FROM THE PRINCIPAL…

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

NAPLAN

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, our Year 3, 5 and 7 students will complete the NAPLAN Testing in Literacy and Numeracy. This is a very important National Assessment Strategy, and our students and staff have all preparations and plans in place. Students completing these tests need to be at school on these days and be on time.

STAFF CHANGES

Some minor adjustments to staffing for this term include Ms Preya Dorasamy teaching Year 5W and Miss Hannah Smoothery teaching Year 3R. Ms Natasha Wallin will undertake Miss Smoothery’s Wednesday and Friday class teacher relief duties.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

As the cooler months are now upon us, parents are reminded that the school uniform jumper or a similar plain navy coloured jumper or jacket are acceptable warmer clothing. Multi coloured jackets and hoodies are not suitable for wearing to school. Our School’s Dress Code is on our new website and it clearly outlines our school uniform policy and requirements, not only with respect to clothing but also acceptable jewellery and hair styles. If any parents/caregivers wish to discuss any aspect of our Dress Code, they may contact the office to speak to either myself or Mrs Fegan.

SCIM CAMP

On Wednesday 21 May to Friday 23 May, our Senior Instrumental Music students will be participating in or annual Logan West Schools Cluster Instrumental Music Camp (SCIM Camp). This activity brings together approximately 180 talented young musicians from across our Cluster of State Schools for three days of intensive tuition, practice and fun. A culminating Concert is held at 5.30pm on the Friday evening and the performances are always of a very high standard. This is an initiative of our Logan West Cluster of State Schools and our Instrumental teachers contribute greatly to its success. The SCIM Camp is held at Park Ridge State High School.

STATE EDUCATION WEEK

State Education Week for 2014 is set down for the week of 19-23 May. However here at Park Ridge we will delay our celebrating of State Education Week by one week. Our activities will include:

- Monday 26/5 – State Education Week Awards Assembly
- Wednesday 28/5 – Maroon and Blue Day and Students V Staff Touch Football
- Friday 30/5 – P&C Volunteers and Parent Helpers Morning Tea.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM…

REMEMBER STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME NOW DUE

The Student Resource Scheme is now due for payment. For all parents/caregivers who have completed the participation agreement form and have agreed to the Pay Now Option can please ensure your payment is made via the below payment options. All Centrepay and Instalments can continue as agreed with the BSM.

For all the parents/caregivers who have not yet indicated whether your child will be participating in the Scheme, can you please phone the office or come in and complete the participation agreement. The BSM will be sending home Statements prior to the end of the term to follow up on any outstanding payments.

All payments can be made at the Cash Collection Window on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.15 – 9.30am. If you wish to make payments via Internet Transfer to Park Ridge State School BSB 064-159 Account No: 0090 5870 you can do so at any time; please remember to include your child’s name in the reference.

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE

A special phone line has been dedicated for parents to use when advising the school of their child’s absence from school. It is 3380 4360. Please use this number to record your child’s absence. Remember to state your child’s name, class, and reason for absence.

AROUND THE SCHOOL…

NAPLAN

On Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known.

Skills that will be tested include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. These tests are done here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are
achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia. NAPLAN cannot be studied for and students are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN testing. Later in the year we will send you an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing. More information is available on the NAP website.

If you have any concerns, please contact the School Administration Team through the office.

**SPORT - DISTRICT SOCCER**

Congratulations to Hamish Magee and Ben Mansfield for being selected in the Greenbank District Soccer team. Good luck and have a great time at the Met West trials.

**DIABETES MONTH OF MAY**

During the month of May, Park Ridge State School will be raising funds for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). JDRF’s mission is to find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes through Research. JDRF also provides support and resources for people with diabetes and their families. Type 1 Diabetes is a life-long autoimmune disease that usually occurs in childhood but can be diagnosed at any age. Type 1 Diabetes affects over 122,300 people in Australia alone. It is caused by the immune system mistakenly turning on itself, destroying beta cells within the pancreas and removing the body's ability to produce insulin. Insulin allows the body to process sugar to create energy - without insulin, the body literally starves as it cannot process food.

You can get involved in our fundraising to help find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes by purchasing some Jelly Baby products (Jelly Baby Stamp $2, badge $2, Jelly Baby lolly bag $3, Pen $4 or lip balm $4). Products are available from the school office. S1 are also running a ‘guess the jelly baby number’ competition. Students can have a go at guessing how many jelly babies are in the jar for only 20 cents a guess or 3 for 50 cents. Students from S1 will be in the tuckshop area each lunch break for the guess the number competition. All funds raised will go straight to JDRF.

More information about Type 1 Diabetes and JDRF can be found at [http://www.jdrf.org.au/](http://www.jdrf.org.au/)

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS**

It has been a busy year with all ensembles up and running. Our Junior Strings, Choir and Concert Bands have all commenced. We have had performances by our Senior Choir for Harmony Day, Senior Concert Band at the Easter Parade and Senior Strings, Choir and Concert Band at our ANZAC Ceremony.

Our Senior Instrumentalists are busy preparing for our Annual Schools Cluster Instrumental Music (SCIM) Workshop. This will be held at Park Ridge State High on May 21, 22 and 23. All are welcome to attend this concert at 5.30pm on Friday evening that will showcase our students.

**WEEKLY MUSIC REHERSALS**

Monday - 8am Junior Strings (Years 3 & 4) Ms Garwell
Tuesday - 7.45am Senior Concert Band (Yr 6 & 7) Mrs Gittins
11am Junior Concert Band (Yr 4 & 5) Mrs van Vuuren
Wednesday – 8am Senior Strings (Years 5 & 6) Ms Garwell
Thursday – 11.15am Senior Choir (Years 4-7) Ms Cornelius

**CHALLENGE AND EXTENSION**

Write4Fun

Last term 22 students from years 4-7 participated in writing workshops in the library with the goal of producing a piece of writing (short story or poetry) to submit to the Write4Fun 2014 Schools Writing Competition. A number of students submitted short stories and we are very proud to announce that several pieces of writing have been selected for publication on the Write4Fun.net website and the 2014 Write4Fun anthology. Stories written and submitted by PRSS students are currently on display in the library. Winners of the 2014 Write4Fun Schools Writing Competition will be announced on Wednesday 14th May. Congratulations to the students who participated in this workshop, we are all very proud of your efforts.

**CBCA Readers’ Cup**

Readers Cup competitions challenge students to read widely, work collaboratively in a team and continue developing a love of reading. It allows readers to compete at Regional and State levels in the same way sporting competitions do. Throughout Readers Cup, students meet other students with an equal passion for books.

Teams of four students from Years 6/7 and Years 8/9 compete in Regional finals by reading a set of six titles set by that region. The teams meet at a Regional Competition and as a team they answer questions on each of the books. The winning team goes on to the state finals in Brisbane to represent their region.

Park Ridge State School has registered a team of five Year 6 and 7 students to compete in the Brisbane South Region Readers’ Cup competition on Thursday 12th June. These students will compete against 30 other schools from the Region and meet guest author Christine Bongers, who will act as quiz master and present a writing workshop for the participants. We wish the team the best of luck as they prepare for the competition.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM PREP 4**

Prep students are well settled into school now, and are learning more and more every day. We are really enjoying Letterland, and are having great fun participating in a range of cooking, crafts, games and activities to help us learn all of our letters and sounds.

In Prep 4 some of our favourite activities so far have been: making Annie Apple and her apple tree; making and eating fairy bread; making terrific tiger puppets; and building robots out of boxes.

Prep 4 has a website for parents and students to view and share some of the fantastic school work, as well as links to a variety of online learning games. It can be accessed at [www.mrsstewart.net](http://www.mrsstewart.net)

**CAN RECYCLING**

A reminder that we are collecting aluminium cans to raise money for the Seniors graduation. Please drop them off behind L Block toilets on the top oval.

**AROUND THE COMMUNITY…**

**BETTER START EARLY DAYS WORKSHOPS**

Are you in the early days of the journey with your child with a disability? Are you still finding the way in the disability system? Does your child have: Cerebral palsy? Down syndrome? Fragile X syndrome? A moderate or greater vision or hearing impairment (including deaf/blindness)?

You can attend a free one-day workshop especially designed for you.

The Better Start Early Days workshops are for parents who have a child in the early years.

These workshops will help you to:

- Learn more about the services and supports available to you and your child
- Understand how Better Start or NDIS funding works
- Meet other parents who have similar experiences to you
- Build confidence and develop positive strategies

Mt Gravatt - South Brisbane Friday 13th June 9.30-2.30pm at Cerebral Palsy League Mt Gravatt Service, 21 Whitley Street, Mt Gravatt East.

To register contact Julie Crawford, Cerebral Palsy League on 3637 8374 or email jcrawford@cpiqd.org.au or check out the website [betterstartearlydays.net.au](http://betterstartearlydays.net.au)
CAMP AUSTRALIA
Greetings to all families. Wheels Wednesday has been an absolute success. Children are having an abundance of fun and we are spending so much time outdoors making the most of our wheels it’s awesome! This fortnight we will be concentrating on Camp Australia’s new Better Buddies Program, where we learn how to treat people better and help people as well as leadership skills and how to keep safe.
Haylee 0421 144 467

BRAVE TEAM – GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
A team of researchers (the BRAVE Team) at Griffith University are investigating an internet-based program for children suffering from anxiety who also have a diagnosis of Asperger’s Syndrome. We are seeking children aged between 8 and 12 years to take part in the treatment study. This is being offered free for families who are eligible to participate. For more information contact the BRAVE Team: Phone: (07) 3735 3325 or Email braveforaspersgers@griffith.edu.au

REASONABLY PRICED COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
Rewired IT is an e-waste recycling business, specialising in computer refurbishment and recycling electronic waste material. We receive disused computer equipment from businesses and organisations which are then refurbished by our Work for the Dole participants. The refurbished computers are then sold at very affordable rates to students and low income earners.
We know that many families may struggle financially to meet all the costs associated with schooling. Rewired IT can provide computers to students from as little as $99. Also you may be interested to check the website: www.rewiredit.simplesite.com (this is our current site whilst we wait for our main site to come online) to find information about Rewired IT and how you can access affordable computer equipment. For more information please call on 3287 1290.