From the Principal

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year. Everyone seems to have settled into school life very quickly and calmly. Sadly, in the week before school we farewelled Mr John Wieden who received a late transfer to Glass House Mountain State School for personal reasons. I thank our local relieving teacher, Mrs Dianne Barclay, for settling 2B into the first two days of school while a replacement could be negotiated. Mrs Lauren Perren was transferred into our school and commenced on Thursday. Welcome to Lauren.

Parent information sessions

On Wednesday 11 February, all year levels will run a 30 minute information session in their classrooms after school. They will run the same session twice so that if you have multiple children, or you are unavailable for one of the times, you can attend the other time. For those who can’t make the sessions, a class newsletter will be sent home the following day. The sessions will run at 5:00pm and 5:45pm. To ensure your child's safety, if you bring them to these meetings, please keep them in classrooms with you as there will be no supervision on playgrounds.

Communication

This year, as well as implementing a messaging system, our classes in week 2 of each term will send home a class newsletter of the priorities and what is happening in the room for the term. In our fortnightly newsletter, classes may have little messages but will not have the big blurb of what is happening. This allows the newsletter to just be the information of the fortnight and hopefully quicker to read so you do not miss things.

Also, please check our website regularly as we are trying to put as many dates of events on our calendar on the site as possible.

Attendance and Messaging

Last year, staff and the P&C had some discussion around safety and knowing if your student did get to school and attendance. Therefore from 16/2/15, parents will be informed by mobile phone Short Message Service (SMS) each time their child is away from school unless parents have contacted the school before school either by written communication or by phone.

At Emerald SS, student attendance and safety is a high priority.

We know that students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful and safe at school.

From 16/2/15, an SMS text message will be automatically sent to the mobile phones of parents explaining that our records show that your child is absent from school. The message will read as follows:

Emerald SS records show Jennifer Smith was absent MON 24/3/15. Pls reply text student name/absence reason/abs date

The message will arrive on the phone displaying the number, “0427016460”. Parents should store this number in their mobile phone under “Emerald SS” so that when the message arrives, the parent is aware the message has come from the school.

Parents can then reply by pressing the reply option on their mobile phone.

Dates to Remember

11 February
Meet & Greet 5.00 & 5.45pm
12 February
P & C Annual General Meeting
18 February
GRIP Leadership (Yr 5 & 6)
19 February
P & C General Meeting 6.30pm
24 February
School Photos
25 February
2016 PREP enrolments open
School Leaders receive Badges on Parade
27 March
Emerald State School FETE
2 April
End of Term 1
20 April
Term 2 commences
when they receive a message from the school and add your son or daughter’s name, year, date of absence and the reason they are absent or late.

e.g. Steven Scott, Year 1 was sick yesterday (Tuesday 15th November)

Text version = “Steven S yr1 sick tue 15 nov”

OR by phoning the school office or sending a note explaining the absence. You can also use this mobile number to text to explain your child’s absence if you know they will be away before the date.

Once we fully implement Messageyou for absences, some of the other uses could include notification of:

- Announcements or reminders of meetings or forthcoming events
- Band/Choir/Music lesson Reminders
- Broken down or delayed Camp bus
- Reminders to volunteer workers

Updating Parent Mobile Phone Numbers

As part of the process of implementing this exciting new system, the school is seeking your assistance. We already have an extensive list of parent’s mobile numbers; however we would like to make sure our records are fully up-to-date.

At your earliest convenience, please update your mobile number if it has changed. We have also set our system up to text the message to the mother if you would prefer the text went to someone else or both parents please notify the school.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation. We look forward to making this exciting transition, and to improving our communication with you.

Education Queensland is continuing the push of Everyday Counts and has asked that all principals share the following messages with their parent communities.

- It is important that your children attend school every day. Taking a day off because the fish are biting, or you want to go shopping on your birthday, is not an acceptable reason to miss a day of school.

  - If your child is sick, you should contact the school as soon as possible with an estimation of how long your child will be away from school.

  - If your family has to travel away for family or cultural reasons, and expect to be away for more than 10 days you will have to apply for an exemption from Compulsory Schooling. Exemptions should be applied for and approved by the Principal of your child’s school BEFORE you travel away. (The school does not have to provide school work for children with an exemption)

  - It is not acceptable to take your children out of school for holidays. Families should plan their holidays to coincide with school holidays.


P & C

The P&C AGM will be held on Thursday 12 February at 6:30pm in the conference room which is in the administration block. I encourage all parents to become involved in our P & C. They are a very hard working group of parents in our school and for me, as Principal, they are the primary way I consult with the parent community.

The first general meeting will be the following week, same time same place.

GRIP Leadership

On Wednesday 18th February all our Year 5 & 6 students will be attending the GRIP Leadership conference at the Emerald Town Hall. This is fully funded through our Cluster REAP FUNDS. The conference looks as all our upper school students as being leaders in our schools and how they can achieve this.

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**Emerald District Sports Trials**

This year, all Emerald District Sports Trials except for Athletics and Cross Country will be held after school, usually on a Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30. These trials are not about ‘can I have a go at the sport’. It is about selection for Central Highlands and beyond.

We have school touch, rugby league, rugby union and netball interschool competitions throughout the year that are catering for students who want to give a sport a go. The district trial dates are listed in the PE News later in this edition.

**Rhonda Jones**

**Principal**

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**From the Office**

**School Photos**

School Photo day for 2015 will be **TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY**.

Envelopes outlining the packages available and their costs will be sent home with the next newsletter, 20 February. Please be reminded that the money does not come through the school office. It is to be returned in the provided envelope **on the day of the photos** and given directly to the photographer when your child has their photo taken.

The cost for photos is:

- (more details of packages will be on the envelops)
- Traditional Package $32
- Just photos Portrait Set $30
- Group only $20 or Budget Pack $26.
- Siblings Portrait Set $25

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**Badge Ceremony** for our school leaders will be held at parade on Wednesday 25th February.
Instrumental Music Invoices
If your child is in the Instrumental Music program you should have received an Invoice and associated paperwork from them yesterday. ALL students must return the Student Resource Scheme Form (mandated by DETE) along with their $50 payment. Students who are borrowing a school instrument need to also return the Loan Agreement form before instruments will be issued. Payment is due on or before 19 February 2015.

PREP 2016
Children born between 1 July 2010 and 31 July 2011 (please note this new cut-off date) are eligible to commence Prep in 2016. If you have a child this age and believe that you have guaranteed enrolment to Emerald State School, we ask that you complete an enrolment form and submit it to the office as soon as possible. If you know of any families who live outside of our guaranteed enrolment boundary and they would like to put their child’s name on our waiting list, we will be opening enrolments for 2016 on WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 2015 at 8.00am. Please share this information as much as possible and, if your child has guaranteed enrolment, please have enrolment forms to our office as soon as possible.

Oral Health Services
Coming home today, with EVERY child is a letter from Child and Adolescent Oral Health Services regarding access to dental services at the Emerald Hospital. Please read the letter and associated documents in total as detailed instructions on what you need to do to access this free service are outlined in these.

Newsletter Options
Our first newsletter for the year is coming to you both via email (if you have requested) and paper copy. If you currently receive your newsletter as a paper copy and you wish to change to receiving it more conveniently (and cost effectively!) by email, would you please advise the school. Please email admin@emeraldss.eq.edu.au to advise your email address. Thanks.

Parent Handbook
Today your child should bring home our 2015 Parent Handbook – please look out for it!

QSchools App
Don’t forget to download the ‘QSchools” App for your phone so you can keep up to date with what is happening at our school!! This is free.

Cash receipting at the office
As we need to process our banking before the close of business each day, we will only accept payments before 12 noon. Payments received after this time will have to be receipted the following day. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

News from our Master Teacher
Spelling - A Different Perspective
Spelling will look a little different at ESS this year.

What’s New?
From Year 2, students will no longer be tested each week on a list of words. Instead, there will be a pre-test at the beginning of a unit and a post-test at the end of a unit.

Why?
At ESS, we want to ensure that students are spelling accurately in the written work they produce. Our aim is to decrease the occurrence of students who achieve well in weekly tests yet are unable to spell accurately in written tasks. Learning a list of words means that students learn only that list and they rely on memory to remember words in isolation. Students who spell well are those who are able to apply their understanding of sounds, letter patterns, spelling rules and word knowledge into their writing.

What about homework?
List words will still be sent home. Parents and children can still learn the words at home as well as trying to think of other words that use the same pattern or sound or rule. Remember that you can assist your child’s spelling growth by continuing to revise spelling skills and words throughout the term and year.

Jenni Farquhar
Instrumental Music

Welcome back to the 2015 school year I hope you all had a relaxing break. There are some exciting changes to the program this year and I would like to start by welcoming all new students (about 36 of you and your families). Instrumental Music lessons commenced on Wednesday February 4 and band will commence on February 11. This year, band will be held during second lunch until 2:10 and will be followed by parade at 2:15pm. Students will be performing most weeks on parade (either in groups or as individuals).

For terms 1-3 you will be able to purchase reeds through the school office (a service you would have had to have previously done out of town). You will be notified of costs once this service is up and running.

Congratulations to Kynan S and Sebastian S who have been selected to represent the Emerald State School at the State Honours program in Rockhampton in March. This three day band program includes students from both State and Catholic schools across the district is an excellence program with conductors from the Brisbane Conservatorium of Music. Past students, Dani C, Jessica W, Chantelle A, were also successful with their applications and Ryan S was selected as a reserve. Well Done!

Leanne Hilder
Instrumental Music Teacher
P & C News

AGM
Thursday 12th February
6:30pm School Library
All positions are vacant and everyone is welcome to attend. Nomination forms are available from the school office or by email: secretary@emeraldpnc.eq.edu. Alternatively, nominations can be taken on the night. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to become a member of the P&C then forward the completed membership application form to the school office before Thursday 12th February.

General Meeting
Thursday 19th February
6:30pm School Library
Agenda Items: Easter Fete
Please forward any other agenda items to the secretary: secretary@emeraldpnc.eq.edu.

Tuckshop Highlights
What else is new at Tuckshop?

✓ Swapping to Bundaberg Juice
   We are changing over to Bundaberg Juice which, we feel, better meets the Smart Choices criteria

✓ CHEESE
   Rather than buying the pre-grated cheese, we have opted to purchase a block of cheese from now on and grate our own cheese.

✓ BAKERY BREAD
   We have changed our bread over in tuckshop. We now purchase good quality, good tasting bread from the Fairbairn Bakery. This means we are now supporting a local business.

✓ CHICKEN
   We have switched from buying pre-frozen chicken that is already shredded to using locally cooked chickens from Hooper’s, again supporting local jobs.

Week 3 Roast Pumpkin & Cous Cous Salad - $5 per serve
   Ingredients: Cous Cous, Roasted Pumpkin, Snow Peas and Spinach Leaves, Citrus Dressing

Week 4 Bacon Pasta Salad - $5 per serve
   Ingredients: Pasta Spirals, Corn, Carrot, Peas, Thousand Island Dressing
   Option to add Chicken or Tuna for an extra 50 cents

✓ Sushi Bungle
   There has been a mis-understanding with regards to Sushi. We were advised that all of the sushi was Gluten Free, however, this is not the case. We are serving Crispy Chicken and Avocado Rolls, which do contain Gluten, in tuckshop.

Sushi Choices
- Crispy Chicken & Avocado (contains Gluten)
- Tuna or Chicken with Avocado (GF)
- Garden Salad (GF) (lettuce, cucumber, avocado, carrot)

If there is an ingredient you don’t want included in your child’s Sushi Roll from the above list, please make note of this, so that we can exclude it. (eg Chicken only, no avocado)

Michelle Harrison and Megan Wass

Just Roll With it.
Representative sport is for those children who achieve well in their chosen sport or sports. It gives these children a chance to compete and play and continue to develop in their sport with other students at a higher level. Representative sport is only available in Primary schools to those children who are 10, 11 or 12. When selecting a team, preference is given to the older child when there is a choice and two children who are on an equal skill level. Parents are responsible for the financial outlay for their own child.

Emerald State School P&C does give some assistance to families of children who reach higher levels if these families apply. Further information regarding this assistance is available at the office.

The levels of representation are School, Emerald District (ED) Team, Central Highlands (CH) Team (from Moranbah to Duaringa, Clermont, out to Anakie and down to Rolleston), Capricornia (Cap) Team (includes Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Central Highlands) and the Queensland Team.

To minimise time out of the classroom, most of the ED sports will be trialled after school.

Have a great fortnight

Cheers

Jill
NRL Visit
The NRL are bringing the Community Carnival to the Central Highlands. The Brisbane Broncos are also providing some players to be a part of the Carnival. They will be visiting the school on Monday February 16th to speak with our Year 5 and 6 classes about the NRL message of “wellbeing” to our school. Rugby League’s new Wellbeing program aims to harness the NRL’s popularity to empower and educate students to value wellbeing in their own lives.

Draft Central Highlands Regional Council Planning Scheme
What?
The Draft Planning Scheme sets out a vision for the future development of land and provides a framework for the assessment of new development within the Council area for up to the next ten (10) years.

When?
You can have your say from the Friday 16 January 2015 to Monday 2 March 2015.

Where?
- View the Draft Planning Scheme at www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au
- Visit your closest Council library
- Attend a Drop-in Session/Meeting

Available NOW for your comment!

Emerald Scout Group
COME & TRY DAY

Sunday 8 February
10 am – 12 pm
Emerald Scout Den,
Cnr Opal & Theresa Sts

CHALLENGE YOURSELF, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, HAVE FUN
- Boys and girls aged 6 - 26 years.
- Adults (male & female 18 yrs +) to become Leaders.
- No experience necessary as training is provided.

For further information, contact Lyn – 0437446874