FROM THE PRINCIPAL…

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

FINAL ENROLMENTS

Our Day 8 final enrolment numbers were submitted last Thursday and we have 570 students enrolled in 23 classes from Prep to Year 7. Of those 570 students we have 37 students in our Special Education Program. These enrolment numbers indicate a continuing small growth in student numbers which will enable the school to manage more effectively the Year 7 transition to Secondary School next year.

LEARNING GUARANTEE FUNDING

Since our last newsletter, we have gained more detailed information and a clearer understanding of what our Learning Guarantee needs to focus on and how the additional funding of $135,000 may be expended. Planning for this Project is well underway and strategies and resourcing will be aligned to the school’s 2014 Learning Priorities which are:

- Improved Reading Achievement with a focus on explicit teaching of the Question Answer Relationship (QAR) Comprehension Strategy.
- Improved Writing Achievement with a focus on the 7 Steps to Writing Strategy.
- Improved Numeracy Achievement with a focus on explicit teaching of number concepts and two-step problem solving.

Planning of several strategies for improvement had already commenced before the Learning guarantee Funding was announced. These include:

- The appointment of Curriculum Cohort Co-ordinators, each with a half day class release time, to lead and coordinate improvements in teaching and learning in the School Priorities. Our Co-ordinators are Deb Kuskopf (Prep/Yr 1), Ros Richardson (Yrs 2 & 3), Alison Morris (Yrs 4 & 5) and Sonya Dunn (Yrs 6&7).
- Also our Numeracy Support Co-ordinators with a half day class release to provide teacher support and to develop teaching strategies and resources are Joanne Foreman (Yrs 4-7) and Chris Genrich (Prep-Yr3).
- Additionally Jodie Smith will have a one day per week class release to provide additional Behaviour Support Services.
- New teaching staff who will take classes include Sam Donaldson (3 days/wk) and Hannah Smoothery (2 days/wk). Caitlyn De Graaff has also returned to do one day/wk non contact time position.
- Our Year 2 Classes are implementing a Differentiated Literacy Program co-ordinated by Ormilla Haripersad. More information will be sent home for our Year 2 students.
- Additional staff will be required to meet the needs of our Learning Guarantee Strategies.

SCHOOL CAR PARK/PARKING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

Parents are requested to observe the Parking Signs in the Public Car Park, in particular the signage for the two drop off/pick up parking zones. It is illegal to park your vehicle and leave it in these two zones. Here’s how they work:

- Stop, drop and go zones are a safe place to be dropped off or picked up outside your school.
- Signed as 2 minutes loading zones and are enforceable by Council’s Local Law Officers and Queensland Police.
- They operate like a fast moving taxi rank, picking up students from the front of the zone.
- There is a 2 minute limit for stopping in this zone.
- Two minutes gives children time to get in or out of the car without holding up the traffic too much.
- Ensure children exit and enter the vehicle from the foot path side.

Parents are also requested not to enter the school grounds through the main entrance and park in the Staff car parks or near the buildings. Parents may park at the Swimming Pool end of the top oval. Co-operation, patience and tolerance are all required to ensure our students’ safety.

COMING EVENTS

Good luck to our school’s representative swimmers who will be competing at the District Swimming Carnival tomorrow. Our Student Leaders Induction Assembly is scheduled for Monday 3rd March at 9.00am. Our P&C Association’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 7.00pm on Monday 10th March in the Staffroom.

Peter James Principal
Christine Fegan Deputy Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM…

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME 2014

If you wish to join the scheme in 2014 it is a requirement for the Participation Agreement Form to be completed and returned as this is kept on file for future reference. If you choose not to join the scheme we ask that you still complete the form and return it to the office. Once the office has received
the agreement form we will then produce an invoice. If you do not have a Student Resource Form that was sent home at the end of last year please ask for a copy from the office.

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…
NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL
If you wish to receive the school newsletter by email each fortnight, we offer interactive, graphically rich, full colour electronic newsletters, delivered directly to your inbox. We have partnered with Austnews to produce this service free of charge to the school, with the kind support of our local businesses. To sign up for our eNewsletter, please click on the link below: http://mailouts.austnews.com.au/subscription/park-ridge-ss.html

*Please note that Austnews have a strict privacy policy and your email address will not be used to send unsolicited information, or be disclosed to a third party under any circumstances. Visit www.austnews.com.au for further information.

I-PHONE
If you have lost an IPhone recently, we have had one handed in at the office.

LIBRARY NEWS
Welcome to the Resource Centre!

OPENING HOURS
The Resource Centre is open Monday to Friday at the following times:
BEFORE SCHOOL: 8:30 - 8:45a.m. for reading, independent borrowing and indoor games;
FIRST BREAK: 11:15 - 11:45a.m. for reading, borrowing and indoor games;
AFTER SCHOOL: 3:00 - 3:10p.m. for independent borrowing.

BORROWING POLICY:
All students require a library bag to borrow! Bags must be made of cloth or strong waterproof plastic! Students can use a pillow case if they wish. Plastic shopping bags are not appropriate for borrowing!

THE FOLLOWING BORROWING LIMITS APPLY:
Prep - Year 2 = one fiction or non-fiction book
Year 3 - Year 7 = two fiction or non-fiction books

The loan period is two weeks however students are encouraged to return their books as soon as they have finished reading them and borrow again!

OVERDUE and LOST BOOKS
Books that have not been returned after two weeks are deemed to be overdue! Students with overdue books cannot borrow again until all overdue loans have been returned! Overdue notices are printed weekly and given to classroom teachers to remind students to return their books!

After a book has been overdue for four weeks, a letter will be sent home to parents asking for assistance in locating the book. If the book is not returned within six weeks of it becoming overdue, it will be deemed lost and parents will be asked to pay for its replacement!

The cost of replacing a lost book is $15. This money can be paid at the cash collection window on Wednesday and Friday mornings or to the Librarian Monday to Friday.

DAMAGED BOOKS
It is acknowledged that from time to time books do incur minor damage such as accidental tears or loose pages. These should be reported as soon as possible so that repairs can be made before the book is returned to the shelves.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR THE BOOK AT HOME! This often results in further damage to the book. We have specialised book repair materials in the Resource Centre.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRY WET BOOKS USING HEAT! Please wrap the book in a plastic bag and bring to the library as soon as possible. If the book has been damaged beyond repair through carelessness, parents may be asked to pay for the book to be replaced!

ASHTON SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB
The library runs Ashton Scholastic Bookclub which raises money for purchase of resources. Each issue runs for two weeks and if you wish to make a purchase, then put the correct money into a sealed envelope or snap lock bag (with name clearly printed) and place in the linenhouse in the Library. The order usually takes up to two weeks to come back from the closing date and resources are distributed to students when they are received!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY…
INVERNESS HIGHLAND DANCE STUDIO
Dance for girls and boys from 6yrs

Fun - Fitness - Competitions - Examinations
Specially priced “Try It” course for New Beginners
Wednesday afternoons 4:30 to 5:30 in Boronia Heights
$70 for ten lessons, no hidden costs

Ms Marlene McBean
H 3800 7340 M 04191563017 mmcibhds@hotmail.com

PARK RIDGE TENNIS
Come and Try the first lesson is free and if you sign up you also receive a free racquet. Lessons run every afternoon, for all ages and levels. We have pee wee groups for 5-7 year olds, Hot Shots 7-12 year olds and advanced groups for 12-18 year olds and also adult lessons. We have a new term beginning soon. Places are limited to book in or for a free trial phone Paul or Steph on 3200 0354.

PROMOTING HEALTHY WEIGHT IN CHILDREN
Families in Logan can sign up to a free government funded program which aims to increase activity and healthy eating for the whole family.

The program, called PEACH™ (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health), is available to families with a child aged 5-11 years who is above a healthy weight for their age.

As part of the program families attend 10 fortnightly sessions with additional support in the form of three phone calls. The sessions see parents learn and problem solve in a group environment while their children enjoy active play with a trained child physical activity facilitator.

Some of the topics covered in the program include nutrition skills, relationships with food and eating, changing family lifestyle behaviours, making healthy eating affordable and overcoming resistance.

PEACH™ Program Director Professor Lynne Daniels, Head of QUT’s Exercise & Nutrition Sciences School, said the program armed parents with skills to combat modern pressures around lifestyle behaviours, making healthy eating affordable and overcoming resistance.

The PEACH™ program is being funded by Queensland Health under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health - Healthy Children. It will be delivered by Queensland University of Technology using trained PEACH™ facilitators.

If you would like more information about the PEACH™ Program please free call 1800 263 519 or register online at www.peachqld.com.au

http://library.parkridge.qld.edu.au