Dear families and friends,

**Problem Solvers**

This month we are focusing on the attribute of being a problem solver. Being a problem solver is very important.

Problem solving is a tool, a skill and a process. It is a tool because it can help you solve an immediate problem or to achieve a goal. It is a skill because once you have learnt it you can use it repeatedly, like the ability to ride a bicycle, add numbers or speak a language. It is also a process because it involves taking a number of steps.

Teaching children to become effective thinkers is recognised as an important goal of education. For students to function successfully in a highly technical society, they must be equipped with lifelong learning and thinking skills necessary to acquire and process information in an ever-changing world. Teaching students thinking skills is therefore important. Although many people once believed that we are born either with or without creative and critical thinking abilities, research has shown that these skills can be taught and can be developed. Being a problem solver is a quality of resilience.

**Family discussion starters**

Suggestions for conversations around the dinner table at home

- What has been the hardest problem you have ever solved?
- How did you solve it?
- What do you do when a problem is frustrating and you can’t seem to solve it?
Permission Forms & Attachments
• NRL permission form
• Pizza Day Order

Attendance – Every Day Counts
Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse. Illness, competing in a school sporting event or going on a school excursion are reasonable excuses for being absent from school.

Principals decide if the excuse given for your child’s absence is reasonable. Please be aware your child only needs to miss 5 days per term to fall under 90% attendance eg. a day absent each fortnight.

You must let the school know the reason why your child is absent from school, if not beforehand, then within two school days of their return to school.

Find out more about the http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/ initiative from Education Queensland.

Swimming
Swimming will recommence this week and continues each Monday.

SWIMMING REMINDERS:
• swimmers
• swimming shirt
• towel
• goggles
• sunscreen
• pool entry $1.50
Please ensure all your child’s items are NAMED.

Student Medication
A reminder to parents who send medication for students to school. Please ensure medication is accompanied by a signed and dated note that states the exact dosage and time of medication. Medication should also be in original packaging.

My Data Books
Student’s were given their My Data Books Friday. Please take the time to view their progress. These are to be signed and return on the next school day.
On our weekly Assembly, we present our Student of the Week Award, which recognizes positive student achievements and can be nominated from any of our staff for many reasons - personal learning goal improvements, outstanding achievement, demonstrating leadership, or an attribute that exemplifies our motto, through compassionate and thoughtful acts that embody - Integrity and Industry.

**Week 5 Student of the Week:**
Melita Palmer was been working hard this term and has made many pleasing improvements. She has shown improvement in her organizational skills and on task work. Congratulations also for overall reading improvement for the year. Well done Melita.

**Explicit Improvement Agenda**

**Literacy and Numeracy Aims** - All students to be above the National Average in NAPLAN and improving at a rate greater than the nation. Increase percentage of students achieving in the Upper 2 Bands to greater than 50%.

**Australian Curriculum Aims** - All students achieving C+ or better in English, Mathematics and Science and making Adequate Yearly Progress or Value Adding in achievement.

Improve writing for all students through consolidation of student friendly marking guides and explicit teaching of the ten elements of successful pieces of writing and literature

‘Integrity and Industry’
Nicole Gibbs
A/Principal – ngibb10@eq.edu.au

**P&C News**

Our next general meeting is this **Tuesday 10th November 6.30pm.** All welcome.
P&C will be holding a stall at the NBRC movie night this Friday (13th November) selling hotdogs, chips, chocolates and soft drinks. If you are able to assist please contact Kim Corfield 41275050. Helpers will be required from 5pm-7.30pm.

**Community Information**

Please send community information for the newsletter to admin@coallakess.eq.edu.au