DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Friday, 27 March - P&C Movie Night 5:30 – 8:30
- Monday, 30 March - Leaders Parade & Tree Planting 2:30pm
- Tuesday, 31 March - Football For Kids clinic 1:30-3:00 – all classes
- - Donations for Easter Raffle due
- Wednesday, 1 April - Easter Raffle tickets and money due
- Thursday, 2 April - Cross Country & Fun Run – deadline for sponsorship forms!
- Monday, 20 April - End of Term 1
- - School resumes for Term 2

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

This week, we’re focussing on the value of Doing Your Best.

Education is a community effort. It takes equal commitment from the school, from the student and from the parent. How do we teach our children to do their best? We start not by telling them how to do this, but rather by modelling to them how to do this through our own behaviour. Perhaps, then, the best way to help our children learn to do their best without rewards and without competition or comparison is to first learn to do it ourselves.

If we learn to do our best, and model that behaviour to our children, our example provides them more than any conversation can about how to do our best. The skills that help us most in life are not the skills we learn from homework. Ambition, self-confidence, and goal-setting are better indicators of adult-life success than doing well in school. These are the skills that really make a difference in children’s future success or failure.

RAINBOW AWARDS

RED
Crystal Robson
Allan Weir

THANK YOU

A very big thank you to Jo Rolfe for digging the holes for the Year 6 Graduation Garden and to Karen Richards for trimming back some of our trees and hedges.

Thank you for taking the time to help keep our school looking great. It is very much appreciated!
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to the recipients of last week's *Nothing But The Best* awards who displayed Freedom: Joey Snowdon, Jace Smith & Rose Robinson. Congratulations also to Amber Delaware for her award from the week before.

All teachers are currently undertaking Student-led Conferences with the children in their classes. If you have not yet made a conference time to meet with your child and their teacher, please do so as soon as possible as time is running out before the holidays.

My thanks go to the teachers for their commitment in reporting to our parents like this in Term 1 and 3 each year. Many of you with children in other schools would be aware that our Student-led Conferences are rather unique – they last for 30-45 minutes, rather than the 5-10 minute allotments that some schools allow, they involve the child and they actually celebrate the learning of the child and encourage short- and long-term goal setting.

I was recently discussing the value of teamwork between home and school with a close friend who has two children. In their household, education is valued and is seen as setting the groundwork for future successes. I am often in awe of my friend and how she balances the dual roles of being a working mum, but her comment that she couldn't do it without teachers reminded me of how important it is that we all work together.

Home and school—everyone shares the goal of helping children learn and feel successful.

We only get one chance to educate our children, so time is of the essence. Research has clearly shown that strong parent engagement in schools increases student achievement, positive attitudes toward school, higher homework completion, and higher graduation rates. Students tend to have better behaviour, and show more positive attitudes toward themselves. When parents are engaged at school, children do better in school, and the schools get better. It's a strategy we can’t afford to dismiss.

Establishing this partnership requires efforts from both teachers and parents to create a trusting, equitable relationship. Sometimes parents must first deal with their own discomfort with schools and teachers. If you experienced difficulty in school, you may have to overcome negative feelings that carry over from your own childhood. For whatever reason, you may feel overwhelmed by the prospect of attending a conference with your child’s teacher, volunteering or participating in a school activity.

You should not worry or be afraid of a conference with your child's teacher. A conference may be an opportunity to start a fresh, cooperative partnership with teachers.

You want to hear good news about your child. If the teacher does not offer any positive comments, ask directly! (“What does my child do well?”) And remember that teachers often hear only negative comments too. Be sure to try to offer a compliment or a thank-you to let the teacher know you appreciate what they are trying to do to help your child—even when it doesn’t seem to be working.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions if you don’t understand something or feel your concerns are not being addressed. Teachers and other educators easily slip into jargon and forget that many parents are not familiar with it. Ask what test scores mean and what the results mean for your child. Stop and ask for explanation of unfamiliar terms or programs. Not understanding can quickly lead to misunderstanding!

Just as my friend commented that she couldn’t do it without teachers, we can’t do it without you!

*We will not agree with everyone but we should most definitely respect one another. Respect is essential in all forms of communication.*

Yours in education,

*Sandra Porter*
Principal
SCHOOL FUN RUN / CROSS COUNTRY

Our *Adidas School Fun-Run* is on Thursday, 2 April from 8:55 to 10:30 in conjunction with our Cross Country carnival. The rest of the day is a normal school day, and all children should attend until 3:00pm.

Our expectation is that all children in Prep to Year 6 will participate in this activity to the best of their ability. All children who finish the course will earn a point for their team and will be awarded an icy pole at first break.

Children can wear suitable sun-smart shirts or other clothing in their house colours. Caps are not permitted, as per our dress code. Please make sure that suitable footwear is worn for the race.

A reminder that all sponsorship forms and collected donations need to be returned to school by Thursday, 2 April. They can be returned earlier and this would actually be more convenient with Thursday being the last day before the holidays.

Thank you to all of the parents who have already returned the forms that were sent home on Monday to volunteer to help. Without your support, these sorts of activities would not be able to go ahead. When we have lots of helpers, it gives us the flexibility to ensure that parents can also watch their own child compete.

**WHOOOO CAN HELP?**

These owls need some feeding! If you can help with just one of these jobs, please contact the office.

- **URGENT!** Digging of one hole near where the jacaranda tree used to be, by next Wednesday morning. A posthole digger and crowbar might be needed.
- Spraying of weeds in the Rossmoya and Barmoya Road front gardens. All equipment and spray is provided
- Spraying for white ants in the log signs at the front of the school. Spray is provided
- Treating log signs with timber oil. Oil needs to be painted on all surfaces.
- Moving the piano from the Multi-Purpose Building to A Block (upstairs) classroom.
- Pruning and weeding of garden beds.
- Assisting in a playground safety check – someone who can identify risks in the equipment is needed.
- Donation of sand for the playground, the sandpit and the long jump pits.

**BUY SMART COMPETITION**

Students have the chance to share more than $11,000 in prize money by developing a creative presentation about a consumer or financial topic in the 2015 Buy Smart competition.


**NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION TRIALS**

- Golf – Boys and Girls 10-12 years (born between 2005 and 2003)

For information about trials, please contact the office.
Reading Strategy: Expand Vocabulary – Voracious Reading

Although the strategy of voracious reading can also be used to improve fluency, it can also be used to expand vocabulary. The children learn that good readers increase their vocabulary by reading and reading and reading, thus becoming a voracious reader.

It is through reading that children are able to learn new words and increase their vocabulary. There are many ways parents can encourage their child to be a voracious reader. Use some of these suggestions to encourage this vocabulary strategy at home.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Read to or with your child each night. You may both read your own books, independently (at the same time), or you may read one book together. This models a love of reading for your child.

2. Although schedules get busy, try to provide a time each day for your child to read from materials from his/her choice and interest. This can include fiction, non-fiction, biographies or magazines. This will encourage your child to read for fun in addition to reading for knowledge.

3. Help your child choose a good fit book to enhance his/her motivation to read. We use the I PICK acronym:

   - I: I choose a book.
   - P: Purpose - Why do I want to read it?
   - I: Interest - Does it interest me?
   - C: Comprehension - Am I understanding what I am reading?
   - K: Know - I know most of the words.

4. In order to provide a wide range of materials to choose from, encourage your child to bring books home from the school library, make regular visits to the public library or even exchange books with his/her friends.

Thank you for your continued support at home!
SINCERE THANKS FOR AN OUTSTANDING EFFORT!
A HUGE THANKS to the outstanding catering effort of Josie Merritt, Mrs Julie Clews and Mrs Beth Jepson last week – serving breakfast, lunch & dinner to participants in a 5 day horse school!! This was a great effort, for which our school community is very grateful.

I would also like to thank Jo Geddes for affording us this fundraising opportunity and we hope all enjoyed the 5 day school.

PIZZA, POPCORN & MOVIE NIGHT
Just a reminder that our “Pizza, Popcorn & Movie” night for the kids is on this Friday, 27 March commencing at 5:30pm. Please remember to return the attached order form – IT IS DUE TODAY!! We do need an indication of numbers to ensure we have adequate food to cater for all. Please remember payment will be taken ON THE NIGHT – no need to return money with your order form.

We look forward to sharing this evening with your children.

BONFIRE NIGHT – 2nd PLANNING MEETING, FRIDAY, 27 MARCH @ 7PM
Planning is underway for our annual BONFIRE NIGHT, with a date now confirmed as Saturday, 30 May. Given that some of us will already be gathered for the Pizza, Popcorn & Movie night, we thought we could make use of this time by having a planning meeting at 7pm, whilst the kids are watching the movie. All are welcome and we appreciate any ideas, feedback or assistance you may be able to offer to ensure this great event is even greater in the second year.

EASTER RAFFLE – DONATIONS DUE 31 MARCH
The Easter Raffle winners will be drawn on Thursday, 2 April, at the conclusion of the Cross Country/Fun Run. All proceeds will be donated to our Student Council.

We ask that each family donate an Easter-related gift item for us to put into a basket for this event. Donations need to be brought to the school office by Tuesday, 31 March so that we have time to prepare the baskets.

Tickets will be $2 each and tickets have been sent home to each family. If you would like more tickets, please see the school office.

All tickets need to be returned to the school office no later than Wednesday, 1 April.