Hello Everyone

Last week I talked about the importance of consistent and regular attendance at school and there is a recognition here that students need to be away when sick or for a planned trip. It is also important that parents and carers continue to contact the school when their child is absent. This can be done by contacting the school in the morning or with a written note. It is our school policy to contact home after three unexplained absences.

On Monday I was able to view the 2014 preliminary NAPLAN results. There are many reports and graphs that I am able to view. The key data is not just the individual results. I downloaded the graphs that indicated the rates of individual improvement in each strand. For example, I viewed the rate of improvement of individual students who completed the year three reading test in 2012 and the year 5 reading test in 2014. I am able to compare the improvement of our students with the national rate of improvement. This is a good way to measure the success of our teaching and our programs and I have a strong belief that we should ensure the improvement of all students regardless of their current level.

The data indicates mostly strong growth in reading and spelling compared to the national average. Writing and maths, while individual growth has been consistent, are two areas where we may find improvements in the future and we are planning to develop new programs in these subjects.

I am glad to announce that we have plans to landscape the front of the hall. This has involved much consultation with staff and the P&C. The tiles with family and individual names have been ordered and I have organized a contractor to have these in paving on either side of the path leading from the gate to the hall.

I consulted with Landcare, the P&C, staff and Ann Whitton who produced a landscape design that will cover the area between the fence and the hall. Ann is a landscape designer and kindly volunteered her time. Central in this plan will be a Yin and Yang design and this represents harmony – something the people associated with this school will always strive to achieve. At the time of writing I am thinking of the practical construction of this garden. Please let me know if you would like to view this design or if you can offer assistance. I will leave a copy on the notice board as you enter the front of the school.

Have a great fortnight

Michael
Pittsworth State School Musical—11 September

We have been invited to attend the musical titled, “We are the Other World” to be held at the Pittsworth Town Hall on Thursday 11 September. We will be departing the school by bus at 11.30am and returning around 2.30pm. Cost per student is $3.00 (payable to the school) plus students are asked to give a gold coin donation at the door to the Pittsworth State School Musical group. A permission note will be sent home early next week for this.

ROSSVALE SOFTBALL/ T-BALL CARNIVAL

On Thursday 18 Sept. the P–7 Yr 7 students will be taking part in a softball/t-ball carnival to be held at Southbrook State School. We will be competing against the other Rossvale Schools of Biddesden, Brookstead and Southbrook. We will be travelling by bus to and from this carnival. Further information and permission slip will be sent home soon.

Term 3: Yr 5-7 Camp to Hervey Bay

The year 5-7 students will be going on camp to Hervey Bay from 21 - 24 October 2014. As part of their camp they will be spending a half day whale watching and taking part in leadership activities. Thanks to the parents who have taken up the payment plan or made full payments already for this camp. We appreciate your support with this and further details will be coming home as soon as we have confirmed further bookings.

Chappy Chat

A fun competition between classes will be starting this week. The 5 cent Train is a great way to get rid of those pesky 5 cent pieces that seem to find their way at the bottom of your handbag, on the floor of your car or under the couch cushions. All money collected will go to the Cancer Council Queensland to help aid in cancer research and support services for Queenslanders affected by cancer. So how does the 5 cent Train work? Each class will have the remainder of the term to collect as many 5 cent coins as they can. At the end of the term the coins will be laid out in a long line (a train) to determine the winner. The winning class will get a trophy in recognition of their great work. Start collecting those 5 cent coins!

Chappy Amy Paton

GOTCHA Winners: Tyson Smith, Christian Griffiths & Dusty Robinson

Student Behaviour

This fortnight we will focus on Responsibility Value from our Values and Expectations Matrix. The following expectations may be reinforced at home:

Classroom expectations: keep desk tidy; books and equipment organized; participate fully; be on time for class. This would be a great time to check that children have essential equipment to learn.

Playground Expectations: Use the pedestrian crossing; arrive at school on time; lunch box away; eat politely; rubbish in the bin; Use the toilets correctly; return play equipment; and report problems to teachers.

Aus Tag Clinic for Yrs 5-7 on Friday 29 August

To complete the Aus Tag clinics that the year 5-7 students have been taking part in, we have been invited to attend the final clinic at Pittsworth on Friday 29 August. This will be held as a carnival between the schools taking part in these clinics. We are asking parents to transport their children to and from the clinic. This carnival will run from 10 am to 2.00pm and be held at the Pittsworth Leagues Ground in Short Street. Students will need to take their lunch, a water bottle, hat and sunscreen with them. A permission note is attached to this newsletter, please return the date specified.

Community Chest Program—IQA Pittsworth

As an incentive to shop locally—the Pittsworth IQA ran a Community Chest Program and as a result of the support from the local community our school was lucky enough to receive a cheque for $300.

This cheque was presented to Mr Routledge by the manager of IQA Pittsworth, Mr Shane Smith. Our school and community appreciate being a recipient of this ‘shop locally’ campaign. So please support our local businesses as often as you can.

Cadbury Chocolate Boxes

We still have plenty of chocolate boxes if you’d like to sell some. We now have little wishes chocolate in stock for $1 per chocolate. This is a fundraiser for The Make a Wish Foundation. A small percentage goes to the P&C. Please call Karen Dowie if you’d like a $1 or $2 box – Ph 0409 267 384. This is an easy way to fundraise for our school.

Fathers Day Raffle

Reminder: There are still plenty of Fathers Day Raffle Tickets available at $1 each, both at the school office and at Mt Tyson Store. The more we sell the better!

P&C Events

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<td>Bunnings Sausage Sizzle</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

WANTED: MORE VOLUNTEERS ON ROSTER FOR OUR SAUSAGE SIZZLE ON 6TH SEPT. AT BUNNINGS!! Please contact Karen and let her know when you can help. Any shift time you can do at Bunnings will be appreciated. This is a great chance to fundraise $$$ for our school, which benefits our kids!!

Pre-Prep Playgroup Dates to remember:

Just a reminder that we are still holding pre-prep playgroup mornings from 9.00-11.00am in the old tuckshop building at school. Please come along and join the other mums and little ones for a morning of fun activities for the little people and a get together cuppa for Mum.

The dates are Friday 29 August and Friday 12 September. Look forward to seeing you..

This photo is our Prep-Year 1 kids—how cute are they!!

Next General Meeting Wed 10 September at 7.15 pm.

Tuckshop News

Thank you for those who have volunteered for tuckshop and who have donated homemade so far this term. Your help is appreciated. If you haven’t helped on tuckshop day yet and would like to, please contact our tuckshop convener.

Your P&C Committee

Cathy Cronin (president) 46937228
Dawn Schelberg (vice president) 46937155
Lyn Brown (treasurer) 46937258
Jilliene Ruhle (secretary) 46937285
Donna Schultz - (convener) 46937138
Meg Kummerow (publicity officer)

If you can help Meg with photos at any time, please email her on meg.kummerow@gmail.com or Ph: 0427 606 983