Dear families and friends,

GOOD-BYE, AND THANKS: Wow, where did those five weeks go?! I can’t help but reflect on the speed of their passing, and as Ben will resume his principalship here tomorrow I’ll take this opportunity to say thank-you and good-bye.

This school really does have everything going for it .....a lovely outside environment, ample classroom space, excellent resources, and access to specialist services ( support teachers, guidance officers, speech therapists, etc ) when required.

But of course, whether it’s a church, a footy club or a school, these organisations without people are nothing more than bricks and timber. It’s the people involved who are what give any place its “heart and soul”. They are the ones who create the school’s culture and hence its reputation and ultimately its success.

Coalstoun Lakes SS is a great school, backed up by great people working in partnership with it. This co-operative effort which I have witnessed on numerous occasions is something to be treasured. It’s the key to maintaining your successful school, because dedicated teachers and hard-working ancillary staff alone cannot hope to provide the same level of opportunity for your children they receive now thanks to the interaction of the P&C and wider community.
There’s a quote that goes something like “people are remembered fondly not so much for what they say, or even for what they do, but rather for how they make you feel.” And although five weeks can be a long time when you’re away from home, the warmth of the welcome and the level of acceptance you afforded me have meant I never once wished my time here would “hurry up and end”!

I know I’ll always remember my time here fondly. Thank-you everyone!

Curriculum Spotlight: “Prep Year”

We are fortunate to have five Prep children this year, as this represents over one third of total enrolments! This group of students have certainly started their school lives enthusiastically, and just like the sponges their brains truly are at this stage of their development, they have been sopping up all kinds of information at a very rapid rate indeed! In fact, they’re learning so much so quickly that we may have to promote them straight to High School next year!! In all seriousness though, these children have settled in extremely well and have already developed a wide range of physical and cognitive competencies. And in this regard I can’t speak highly enough about the skills of their teacher-aide, Amanda Trigger. As a teacher-aide Amanda is a para-professional operating under the direction of teaching staff, however in this small school environment she is much more than this. To anyone visiting the school Amanda’s experience, energy, manner, and skills say “teacher”, and the children respond accordingly.

Thanks Amanda for the very professional job you do at this school caring for and assisting to develop all the students, but most especially the Preps!

BALLOON POWERED VEHICLES:

I spoke last week of the Technology curriculum. Today’s photos include some of the resulting cars and boats. Enjoy!
Student of the Week Awards

Congratulations to this week’s awardees, namely:

GEORGIA CORFIELD and KATRIA PALMER
(Upper school) (Lower school)

for Positive Learning Attitudes.

Both girls have been achieving great results and displaying a determined attitude to continue to achieve to the best of their abilities.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

The six students to whom I have so far given ‘Student of the Week’ awards have thoroughly deserved these, but all other students have also been deserving of recognition, and so, prior to my departure, I have presented the following additional awards:

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS: All five Preps: LEAH; MITCHELL; DREW; BRONTE; and Caden.

MERIT AWARDS: MATHANIEL; BRIE-ANN; and MELITA.

‘Integrity and Industry’
Howard Frost
A/Principal – hfros5@eq.edu.au

School Request

If families have any ice cream containers with lids at home that they no longer require, could you please send them in to the school. This would be appreciated.

Swimming

SWIMMING – will continue this week and be held on Wednesday afternoon. Students will depart the school at 1pm and travel by bus to the Biggenden Swimming Pool to undertake their weekly swimming lessons. Students who reside in Biggenden may be collected from the Biggenden swimming pool at 2.30pm. All other students will return to school for collection at 3.00pm.

Students will require the following items:

• Swimming togs and swimming sunshirt
• Goggles
• Towel
• Sunscreen
• $1.50 pool entry if you don’t hold a seasons pass.
P&C News

Our next general meeting will be held Monday 14th March 2016, commencing at 7.00pm. All invited and welcome to attend.

- As a way of supporting the school, families are requested to mow the transpiration area on a rotational basis according to your family’s surname. There is a push mower, which was purchased by the P&C, available for families to use. Thank you to the Farrell family for mowing the transpiration area.

- A reminder to families regarding the Easter raffle. Could you please send into the school donations towards the Easter Hamper. All raffle tickets are to be returned by 23rd March, 2016.

P&C are still looking for a volunteer to take on the position of Vice President of the P&C Association. The Vice Presidents role includes:

- consider this position as the president’s understudy
- provide support and assistance to the president
- the vice-president will chair those meetings from which the President is absent

If you require further information on the roles and requirements of this position, please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the P&C Executive – Peter McNaughton, Kerry Farrell and Kim Corfield.

Community Information

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

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Gayndah and District Netball Association
Notice of AGM 8 March 2016 7pm YMCA

An invitation is extended to all Senior players AND parents of Junior players to attend the AGM of the Gayndah and District Netball Association. It is essential that we have representatives from our Junior parents for the continuing functioning and existence of our Netball Club.

Interested in Little Athletics
Come and Try – a short 8 week programme designed to get the kids moving whilst teaching basic skills in a fun, play based way.

Where: Biggenden School
When: starting Friday 4th March
Time: 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Contact Robbie Radel 41271774