Dear friends,

As we reflected after a month back at school, we noted several important milestones. The whole school attendance percentage for the first month is 99%. I interpret this to represent a strong home, school and community culture of learning, high parent confidence and strong student engagement and enjoyment.

Some of our early bird students are enjoying school so much they are arriving prior to 8am. There are specific arrangements for early bus students for supervision, however please ensure all other children are arriving on or after the 8am mark. Thank you.

I was pleased to be part of the first Student Project Club meeting and watch young democracy at work. The students resolved to fundraise for camp and voted on location and activity preferences. I look forward to further planning of our School Camp for later in the year alongside staff, P&C...
and the Project Club.

As this newsletter date claimer sidebar this week shows, there are many sporting trials throughout the next month of term and note our date claimers are also on our school website calendar and pushed to your Smartphone if using the QSchools app for your convenience and calendaring.

Our students and families should be justifiably proud, as the school is, in your children’s, our student’s, participation in district, regional and state sporting opportunities. A balanced lifestyle includes healthy activity, and competition allows us all to explore our interests and potential through participation and competition!

On Friday we celebrate ‘I want 2 Be’ Day in support of the Kids Cancer Project and thank you for your gold coin donation. Thank you for supporting the fun of dressing up in the theme of what we would all like to be, when we grow up!

I would like to acknowledge all our staff, who in addition to their dedication daily, have been undertaking First Aid training updates on weekends to ensure we are all current in terms of First Aid, CPR, Anaphylaxis and Asthma training. If your child has Asthma, you may receive a request in the coming week to update the individual Asthma Action Plan for your child.

Thursday morning we hosted a special Assembly to present the student leadership 2014 badges and certificates. As School Photos approach next week, note the date on Wednesday for laying out your best uniform! Say Cheese!

‘Integrity and Industry’
Benjamin Reed
Principal - breed15@eq.edu.au

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.
Current Permission Information

Term 1

Swimming permission - Season Pass or $1.50 per week

School Photos - Date Claimer - 5 March

Positive Behaviour Focus

In the month of March we are ‘Team Players’

- Co-operate and work well with others
- Appreciate other points of view
- Get along well with different people
- Value all contributions

Student of the Week Awards

Our weekly Friday Assembly Student of the Week Awards recognise many 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.

Term 1 - Week 5 - 2014

P-4 - Paris Foody has achieved some wonderful results and strives hard to improve on feedback given to him. He has shown great initiative, thinking of tasks which he could be completing without prompts. Great work Paris you should be proud.

5-7 - Matthew Seabrook - Matthew has been demonstrating solid improvement in his weekly pre and post spelling testing. He has shown great diligence with his homework weekly over the past month and ensures that every last fix-up is corrected to ensure his work passport is validated. Matthew has also been showing great commitment and enthusiasm in morning Cross Country and weekly physical activities! Well done!

Congratulations to our Class Student’s of the Week!
In The Classroom

P-4

This week we have added a guide to comprehension questions which you can ask your child about their reading. This is important for all levels of reading, but particularly as students become more fluent often they forget to check for meaning and understanding as they read.

We know that literacy and maths skills are crucial building blocks in our children's lives. Below are some tips for you to do with your child at home and questions you can ask your child to help them learn.

Doing these practical activities will help your child develop excellent reading and writing skills, to speak well and be a good listener. You can also help them develop their maths skills, like calculating and using numbers in everyday activities at home.

Working together, families and schools can provide the greatest opportunity for children to have the best possible start in life.

Early Years:

· When your child reads to you, allow time for working out words and ask questions to see if he or she understands what they have read.

· If your child is trying to read a long or tricky word, give your child time and ask some questions to give clues.

· It’s also important for you to show your child how you read every day for different purposes, for example: recipes, greeting cards, calendars, shopping lists, food labels, instructions, maps, newspapers, emails, signs, and websites.

Later Years:

These are the types of questions your child might be asked at school. You can include some of these questions when you talk about reading at home too.

The following questions require your child to get clues from the text to answer:

· How do you think the character was feeling?

· How would you change the ending?

· How would you describe the changes in the character/setting?

These questions require your child to refer back to the text:

· What were the characters’ names?

· What was the setting?

· What did each character do?
What happened at the beginning, middle and end of the text?

Next week I'll include some information about how you can support your child's learning in maths at home.

Mrs Gibbs - ngibb10@eq.edu.au

This week we followed up on our resolve to ensure that at 5 weekly intervals we were providing formalised feedback from Teacher to student. Students briefly reviewed there recent NAPLAN practice and PAT pre-results to further understand in A-E friendly term show they were travelling in terms of their grade across in the nation in both forms of assessment and how that can triangulate with their Report Card grades, effort results and comments. We look over how they progressing in relation to their peers nation wide and this fuels the goals and strategies that we work on together.

Please note I will be attending the first Principal Business Meeting on Friday and look forward to hearing about all the fun from 'I Want 2 Be' Day!

Mr Reed - breed15@eq.edu.au

**School Banking**

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia passionately believes that all young Australians should learn about the importance of saving and smart money management. Coalstoun Lakes State School continues to participate in the School Banking Program.

To participate, students will be required to open a Youthsaver Account to participate in school banking. They are able to do this in one of four ways:

1. Parents who are existing CBA customers can log into your NetBank, go to the “Offers and Apply” tab, then click “accounts” and “Youthsaver”. From there just select the child's school, and have their birth certificate on hand for ID purposes.

2. Visit a CBA branch with identification for both parent and child.

3. Parents can also call CBA on 13 2221 to open an account over the phone; or

4. Complete an Application Form (paper-based). For parents/carers who cannot get to a local branch, application forms are available from the school. Once these forms are completed and identification requirements fulfilled, they will then be forwarded to CBA for processing.

You will need to complete the paper form and student identification checks. It will take approximately 2 weeks for the account to be ready for School Banking.

Student banking takes place each Thursday at the School. Please see the attached Information Package for Parents which provides further information.
**NewsMail Competition - Win a Set of 10 iPads for your Child’s School!**

The NewsMail is currently having a competition to win a set of 10 iPads and we have registered to be involved. Please see the flyer attached to the newsletter and start collecting your tokens to support our emerging Student iPad Program!

**P&C Working Bee and Welcome BBQ**

On Saturday 15th March the P&C will host a morning Working Bee where all parents are invited to attend and undertake a few jobs around the school to keep it immaculate and constantly improve facilities for our students. Some of the jobs are listed below and you will note the opportunity to not only support the P&C and school but to allow students and families to gather together over some good old fashioned physical labour!

- Garden beds and planting (suitable for students)
- Small Cupboards flatpack assembly for Digital Library
- Cricket mat installed on oval pitch
- Move fixed school flagpole to assembly area and investigate time capsule
- Transpiration Area mow
- Small concrete section between sheds
- Removal of old grounds materials via trailer

Let us know if you can assist with any of the big jobs or jobs that need equipment, trailer etc so we don't get to much double up on the day. Look out for he RSVP over the coming weeks.

We will then have a sausage sizzle and an opportunity for everyone to meet and greet and socialise over a cold drink and snag! Sounds like a great Saturday, see you there - thank you P&C.

**Community Information**

**BIGGENDEN KINDY**

Dear friends,

Biggenden & District Kindergarten & Limited Hours Daycare Inc.

Daycare Service – from birth to 5 years

Monday & Friday 8.00am – 5.30pm
Kindergarten Program – from 3 years to 5 years (must be toilet trained)
Tuesday, Alternate Wednesday & Thursday 8.30am – 2.30pm
Degilbo & Boompa Bus service available upon request
$50 per family/per year enrolment fee
$5.00 per hour up to $35 for Daycare
$26 per day for Kindy (school terms)
Govn. funding available for pre-prep age
P: 07 4127 1259
E: Biggenden.kindy@bigpond.com

BIGGENDEN TOUCH FOOTBALL

Hi everyone

The 2014 Biggenden touch football season will be commencing soon. We are holding a sign on night on Tuesday 4 March at the Biggenden sports oval from 6pm with a free sausage sizzle.

Junior players must be turning 13, 14 or 15 in 2014 and senior players are people turning 16 years or over in 2014. Playing fees are $65 per senior player and $50 per junior player. Players are encouraged to pay fees at the sign on night.

I have attached the flyer for the sign on night and player and team nomination forms.

The 2013 competition was a lot of fun and we hope to continue this into 2014.

Individuals who would like to play but do not have a team are encouraged to come along – we’ll get you on a team.

Please feel free to contact me on 41271277 if you have any queries regarding this.

Please feel free to share this information with your friends, colleagues and students.

Regards

Stephanie

Stephanie Whitaker
Secretary
Biggenden Touch Football Association Inc
t: 41271277
BIGGENDEN SHOW SOCIETY GALA

Saturday 5th April

Please see flyer!!

A night to celebrate our community and recognise our youth through the Miss Showgirl Qld Rural Ambassador Awards!

Biggenden Show Hall

Doors Open - 7pm Start 7:30pm

Dress - Semi-formal

Cost - $25 per person pre-purchase

TICKETS ON SALE NOW - Purchase from Burnett Livestock & Realty or online at www.biggendenshow.com