Welcome and trust all are enjoying the change in weather? Roll on summer I say!

School continues it’s very busy life. Matthew and I have visited a number of classes in the past few weeks and will continue this until the end of the term. There are two purposes to this activity, the first is to become more and more familiar with what our students are doing in class and the second is to work with teachers for a variety of reasons. I am spending time this term and beyond looking at the types of questions that students are being asked and the level of these questions in terms of thinking skills that the students need to bring to the lessons to answer these questions. This is an ongoing project that is aiming to develop a school wide process that will see students’ thought processes developed and challenged.

Active school travel continues to grow. Thanks to all staff, students and families who are involved. When was the last time you actively travelled to school?

NAPLAN results were received in school almost two weeks ago. All students in Year 3, 5, and 7 who were here during NAPLAN testing will have received their results. Overall we as a staff were very pleased with the results and the school’s collective result showed progress for the second year running. Yes there are areas that need improving and we will work with teachers to ensure the areas are clearly identified and the improvements necessary occur. If you have questions about the NAPLAN results please talk to your classroom teacher in the first instance.

In the last few days I have attended two coaching courses and a leadership team business day. The coaching courses had two very different purposes. The first was part of a regional program that aims to improve the skills of the Principals in the region. Part of the course involves a 360 degree review and then some training so we can interpret the results. The second course is about developing my skills to coach staff members. I do this training over two, two day blocks. I am very pleased to report that this course is both practical and informative and I am really looking forward to working with a variety of people to practice my skills in this area and hopefully improve their skills also.

Junior Athletics Carnival. Have you put the date in your calendar? The date is Friday 19th September 2014 and we look forward to seeing as many parents at school for this event.

Please read the document included in this newsletter in regards to exemption from participation in school. This only applies for anticipated absences of 10 days or more.

A special thank-you to Mrs Julie Silva and Mrs Glenda Wretham for their great work in organising the Bookweek parade (check out the photos inside).

Have great fortnight!

Stephen Auer
Principal

---

**PREP 2015 ENROLMENTS**

Parents and caregivers with children starting Prep in 2015 are asked to please make contact with the school to enrol for next year at their earliest convenience.

Please encourage relatives and friends who are considering enrolments for 2015 to make contact with the school. While the start of the 2015 school year may seem a long way off, the official staffing process for next year has begun and early knowledge of enrolments assists us greatly with our planning.
From the Deputy Principal

I’d like to take this opportunity to remind parents that Geebung State School is a community that prioritises learning within a safe and supportive environment. At times students have disagreements at school. This is normal and part of growing up. When incidents occur at school it is vital that parents work with the class teacher and the school administration through these situations. At no time is a parent to approach another child other than their own child. Teachers are always ready to work with our students to help support their social development therefore it’s imperative that parents encourage their children to talk with teachers if they are feeling unsafe at school.

Thanks to the families and school buddies who have supported the successful Ritsumeikan Junior High School visit again this year. The students report that it has been a wonderful time where they were able to engage with an Aussie “way of life” and have also gained valuable experience through immersion of their use of English language. Yesterday was a highlight for the group as they had an AusKick AFL training session with two coaches, Zach and Callum. We thank AusKick for their ongoing support.

Yesterday our teachers met with their colleagues from corresponding year levels from Virginia State School and Wavell Heights State School. This was a great opportunity to check in with student work samples from other sites and reflect on our own practice. Teachers reported that this was valuable and with term four planning around the corner some opportunities exist to use this experience to benefit our teaching and learning.

School property: Please take an opportunity this week to talk with your children around the importance of valuing school property. This school belongs to our students and we want them to treat the school like it is their own. I spoke with the students on assembly this week about this topic and I mentioned that when school property is misused then quite often we find that students are not being safe. Safety is always a priority therefore we must ensure that we are teaching our children to make safe decisions.

Matthew Meharg
Deputy Principal
Free Dress Day Thursday 18 September 2014

That's right...the second last day of term!

Please come along wearing your favourite threads. Remember that your outfit will still need to have sleeves and you must wear closed in shoes.

A gold coin donation, going towards the installation of netball goal posts, is all you need to pay to be a part of Free Dress Day!
Library Resource Centre News

Book Week was a wonderful celebration of Australian Literature. Many thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success. Each class dressed up and shared their creative responses with the school community. Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who came along to join in the celebration. During Book Week the students enjoyed our author/illustrator visit with Peter Carnavas. Peter gave the students some very useful strategies for their writing and illustration. Our school was very “Connected to Reading.”

Julie Silva
Teacher Librarian
HPE

The HPE award acknowledges exceptional effort and attitude in HPE lessons. This week’s winners were Nakita S (6A) for showing great sportsmanship by including others and Ashley S (4C) for his great attitude and effort in all PE lessons.

The interschool sport competition concludes with finals next Friday 12th September. Players of the week for netball were Caitlyn A (7A) and Brooke H (3/4A). Players of the week for soccer were Patrick W (7A), Jeffrey W (7A), Cassie M (5A) and Max W (5A). Well done! Please ensure students bring plenty of water, lunch and a hat.

Leigh Stagg
HPE Co-ordinator

Australian Government Assistance for National Capital Excursions

The Australian Government contributes to our School Camp through the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) Program. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenships education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contribution funding of $60 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. This rebate has been factored into the cost of the 2014 Canberra Tour.

ACE Awards

This term sees the introduction the Geebung ACE Award.

The ACE award will be presented to students at the end of each term for Attendance and Citizenship Excellence. Award recipients will have achieved a minimum 95% attendance rate and 100% positive behaviour record for the term. The first ACE awards will be presented to students on Wednesday 17 September during our final assembly for the term.
RA CQ Streets Ahead Program
Music

Hello everyone! Wow – we are busy, busy, busy! Just how I like it. Preparations are underway for our Inaugural Music, Art & Dance (MAD) Concert in Term 4. Rehearsal season will start early in Term 4 for Band, so please add the dates to your calendar. It is very important that your student attend these rehearsals to give us the best preparation for our MAD concert. The rehearsals will be in the Hall and will run from 7:50am – 8:40am. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early to allow enough time to set up instruments and stands so that the baton can drop right on 7:50am.

Dates are:
Tuesday 14th October 2014
Tuesday 21st October 2014
Tuesday 28th October 2014
Tuesday 4th November 2014
Tuesday 11th November 2014
Tuesday 18th November 2014

Northside Honours Music Camp is on next week (Week 9). I will be away co-ordinating this area camp which takes place at Craigslea SHS & Craigslea State School. Jess T, Patrick B and Anna D will be participating in the camp and representing Geebung State School. Well done on your successful auditions!

Lessons will resume in Week 10. Can I please ask that you encourage your student to practice their instruments during the week? The minimum amount of practice needed to move forward at a steady rate is 5 lots of at least 20 minutes over the week. Students may need help scheduling the time for practice — I ask you to assist them in their planning please.

Recruiting for 2015 has begun. All Year 2, 3 and 4 students are currently undertaking the Selmer Guidance Survey in music. Please keep an eye out for further information/notes regarding physical testing and invitations to our Information Afternoon.

I’d like to finish my contribution by sharing some information gathered by Professor Brian Caldwell – former Dean of Education at Melbourne University. Professor Caldwell’s research found that students studying the Arts, particularly music, gained a year in literacy scores compared to those not studying music or the Arts. Research also shows that learning a musical instrument by 12 years of age makes the left side of the brain bigger, which has been linked to improved vocal, vocabulary and memory skills by the time students reach adulthood.

We are recruiting a double cohort from Year 4 & 5 for Band instruments in 2015 – Queensland has a unique and wonderful Instrumental Music Program unlike any other so please consider joining the program!

Happy Music Making,

Ms V

Chaplain’s Corner

Hi welcome to another edition of Chaplain’s corner

On Thursday I was so excited to be able to attend my first chill n chat café for the term. The level of service I received was second to none. I was welcomed at the door with a warm friendly greeting and smile. I was then asked where I would like to sit, my chair was pulled out for me. I was then asked if I would like tea or coffee cake, or scones. My morning tea was delivered with yet another warm friendly smile. The cake made by the students was so nice that I asked for the recipe.

I would like to thank all the year six and seven students who were involved for such a wonderful morning.

The Loom bands are still very popular.

If you would like to know any thing about the chaplaincy service here at Geebung State School please do not hesitate to ask.

Chappy Kerry

Prep B

Prep B at work

Prep B made a sandwich while they were learning to collect “data” on their favourite sandwich and we also learnt sharing and to cut the sandwich in “half” and “quarters.”
P&C Uniform Shop

UNIFORM SHOP

Did you order a full zip GSS polar fleece jacket? I still have an order for collection for Batchelor, Gough and Morsch. If these orders are not needed, please come in so I can put the stock on the shelf and sell.

Year 7 students - need an extra senior polo shirt?? I have one size 14 senior polo shirt for $28.00.

Please note that second hand commission is now 30%. An increase was necessary due to time spent on these sales and is comparable with many other P&C Associations.

GSS Bucket Hats are available everyday at the tuckshop @ $10.00.

P&C News

Spring is in the air and what a great way to welcome the new season with Spring Treat Day in the tuckshop on Wednesday. We appreciate and thank the volunteers who helped out on the day.

This week we have had the Father’s Day Stall and Raffle. The students had a great time selecting that special gift just right for dad and/or grandad. A very big thank you to our volunteers who helped out with the stall and the very generous donations for the raffle. Happy Father’s Day to all of our Geebung Dads and Grandads.

The first tuckshop raffle was a great success. The next draw will be 10 September. We have had some fantastic prizes donated for future raffles. Tickets are for sale at the tuckshop for $2 per ticket. A big THANK YOU to the Muir family for their cash donation to the tuckshop air conditioner fund.

The Junior Sports Day will be on Friday 19 September and coffee and cake will be on sale to parents from the kitchen in the hall.

The P&C is currently searching for a Fundraising Co-ordinator. If you have a few spare hours a term and would like to get involved please contact Melissa on 0402 431 827. We always have a great time and you will have a great team of friendly volunteers.

Remember to join our Facebook page and keep in the loop with what is happening around the school. It is especially useful for receiving reminders for current events.

The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday, 9 September at 7pm in the library. These meetings are a great opportunity for parents to be involved in the progress of the school and its students. New members are very welcome.

Leanne Hayden
P & C Secretary

Tuckshop

The raffle for this fortnight is a meat tray and it is $2.00 per ticket or 3 for $5.00. They are for sale at tuckshop or Before/After school care. This is a fundraiser for the air conditioner in the tuckshop.

Sports Day for the Juniors there will be coffee and cake available in the hall canteen for $5.00. Eftpos available for purchases over $10:00. Helpers are needed on the day.

Helpers needed for Thursday morning breakfast while Mrs Wright is away.

Leanne & Helen
Tuckshop Convenors
Ph 3265 5959

Join our Facebook group and keep up to date with loads of news and events happening in and around our school.

Geebung State School P&C Association
Two weeks ago the grade 7s and 6s left Brisbane to fly to Australia’s capital city, Canberra. For me it was a life time experience. I think everybody had the time of their lives. One of the highlights for me was the snow. The snow was awesome! We got to do tobogganing and we threw lots of snow balls at each other. Tobogganing was the best because we raced each other down the hill and because it was really steep we gained extra speed when we’re going down. Some of the most important parts in Canberra were going to the Parliament House and going to the War Memorial. I think this was the best camp by far!

By Harry S

On the 18th of August, Year 6 and Year 7 students left Brisbane to fly to Australia’s capital city, Canberra. When we arrived we were blasted with cold winds. The grade 6 and 7s visited places all around Canberra like the Old and New Parliament House, The War Memorial, Perisher, Telstra Tower and lots more. We had heaps of fun and a really awesome camp. We brought souvenirs to bring home and had many memories to share. The Year 6 and 7 camp was one of the best camps but very cold.

By Jake M
Information for Parents and Students

What is an exemption and why do I need it?
Every parent of a child of compulsory school age or a young person in the compulsory participation phase has a legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attending school or participating in an eligible option.

Parents can apply for an exemption from this obligation when their child cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for their child to attend school or participate in an eligible option for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days.

Situations where an application for an exemption may be made include:
- Illness
- Family reasons
- Cultural or religious reasons

If your child is exempted from compulsory schooling, you are excused from your obligation in relation to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation.

The school principal is not responsible for providing an educational program to your child, however they may provide advice on other educational options available.

Who decides to grant or not grant an exemption?
• For state school students:
  Decisions about exemptions are made by the principal of the school the student attends.

• For non-state school students:
  All exemption decisions for non-state school students are made by the Manager, Office of Non-state Education.

• For children who are not enrolled in any state or non-state Queensland school:
  Decisions about exemptions for students who are not enrolled in any state or non-state school are made by either the Regional Director, Principal Advisor Education Services, Principal Advisor Regional Services, Director Regional Services, of the Department of Education, Training and Employment region in which the child resides.

Applying for an exemption
You are encouraged to discuss with the school whether an application for exemption is a suitable option. The school can provide you with an application form for an exemption. It is important that supporting documentation and evidence are attached to the application.

When a decision about the exemption has been made, you will be informed in writing whether or not the exemption has been granted and if any conditions have been imposed. If you are not satisfied with the decision made, you can make a submission for the decision to be reviewed.
Assembly Awards

Visiting Japanese Students
Geebung State School Amateur Swimming Club
SIGN ON DAY

Saturday 13th September
Time: 2:00 to 4:00
&
Sunday 21st September
Time: 2:00 to 4:00
at
Geebung State School Swimming Pool
250 Newman Road, Geebung

Geebung State School Amateur Swimming Club offers swimmers the opportunity to participate in a regular schedule of racing, competition experience, socialising and family fun. The 1st club night for the 2014/2015 season commences on Friday 10th October starting 6:00pm.

Family membership 1st child $55, 2nd child $15, 3rd & 4th child $10 per family (required on Sign on Day) – compulsory.

Enquiries: geebungswimclub@hotmail.com
Notices

To purchase put the below link in your web browser:

https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/2277g08
Notices

BRACKEN RIDGE LITTLE ATHLETICS

Sign on for 2014/2015 season

Boys & Girls 5yrs to 17yrs
(Birth certificate required for all new athletes)

Sign on ANY Friday night throughout
the season from 5:30pm!
McPherson Pk, Denham St,
Bracken Ridge

Season:
29 August, 2014 until 13 March, 2015
(Break at Christmas)

Competition:
When: 6pm—8.30pm Friday nights

Cost & Registration:
Cost: $150 First child
$100 Second child
$80 Third child

Maintenance Levy: $20 per family (non-refundable)
Roster Levy: $50 per family (turn over for details)
Uniform: From $55 (full uniform & footwear is compulsory)

"Get Started" vouchers accepted

For more information:
Sue Williams — 3261 3909 or 0419711231
Debbie Adams— 3265 5794 or 0412635099
Website: www.brackenridge.asn.au

Two week trial period for $10
Regional carnivals
End of season trophies
Parental involvement required
Mid-week coaching / training available

Proud Supporters

Eftpos & Credit Card facilities available, payment online or bank transfer accepted

Bendigo Bank: 85B 633-000 Account 127943314
(Please put your surname in the description and bring the receipt)