Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Student Attendance

Make 2015 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons.

Our school target for all students is 95% attendance. This equates to only 10 days absent a year over 4 terms. While we encourage students to remain at home when sick (germs quickly spread in the school environment) I ask that parents consider carefully the other reasons for allowing their child/ren to stay home. Below is a table outlining the impact of absences on a student’s learning. Students can quite easily develop a pattern of poor attendance and over a period of 13 years (from Prep to year 12) these absences impact significantly on potential learning.

Mrs Limpus, teacher aide is responsible for entering attendance data into OneSchool and I regularly discuss the attendance patterns of our students with her. As part of her role, Mrs Limpus calls parents if an absence is unexplained. This is time consuming and takes valuable teacher aide time away from working with students. With this in mind I ask parents to follow our school’s attendance policy (available for viewing on our website) and contact the school when your child is away. This can be done by phone, email or by letter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses…</th>
<th>That equals…</th>
<th>Which is…</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling that’s…</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing grade 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing grade 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing grade 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing grade 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voluntary Contribution Scheme

An information letter outlining our 2015 voluntary contribution scheme has been sent home with this newsletter. The P&C and I hope that all parents will value the resources purchased by the school and provide support via this small financial contribution. Thank you to the many parents who have already made their contribution.

Parent Information Evening: Tuesday, 17th February – 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Our annual Parent Information Evening will take place next Tuesday night from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Details about this evening are as follows:

5:30pm to 6:00pm Information Sessions for the following classes: Prep G, P/1R, 1/2D, 2/3G and 2/3N (sessions held in the classrooms)

6:00pm to 6:30pm Principal’s Presentation in the library for all parents

6:30pm to 7:00pm Information Sessions for the following classes: 3/4K, 5/6B & 5/6M (sessions held in the classrooms)

The whole group presentation in the library will provide parents with information about our strategic direction for 2015, information about some of our school programs and how to support your child/ren with their learning at school. Teachers and I hope to see most of our parents take advantage of this opportunity and attend our information evening.
**Student Leaders**

Last Thursday, all year 5 and 6 students participated in a leadership day. The two sessions spent together provided students the opportunity to gain a shared understanding of what it means to be a leader and participate in a range of games and challenges to develop teamwork and leadership capabilities. It was a very successful morning with the photos showing some of the students participating in the activities. Mr Banks, Mrs McClintock and I introduced the student leader selection process and I look forward to announcing our school’s captains, vice captains and house captains in the near future.

**Swimming Lessons**

Careful consideration is always given when making changes to existing programs and consultation with staff is always part of the process. At the start of 2014 a decision was made to run our swimming program for 1 lesson each week in term 1 and then 2 lessons each week in term 4. Our swimming program for 2015 will be the same. (Historically there were 2 lessons each week for both terms).

As you will appreciate, that while the swimming lessons run for 30 minutes, there is considerable time taken before and after the lessons to change in and out of swimming costumes. As staff we have to factor in this time out of the classroom while considering the curriculum demands of each year level. Unfortunately our timetabling does not allow for longer swimming lessons (e.g. 1 hour swimming lessons).

The other factor that we have had to consider is the cost of employing a trained swimming instructor for the lessons. This additional staff member is required for the program and while the school is prepared to cover these costs to ensure all students participate in the swimming lessons, we have budgeted for the current program.

Swimming lessons will continue to take place in term 1 and term 4 to allow our PE teacher, Mrs Florager to teach the other necessary skills that are within the HPE curriculum in term 2 and 3.

I trust that the above reassures parents that when changes are made we give due consideration to a number of factors that inform the final decision.

**Student Stationery Supplies**

It was pleasing to see many of our students arrive at school with all their school supplies. However there are still a number of students who do not have the necessary stationery and tools to allow them to be organised for their learning. Having the right tools to participate is extremely important in setting children up for a successful school year and I ask that ALL students have all items on their year level book list as soon as possible. Classroom teachers and I would appreciate your support with this.

**Instrumental Music Program Parent Information Night**

**PE NEWS**

New school years are great, they are fresh beginnings for new opportunities, to start new and to set new goals. I look forward to watching you travel your journey this year in sport and be there to help you all.

Swimming for students in Years 1-7 commenced last week. Please remember students require a swim cap, sunshirts, swimming attire, towels and all items to be marked clearly in case of lost property. Please remember all students are expected to participate in swim classes, with this subject being marked on school reports cards. Any absence requires a note addressed to the classroom teacher.

Students who are not participating in swimming for the day will be sent to other classes with work to be completed. We aim to make swimming a fun and productive time, with the weather being warm I couldn't think of a better place to be.

Good Luck to our Lytton District Swimming students for this Friday. A terrific job on qualifying Finn, Gus, Andy, Nicholas, Junsuh, Emma and Anna. We look forward to hearing of your successes on the day and don't forget to qualify is an outstanding achievement in itself. We are very proud of you all!!!!

Selected Year 6 students will commence training soon to be Lunch Time Games Monitors for our younger students. This is a wonderful opportunity for our older students to lead by example and share their skills and assist our younger students by playing games at lunch time with them. I look forward to introducing our senior students on parade and congratulating them on being responsible role models to our junior grades.
Zec’s Mum and Camilo’s Mum here to help us each morning. Interesting books this year and are very happy to have changed over the years. In maths, we are doing number work, patterning, partitioning, addition and lots more! The 2/3G have enjoyed returning to school after a long break and catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. We welcome quite a number of new students and we know they are enjoying East Brisbane and the lovely community that they have joined. This term in Science, we are investigating living things. We are learning that scientists make observations of living things, and then use these features to group living things and then to name and classify them. We are now caring for and watching the development of tadpoles and silkworms in our classroom and are noticing how they grow and change over time and that they all have needs that must be met if they are to survive. We have introduced a class library and each child is expected to take home a reader each night. We are hoping to read lots of interesting books this year and are very happy to have Zec’s Mum and Camilo’s Mum here to help us each morning with this task.

2/3G is also enjoying puzzles and games each morning before school. These activities help our students develop their social and oral skills as they work together in small informal groups negotiating the game and its rules. There is also thinking and problem solving and the development of fine motor skills with some manipulative games, puzzles and dough. All these skills help students to hold their pencils and write with greater strength, to cut and glue and focus and settle making us ready to be great learners in our class.

2/3N Hello and welcome to all the children in 2/3N and their parents. We have had a busy start to the year. Thank you for getting your child's booklist requirements. If there are any outstanding items, please bring them in as soon as you are able. What have we been learning? Our Science unit is on Life and Living and to help us with our learning we have silkworms in our classroom. We are also growing some plants from a cutting, from seeds and from a potato. Our English unit is based on caring for environments, using a book about the Great Barrier Reef as a stimulus text. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Parent Information Night next Tuesday.