms. It is always a great idea to make sure all of your child’s clothing items are clearly marked so that we can return these items to you.

Alisha O’Neill
Convenor
Alisha O’Neill Convenor
0412 675 038
Times are approximate and are subject to change. Larger groups may go over time. Judge/Teacher decisions are final.

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**Assistance in Age Groups and Seed Students to their Participation**

- **8.30 - 9.00**
  - Ball Games
  - Student Helping
  - 8 Boys
  - 9 Girls
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  - 7 Girls
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  - 10 Girls

- **9.00 - 9.30**
  - Ball Games
  - Student Helping
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- **11.00 - 11.30**
  - Ball Games
  - Student Helping
  - 8 Boys
  - 9 Girls
  - 10 Boys
  - 7 Girls
  - 8 Girls
  - 9 Girls
  - 10 Girls

**2011 - 5 Years**

- **2005 - 6 Years**
- **2006 - 7 Years**
- **2007 - 8 Years**
- **2008 - 9 Years**
- **2009 - 10 Years**
- **2010 - 11 Years**

Students will compete in their age groups determined by their year of birth.
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*Division: Athletes Generals 2016 Wednesdays 7/26 June – Track Events*