Principal’s Message

We are now well underway, halfway through week 4 and all our classes are running smoothly. I have particularly been pleased with the behaviour of the students with very few students getting into trouble and many more getting compliments about their work.

Behaviour and Attitude
The school introduced a new award this year at the whole school assemblies. This award recognises two students who have tried hard, made individual improvement or consistently behave and work well. This is a special award that they can take home to show how well they have been doing at school. However it is not linked to the ribbon and medallion scheme. This week’s whole school assembly will be held on Friday at 9:45am. During this assembly the ribbons and medallions are presented to students but we will also present the Class Councillors and Library Monitors with their badges. Finally I hope to see many of our families at the P&C welcome BBQ on Friday.

Notice regarding staff
Next week Mrs Scotney will be absent for the week. Replacing Mrs Scotney will be Ms Grieves who worked at the school last year. She will continue to follow the class program and themes that the students are doing.

Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to Ms Watling and her team for the outstanding swimming carnival on Monday. It is always a good day but with the inclusion of the novelties the day was even better. Congratulations to all our swimmers and particularly to our year 2 students who managed the 50 metre pool with style. Good luck to those students who will represent TOPS at the Razorback Zone Swimming Carnival.

P&C Welcome Back BBQ
Friday evening will be a great time to get together with other families from the school. The kids will be able to go on the jumping castle or giant inflatable obstacle course. Cost is only $1.00 a ride or unlimited with a wristband for $5.00. These are available from the canteen on Friday evening. The event starts at 5.00pm and runs through until 8.00pm. The canteen will be open selling BBQ sausages or hotdogs for $2.50, chips, drinks, and as a special, ice cream sundaes.

It will all happen under the COLA.

Work Books, Levies and Voluntary Contribution
Last week the Textbook and Resources notes went home to all families with K-2 costing $40 per child and Y3-6 costing $60. Our workbooks have all arrived and in the case of the Spelling Mastery the students will start using these next week. Students in Y3-6 have a dedicated spelling lesson 3 days a week for Spelling Mastery and additional work in class associated with reading and writing to enhance their spelling. Students K-6 will also have a Handwriting workbook to supplement their class work. Classes Y3-6 will also have a School Magazine which is a feature of their Focus on Reading lessons. Mathletics is the online application offered to all students. Every student has a login and password to access the site 24 hours 7 days per week. This application is available individually at $99.00

The ICT levies allow the school to continue to maintain, improve and enhance the technology available to the students at school. Thanks to the P&C and school fiscal policy we have interactive whiteboards in every classroom. We have also improved the computers with upgrades. This year’s ICT levy will be directed to improve the network across the school by upgrading to a
fibre optic link for the last block and improve the network switches.

Most public schools ask for a voluntary contribution. This contribution is set by the state government and cannot be increased by more than a set % from the government. This contribution will be applied straight into class resources across the whole school. Scripture began yesterday for all classes K-6. Students attend a scripture class for 30 minutes on a Tuesday. The two denominations offered are Anglican/Protestant (a general scripture) and Catholic Scripture. This is taken from the children’s enrolment form. If you would like your child to attend the lessons on a Tuesday and at present they are in non-scripture please send a letter to your class teacher.

**Attendance**

By law, children between the ages of 6 and 15 must attend school for each day the school is in operation unless on an approved absence (sick or approved leave). Our Department’s attendance guidelines require parents to contact the school promptly to provide an explanation for their child’s absence. School sets up patterns for later life and there is research that draws a clear link between student achievement at school and both attendance and lateness. Children should be at school by 9.30 am ready to start the day and should be at school until 3.30pm each day unless ill or on pre-approved leave. It may sound blunt but lateness at school is often not the fault of children and we should be setting the example to our children even from a young age.

**Reasons for Granting Full Day Exemptions from Attendance at School**

Principals, School Education Directors and Regional Directors may grant exemptions due to:

- exceptional domestic circumstances, including but not limited to participation in family holidays during school term subject to being satisfied that this is in the best educational interests of the child
- employment in the entertainment industry or participation in elite sporting events for short periods of time i.e. for one or two days, and at short notice

An application for attendance exemption is available from the front office. This should be sought if your child is going to miss more than a week of school due to the above reasons.
WELCOME TO BROOKLYN

With Mrs Banfield

This week we learnt how to make ‘Play Dough’. The students researched a recipe on the internet and wrote down the recipe. We then all contributed to making the play dough together. Now we are going to make our spelling words using the play dough.