Dear Parents

New Star Student Certificates

If you were at yesterday’s assembly you would have seen our new star student certificates. Last week we held a design competition where students designed new certificates for 2016. The certificates focus on our ICARE values and our awards each week will reward students who are embodying our values of independence, confidence, adaptability, respect and excellence. Thank you to everyone who put in entries – it was really hard to choose the five certificates.

5-Finger Plan

At Buln Buln we use a 5-finger plan to empower students when they are dealing with an uncomfortable situation. All students are taught the plan and our peer mediators and staff encourage its use.
School Council
Our 2016 School Council Elections will open tomorrow – Wednesday, February 10th and close on Wednesday, February 24th.

Our School Council can consist of:

- 8 Parent members
- 4 DET members
- 2 Community members

If you are interested in joining School Council you will need to complete a nomination form. These are available at the Office. If you have any questions, please contact myself or any of our current awesome School Councillors.

Specialist Programs
This year we are offering art, music, MARC, Japanese and sport as our specialist programs. Gerardine Johnstone is teaching art, Jen Nelson is teaching music and Phil Bucknall runs our MARC program. Nadia Fowler is teaching Japanese (Nicole Ball teaches her class during this time). Carolyn McIntyre is teaching sport to some classes on Tuesdays fortnightly. Other sport sessions are conducted by classroom teachers. Foundation to grade 2 do sport activities as part of their weekly rotations, whilst grades 3 – 6 do sport together on Mondays.

Emergency Management Evacuation Drill
As part of our emergency management plan we need to conduct regular emergency evacuation drills.
Just before lunch yesterday we had a ‘practice offsite drill’. This meant we evacuated the school and assembled at the Recreation Reserve. Students were great – they walked across with their teachers and sat quietly whilst rolls were checked.
If you have any questions about our emergency management plan please contact me.

Sentral Workshop
Tonight we are offering a workshop on our reporting system, Sentral. The session will demonstrate how to log onto the program, how to access reports, student profiles and work samples and using Sentral to explain your child’s absence if he/she is absent from school. Please bring any questions you have so we can ensure everyone is able to access the program.

Laptops and assistance will also be available on the night for those of you who would like some assistance registering for Sentral. The workshop will run from 5pm – 6pm in the Great Space.

Getting To Know Your Class
Tomorrow there will be an opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher to get information about how the grades work and the expectations for the year. These are not parent / teacher interviews, which will take place towards the end of terms 1 and 3. The timings for the presentations are:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>6 - 6.20pm</td>
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<td>3-4</td>
<td>6.30 - 6.50pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>7.00 - 7.20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>7.30 - 7.50pm</td>
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Special Religious Instruction
In accordance with Department guidelines, Special Religious Instruction (SRI) will be conducted on Mondays during lunchtime. Attached to this newsletter is an information booklet on the SRI program offered. For your child to participate in SRI you need to complete a consent form – which is attached to this newsletter. We would like these forms returned by Friday, February 12th so we can commence the program as soon as possible.

CSEF Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
Applications for the CSEF program will open from the commencement of term one, 2016, helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists.
A payment of $125 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards, camps, sport and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, education and fun activities. Application forms are attached with the newsletter or available from the office. All completed forms to be returned to school by Friday 12th February.

Clothing – Please name all items
Please make sure that your child’s clothing is named as this makes it much easier to return lost items to your child.

Absence Notes
Attached to the newsletter is a sheet of absence notes for your convenience or you can use Sentral or put a note in your child’s diary.

Have a great week
Nicole Ball
Acting Principal

Bookclub and Loop details
Bookclub is made available approx. eight times a year. The school receives a % of sales that are then used for our library and classrooms. All orders and monies should be returned to your child’s classroom teacher by Monday 15th March. Many thanks.
OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Welcome back after a great Christmas and holiday break. For our new families to the school, my name is Lyn Mitchard and I have been Co-ordinator for our program since its inception 17 years ago. I have lived locally with my husband for the last 39 years, we have three adult children who began their schooling at Buln Buln Primary, they live locally and are still involved in the community. We also have 4 grandchildren. My assistant is Helen Newitt who has held this role for the past 7 years. She also has lived in the community with her husband for the last 35 years, but was brought up in the area and began her schooling at Buln Buln Primary. They have 2 adult children and a secondary school child, who were schooled here and still involved in the community.

We both enjoy the challenge of caring for your children and often comment that we learn just as much from the children as they do from us.

If you are considering placing your child in care, please do not hesitate to visit us in the Lyrebird room, introduce yourself and show your child/family around. Informal chats are available from 8.45 to 9.00 a.m. or 3.00 to 3.30p.m. or a more formal meeting can be arranged. The more information we have about your child/family, the easier it is to care for
them.
All families need to update their information (medical conditions, addresses, contact phone numbers) asap. Bookings and cancellations can be made through the Office or directly to Lyn Mitchard (texting is fine) but please inform us asap. If your child is absent but holding a place in care that day, please inform us as well. All information forwarded to us is strictly confidential.
The Sunsmart policy is in effect at this time of year, so all children must have a named wide brimmed hat, a spare hat may be left in our room.

Lyn Weller sends out accounts on a regular basis and we would appreciate prompt payment so our program can still run at the level planned for. A payment plan can be set up if this is easier for you.

We have been able to keep our fees as low as possible due to donations of resources from current and past families. Craft materials, toys, books, dress ups, excess fruit and eggs are some of the items we have received.

Well enough of the boring stuff, we are looking forward to a fun filled year.
Kindest Regards,
Lyn Mitchard and Helen Newitt

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
Last week I mentioned that I am available to chat to parents and students individually if this is helpful and that parents can contact me to arrange this. Before I can meet this parental request the Education Department requires the parent to sign a consent form. The consent forms and associated information are attached to this newsletter. If parents wish they can sign and return these and they will be kept on file at the school. Then if parents contact the school and request additional pastoral care from me for their child there will be no delays in arranging this. Just as a simple example, a child may be distressed one morning due to the death of a pet. The parent can alert the school to the situation and suggest that a chat with me during the day may be helpful. With a signed consent on file classroom teachers will be able to call on me to add to the care that they provide. Should you have questions about any matter relating to chaplaincy please contact Mrs. Ball.

Today I helped teachers in the junior classes to prepare and cook pancakes. The children particularly enjoyed the eating part of this activity! For many people the tradition of Shrove Tuesday is a bit of a mystery and I thought it might be interesting to briefly explain what pancakes have to do with ‘Pancake Tuesday’. Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of lent in the Christian religious calendar. The forty days of Lent are a time when many Christians fast and focus on their spiritual practices of reading the bible and praying as they prepare for Easter. In this period they would eat plainer food, which in some cases meant no meat, dairy or eggs. The preparation of pancakes was a way of using up food that could not be eaten until Easter Sunday. This is how the tradition began but I think it continues to offer us wisdom even in our modern multi-faith culture. Whether we are Christian, or hold other beliefs, traditions like this can serve as a reminder and encourage us all to take stock of life. In many respects Lent is about our spiritual health, it is a time of refocusing on the most important things in life. Basically it’s about what kind of person we are and what kind of relationships we value and how we act to nurture these.
Barbara Kingwill – Chaplain BBPS

NEERIM SOUTH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB PLAYERS WANTED
Under 10’s, Under 12’s, Under 14’s.
Contact Glen Ramm 0409 874 903
Piano lessons started last Thursday. Please contact Jenny if you are interested.