

Anchored in Excellence....

Community Newsletter #12
October 30th 2015

Reminders:

Public Meeting
November 11th at
the school, 6.30pm.
Tours of the administration
building commence at
5.30pm.

Enrolment Interviews can now
be scheduled for students
residing in the Griffin
catchment.

Please book online via the school's
website:

<https://griffinss.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>

To our staff... October 30th

Happy World Teachers' Day

The privilege of working with the future
of our great state is humbling, exciting,
exhausting, and rewarding.

I once heard a wise person say
'Doctors may save lives but teachers
change lives' and this is so true. The
impact a teacher can have on the lives
of young people is immeasurable yet
powerful. *Patrea Walton*

Enjoy the poem,
Heart of a Teacher pgs 3 and 4

From Vicki Baker, the Principal

It really is very exciting! We're now putting the faces on our community as we meet individually with the children and their families! Enrolment interviews have commenced for students residing in the Griffin catchment. This week we've completed enrolment for almost twenty students. If you've not yet booked a time please do so as soon as possible via the school's website. It is very important that those living in catchment inform the school of their intention to enrol as this influences the number of out of catchment enrolments that will be offered. Our target for 2016 is 225 students. In the week beginning the 9th of November parents of students not residing in catchment will be informed if they will be offered a placement.

On Monday we officially move into the school's administration building. Again this is another very exciting time for our community. I cannot wait to welcome you all and give you the opportunity to have a look around and start to appreciate where your children will be educated. The office will officially be open from the 3rd of November. Please be aware that at this stage only Rachael and I will be on board.

School tours will commence prior to the Public Meeting on the 11th of November.

From next week a priority will be resourcing our school. Quotes for resources have been sourced over the last few weeks, but next week orders will be placed and resources will start to appear. This will mean that the services of volunteers to cover books will be sought. If you are able to assist please let us know – it will be a case of many hands make light work!

Bring your own device:

Students from years 1-6 are invited to bring their own iPad to support their learning. The minimum specifications for this program are for an iPad Air or iPad Air 2 Wi-Fi enabled only: 32GB Parents are encouraged to consider insurance and after care arrangements when purchasing devices.

Parents will be issued with a list of Apps – many will be free that will need to be loaded to devices.

Please note: Our Prep teachers are currently researching whether this program should be extended to Prep. I will inform you of their decision as soon as possible.

Change to voluntary contribution amount:

Starting school can be a very expensive exercise for families. With this in mind I have decided to reduce the voluntary contribution to \$50 per child for 2016. I am really hopeful that all families will engage in this process. All funds raised will go directly to resourcing our library.

Admin will open November 3rd.

Interviews will take place on site from this date.

Recently asked questions....

Q: Are we having a Resource Scheme or a Booklist?

A: At the P&C meeting last week our community voted in favour (overwhelmingly) to have a Resource Scheme. This means that parents will pay the school directly to source all items needed for their children in the classroom for the entire year

Q: What will have for students who do not engage with the bring your own device program?

A: Students without a personal device will have access to an iPad in the classroom. Each class will have three iPads that will be shared between those students without them. Students with iPads will not be permitted to share their personal devices with others.

Q: When will uniforms be available for sale?

A: Uniforms will be available for sale at the school from Monday the 7th of December for two hours per day and then again in the week beginning January 18th. Parents are urged to acquire uniforms early. Uniforms can be ordered this year and collected in January. Pre-ordering will assist our provider greatly with stock control. All students are expected to have at least one formal uniform and one unisex uniform.

Please note:

- Footwear must be plain black shoes with plain white socks. There is no prescribed style, but the shoe must be plain black with black laces.
- Hair accessories for girls must be school colours. Accessories will be available for sale.
- There is a school bag. This is not compulsory.

The formal uniform MUST be worn on the first day of school, January 25th. At 10.30am a photographer will take a photos of the entire student and staff community.

Diary Dates:

- Wednesday November 11th 6.30pm: Public Meeting
- Thursday November 26th 6pm Prep Orientation Evening
- Information evening Years 1-6: to be confirmed.
- Uniforms on sale from week beginning December 7th
- Whole school orientation and community event: January 22nd 2016 from 2pm 'til late.

Photo Gallery



Our very first Prep interview. Mitchell and his Mum Danni were the very first family to be welcomed to our school community.



We welcome Sue, our very first teacher aide.



*Above: The Enrichment Centre
Below: The Prep area – waiting for artificial turf.*



Heart of A Teacher

The child arrives like a mystery box...
with puzzle pieces inside
some of the pieces are broken or missing...
and others just seem to hide
But the HEART of a teacher can sort them out...
and help the child to see
the potential for greatness he has within...
a picture of what he can be
Her goal isn't just to teach knowledge...
by filling the box with more parts
it's putting the pieces together...
to create a work of art.
The process is painfully slow at times...
some need more help than others
each child is a work in progress...
with assorted shapes and colors
First she creates a classroom...
where the child can feel safe in school
where he never feels threatened or afraid to try...
and kindness is always the rule
She knows that a child can achieve
much more when he feels secure inside
when he's valued and loved...and believes in himself ...
and he has a sense of pride
She models and teaches good character...
and respect for one another
how to focus on strengths...not weaknesses
and how to encourage each other
She gives the child the freedom he needs...
to make choices on his own
so he learns to become more responsible...
and is able to stand alone
He's taught to be strong and think for himself...
as his soul and spirit heal
and the puzzle that's taking shape inside...
has a much more positive feel
The child discovers the joy that comes...
from learning something new...
and his vision grows as he begins
to see all the things he can do

A picture is formed as more pieces fit...
an image of the child within
with greater strength and confidence...
and a belief that he can win!
All because a hero was there...
in the HEART of a teacher who cared
enabling the child to become much more...
than he ever imagined...or dared
A teacher with a HEART for her children...
knows what teaching is all about
she may not have all the answers...
but on this...she has no doubt
When asked which subjects she loved to teach
she answered this way and smiled...
“It’s not the subjects that matter...”

“It’s all about teaching the CHILD.”