

**P&C Meeting
Tuesday 21 April 2009
Principal's Report**

Work still continues on our school grounds and buildings. Since the last P&C Meeting:

1. The new building has been erected and work is continuing with cabling one of the last jobs to be completed.
2. Furniture for the building was ordered today. Occupation will take place after the furniture arrives. We have received \$16000 for this and \$1600 for audio visual equipment.
3. Prep, Year 1/2 play area has been really well received and a wonderful BBQ picnic on the lawn was enjoyed the last week of Term 1
4. A Working Bee for the Year 6/7 improved the overall appearance of their outdoor area and funding has been received for us to establish a pergola structure outside (instead of shade cover) to the value of \$16,000. I am currently working with the landscape architect and builder to finalise this from concept plans originally drawn up for the area.
5. Mulch, topsoil and damaged areas on the oval, cricket pitches, soccer fields and netball courts are being repaired or replaced.
6. The cricket practice wicket area has been reinstated and is being used constantly during and out of school hours.
7. The Brisbane City Council has repaired and re-grassed the footpath at the front of the school
8. Shade has been reinstated in the Prep, Year 1/2 area
9. 20 computers have been donated by TAFE (courtesy of Geoff) and another 12 have been donated by Mr Parkers' company. These will supplement the 66 new computers already installed as replacements for water damaged ones.
10. Audio visual gear, resources, texts, furniture and storage continue to be replaced almost on a daily basis.(approx \$60,000 worth)

Student Achievements

Our students have been much focussed throughout Term 1 and I believe it to be the result of the very positive learning environment and teaching expertise of our staff. Teachers have set the standards early and have worked effectively to keep the students focussed on their core business, regardless of surroundings and disruptions.

The Music Students and their teachers are to be congratulated for their achievements throughout Term 1. With lessons out of doors, in the library, in classrooms and staffroom it is amazing to hear the sweet sounds they are making! The band and ANCA performances were examples of their talent and perseverance.

The Student Leaders have all performed very creditably throughout Term1 with many activities organised for their peers. Some included:

- Victorian Fire Appeal
- Miss World Entrant & McIntyre Centre
- Shave for a Cure
- The 'Sophie Committee'
- World vision free dress day and a visit by the Easter Bunny

House Captains have conducted lunchtime activities and assisted with a very successful cross country event. The sportsmanship and enthusiasm of the students was a highlight of the day (as was the presentation of Champion trophy to Coot-tha House by our visitors from The Maldives)

Sports Activities have mostly been based around swimming with our school team competing to their highest level ever. With 3 swimmers going through to the State Titles, this is indeed an extraordinary effort. Congratulations Millie, Connor & Mia with Mia winning silver in the relay event. Many students have also represented the school and district in soccer, golf, and AFL

Art Extension students Harry, Claire & Sallie work at The Gap State High School each week. They have been joined by the **Maths Extension** successful candidates: Harry Parker, Dean McLeod and Millie Mayall Vandervelde and the new **Chinese Extension** students, Michael Feodoroff, Nic Richardson, Sophie Marron and Connor Scott. These are all wonderful opportunity offered by The Gap SHS for our students.

Mathletics & Chess have both proven to be extremely popular with huge numbers involved from Prep to Year 7. Our first Gold Mathletics certificate was presented at the last assembly of the term. Thank you again to Mairead Human and the Gardiner Chess Group and Fiona Pilgrim for the organisation of these activities.

Writing with a difference has been the focus of our 7 Steps Writing Initiative last term. "Sizzling Starters" have featured on assemblies and on display boards as our students have become inspired writers. This is the result of a PD attended by Jenny Green, Jayne Metcalfe and Anne Bowren. Thank you for the inspiration.

Teacher Professionalism

Our teachers have been very involved with much professional development over the last Term, with more on the way this Term including:

- Writing Workshops
- 3/5/7 NAPLAN Tests – Literacy & Numeracy
- 4 to 7 Literacy training
- ICTs for Learning
- Play in the Early Years
- Essential Learnings/QCAR
- Fire training
- LOTE
- Working with students with disabilities
- Child Protection
- Numeracy in the early Years
- Numeracy in the middle years
- MCC (cluster) Moderation
- Fine motor Skills in Prep
- Lock down training
- Spelling Choices
- Gifted education
- One School and educational software

The extra time and enthusiasm for their own professional growth is to be admired in our teachers who meet regularly to focus on class issues, the Early & Middle Phase of Learning, ICTs, Gifted Education and Literacy & Numeracy – our major focus area for 2009.

Next week I will be part of the "Leading Australian Schools Program" which is based in Melbourne. This program seeks to develop and extend school leaders and inform our practice of educational leadership. The program is sponsored by Teacher Australia, The Hay Group and the University of Melbourne. As one of the 40 Australia-wide participants I'm really looking forward to the program.

Excursion approval requested: Year 4 camp
Year 7 Canberra Trip
Maestro Strings camp

The Term will also see our participation in Anzac Day Commemorations, Student Leaders breakfast with the Chaplain, Kids Hope Pizza party and Chaplaincy week and under 8s day and track and field to name but a few activities.

Term 2 will also see me take long service leave for the last 4 weeks of Term. Amanda will be the Acting Principal and Sandra Winzar the Acting Deputy. Sandra will not be replaced in the Cybrary but her time will be added to term 3 & 4 library allocation. I know the school will be well cared for and that the P&C will give these 2 ladies their full support.

Josephine Bottrell
(Principal)