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Friday 30 October 2009

Date Claimers

OCT 2009

Friday 30

Student Council
Swimming P-3
Swim Training Yr 4-7
2010 Pathways Applications Due
Book Fair

NOV 2009

Thursday 5

Indigenous Sports Expo

Friday 6

Swimming P-3
Swim Training Yr 4-7

Thursday 12

Swimming Carnival Yr 4-7 9am to 12am

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Principals Post

Continuous Learning

I believe that the quality of teaching and learning in our school directly affects how students view themselves as learners and their attitude towards school.

To ensure high quality teaching and improve our student results I have set the following 5 drivers as the framework for 2010:

1. An unrelenting focus on improvement
2. A shared commitment to core priorities
3. Quality curriculum and planning to improve learning
4. Teaching focused on the achievement of every student
5. Monitoring student progress and responding to their learning needs

Today 6 staff members and I worked off site to develop aspects of our Whole School Curriculum Plan, which outlines our current priorities and how we will address them. International, national and state data has highlighted the need to focus more attention on the teaching and learning of English, mathematics and science to improve student achievement in these important areas.

Today the team focused on developing an explicit English program and on the 18 November we will develop an explicit numeracy plan for 2010. I believe English and mathematics are fundamental in all years of schooling and therefore must be a primary focus of learning. While we will continue to teach all 8 Key Learning Areas, it is important that we prioritise English, Mathematics and Science.

In 2010 the following time allocations have been agreed to for the teaching of English, mathematics and science

Based on 25 hrs per week	Yrs 1 - 3	Yrs 4 - 7
English and literacy	7 hours/week	6 hours/week
Mathematics and numeracy	5 hours/week	5 hours/week
Science	1 hour/week	2 hours/week

Staffing

- Mrs Gina Keightley will be returning to work on Thursday. We thank Mr Gavin Tubb for his excellent leadership and professional teaching of 2/3K. We look forward to working with Gavin on a regular basis in the near future.
- Mrs Jacqui MacDonald returns from LSL next Monday

Student Safety

It has been reported that parents are parking their cars across the road on Torquay Terrace in the vacant lot again. This poses a safety risk for students with cars exiting too close to the student crossing.

A number of parents are collecting their children from school and not using the supervised crossing. We are asking that parents be role models for their children's safety and use the crossings.

We conducted a before school fire drill on Tuesday which was very successful. Congratulations to students, parents and teachers who followed staff instructions.

Fire drills are conducted to teach students vital skills. As fires can occur at anytime they are necessary. If a fire drill is conducted before or directly after school we ask that parents follow staff instructions and support our processes to ensure student safety.

Responsible Behaviour Plan.

A dedicated group of parents and staff have met for the last 2 Thursday afternoons to review our current behaviour plan.

The focus of the review is:

- Develop and articulate a cyber bullying policy
- Replace current rewards day system with a more proactive program
- Replace current coloured level system with a more user friendly system

A survey for parents, students and staff will be sent home next week and we are planning to have the draft policy completed and to district office by the required time of November 16.

World Teachers Day

On Friday 30 October 2009 World Teachers' Day will be an occasion to celebrate the invaluable role that teachers perform in education at all levels. Celebrated in more than 100 countries, World Teachers' Day was introduced in 1994 by UNESCO to recognise the importance of competent, qualified and motivated teachers.

All of us recall special teachers — people who not only taught us but inspired us in ways that changed our lives. William Arthur Ward once said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

Student Council Fundraising

Student council have 2 major fundraisers planned this term:

- PJ and Crazy Hair Day this Thursday – gold coin donation
- Sale of TSS bumper stickers for \$2.50 each. These can be purchased from the foyer of the office each morning from 8.00am – 8.30am from Monday 2nd November

Pink Ribbon Breakfast

Torquay staff will host a pink ribbon breakfast this Friday to raise money to support this valuable cause. If you wish to make a donation please follow the following links:

<https://secure.breastcancerfundraising.org.au/registrator/Startup.aspx?EID=9870&Lang=en-CA>.

The host name is Sue Currin.

Congratulations

Mr Neil Collins has completed his training as a First in Maths Facilitator. Mr Collins participated in an 8 day course which will enable him to lead teacher professional development.

Ms Paula Chalmers lead Indigenous Professional development for our staff at last Monday's pupil free day. The Care plans Paula has developed are a credit to her.

2010 Pathways Applications

All current Yr 6 students are required to have submitted their preference for their pathway by **3pm tomorrow**. All Yr 5 students need to complete the application form and submit it by **3pm tomorrow**.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. When your child wants to show you something, stop what you are doing and pay attention to your child.
2. Give your child lots of physical affection.
3. Talk to your child about things he/she is interested in and share aspects of your day.
4. Give your child lots of descriptive praise when they do something that you would like to see more of.
5. Children are more likely to misbehave when they are bored so provide lots of engaging indoor and outdoor activities for your child.
6. Teach your child new skills by first showing the skill yourself. For example, speak politely to each other in the home.
7. Set clear limits on your child's behaviour. Sit down and have a family discussion on the rules in the home. Let your child know what the consequences will be if they break the rules.
8. If your child misbehaves, stay calm and give them a clear instruction to stop and tell them what you would like them to do instead. If they do not stop, follow through with an appropriate consequence.
9. Have realistic expectations.
10. Look after yourself. It is difficult to be a calm, relaxed parent if you are stressed, anxious or depressed.

From *Triple P – Positive Parenting Program* www.triplep.net

Yours in Education

Suzanne Currin - Principal

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Administration News

Student Banking

We are looking for a responsible parent(s) to take on the role of Student Banking Coordinator. This requires approximately 30 – 45 minutes of your time on a Wednesday morning to collect, calculate and bank the student funds. If you think you will be able to volunteer your services please let the office know. Thank you.

Chickenpox

We have had a few cases of chickenpox reported within the school during the last few weeks. Please remember that any student with chickenpox should be excluded until all blisters have dried.

E-Newsletter

In a continual attempt to reduce our carbon footprint we are working towards our school newsletter being sent to you by email. In order for us to start collecting the data we require to make this possible we would appreciate it if you would email us with the first and last name of the youngest TSS student in your family. Please also advise us of the email address you wish the newsletter to be sent to if it is not the address you are using to forward the information from. Please email aeaso4@eq.edu.au as soon as possible. Thank you.

School Crossing Supervisor

A casual position exists for a School Crossing Supervisor at Torquay State School. The School Crossing Supervisor may be required to work five days per week in all weather conditions. The

hours of work at the Torquay SS Crossing are 30 minutes per day in the afternoon. The current rate of pay for a School Crossing Supervisor is \$22.30 per hour. The successful applicant is dependent on:

- The favourable outcome of a health assessment carried out by a Government Medical Officer or a duly qualified Medical Practitioner according to the guidelines in the "Notes for Medical Practitioner" on the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme – Health Assessment Form; and
- Applicants are required to advise in writing of any charges that have been laid against them or any offence of which they have been convicted of.

If you are successful in your application for this position, you can only commence employment with Queensland Transport if you hold a current Blue Card or are renewing your Blue Card and have submitted either a Blue Card Application renewal form or Authorisation to Confirm Current Blue Card form to the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.

If you are interested in this opportunity to supplement your income and help provide a safe environment for the children of Torquay please collect an application package from the Torquay SS office. Application process will close on 13th November. For further information please call Kacey at Torquay SS on 4194 4333.

School Levies

Just another reminder for all families who still haven't paid their levies for 2009. If we don't receive these levies from families, the funds must come from school grant funding that could be used to purchase additional resources for the benefit of all our students. Thank you to the families who have already paid their contribution. We would appreciate the families who have not yet paid to please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

International Student Program & Homestay Program

Is your family interested in providing homestay for international students during 2010? Hosting an international student in a family environment can provide an enriching cultural experience for both the student and the host family. You will be fully supported by the Homestay Co-ordinator and receive a reimbursement of \$190 per week to cover costs of meals and other incidentals and support with student's homework. You will also be able to network with other homestay families and students. The program requires homestays for both short term (emergency back up) and longer term individual senior students (3 months to one year). If you would like to be considered as a host family please contact Marg Warman, Homestay Co-ordinator, Urangan State High School on 4197 0201 or email mwam7@eq.edu.au.

Swimming Carnival – Aquatic Centre, Boundary Road

Thursday 12th November is Torquay SS swim carnival. We have been very pleased with the training program and the effort the students have been putting in. The students are in the process of nominating themselves in the events that best suits their ability. We would like to wish all swimmers the best of luck and would encourage parents to support the carnival.

We are endeavouring to make the event as Sun Smart as possible. All students will require a sun shirt and only students in championship 50 will be able to swim without a shirt. Shade, sunscreen and water will be provided. The canteen will be available for parent use only. Under no circumstances are swimmers to purchase or be allowed to consume items from the canteen.

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What's On?

Urangan State High School – Year 8 Enrolments - 2010

Just a reminder to families that enrolment forms for Year 8 in 2010 were due at Urangan State High School by the end of term 3 (18.09.09). The school is currently organising classes and teachers for 2010 and therefore require this information urgently. If you still have an enrolment form please organise for this to be handed in at Urangan High as soon as possible. Student Orientation Day is on Tuesday 1st December. If you have any queries please contact 4197 0111.

VIKINGS FOOTBALL

Vikings Futsal ...'NEED PLAYERS'. Futsal has now started playing in Hervey Bay. If you are between 10 and 16 and are interested in joining contact Debbie on 0417 809 741 for more information.

Tuckshop Talk

TUCKSHOP ROSTER NOVEMBER 2009	
Tuesday 3rd	Debbie Burnap
Wednesday 4th	HELP REQUIRED
Thursday 5th	Katrina Garlinge
Friday 6th	Sonia Messer
Tuesday 10th	Kim Trannore
Wednesday 11th	HELP REQUIRED
Thursday 12th	HELP REQUIRED
Friday 13th	Sonia Messer
HOME BAKERS NOVEMBER 2009	
Tuesday 3rd	Renee Gibson, Fiona Hughes
Wednesday 4th	T Fletcher, Rose Jordan, K Remfrey
Tuesday 10th	Renee Gibson, Katrina Garlinge
Wednesday 11th	K Harrison, K Healy, S Messer

INGREDIENT DONATIONS	
November 3rd	EGGS ; Mary Bowman KRAFT LITE CREAM ; Karen Walker
November 10th	EGGS ; Kathy Harrison KRAFT LITE CREAM CHEESE; Rose Jordan

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO YOUR ROSTERED DAY PLEASE CALL ME AT HOME ON 04388 20159 BEFORE 7.45 AM OR AT TUCKSHOP AFTER 8AM ON 4194 4328. SO THAT I CAN ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO YOUR DAY.

Hi everyone, a couple of new things are available at the tuckshop, we have bags of frozen peas for 40 cents and bags of sultanas for 30 cents, some kids love frozen peas so a nice small healthy treat. A variety of fresh fruit is available everyday, depending on the size of the fruit it starts at 50cents. Cups of fresh watermelon are available for \$1.00 depending on demand. I am starting off with about 10 cups a day, I will do more as we see how it goes, so kids get in early if you want one. We now have the new 'BLISS BAR', these are 98% fat free ice cream, they are \$2.00 and for 2nd break only, we also have a lemonade icy-pole for 90 cents at 2nd break only. Thanks, Judy'

P&C News

A very big thank you to Kereann for continuing to volunteer her time for us in the uniform shop. Your help is very much appreciated. Please note that the uniform shop will now be open on **Thursday** mornings between 8.30am and 9am. If you have any uniforms your children no longer wear please feel free to donate them to the school for re-sale. All money raised is used through the P&C Association for our children. Thank you.