FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our first P&C meeting of the term was held this Wednesday. Writing my Principal’s Report for the meeting allowed me to sit back and look at what our school community has achieved over the last 6 months. I am really proud of the improvements that we have made to, and within our school. Some of these achievements include:

- Ongoing partnership with TUH employees, who run oral language groups with our Prep students currently and have previously contributed to our Year 1 Reading program
- Ongoing partnership with Navitas through the SPARK Reading program - this year the reading mentors worked with our Year 1 students
- Expansion of our extra-curricular Music program to include a Ukulele Ensemble and a Junior Choir. During the last six month, our choir has trebled in size and our band has doubled!
- Offering of online extension classes,” Project U2B” and “Sci-Fi or Sci-Fact?” through Brisbane School of Distance Education
- Establishment of an Instructional Coaching program for our classroom teachers
- Teachers actively working on Action Research Projects aimed at improving the teaching of Reading in their class
- Free Parent English classes

And these are just a few of the achievements! It is by working together collectively as staff, as parents, and as a community that we have been able to achieve some of these goals. Our most exciting, collective achievement to date was the announcement last week by State Member for Brisbane Central, Robert Cavallucci that the Queensland Health building on Water Street was in the process of being handed back to Education Queensland for use by the school. This is a great outcome for our school, and would have not been possible if not for the hard work on part of our Reunification Group, led by Karyn Wernham, and supported by our P&C
President, Paul Wilson and Secretary, Alyson Fenton. Our sincere thanks also go to Robert Cavallucci, for his partnership with the P&C, for advocating for the return of the original site to the school. Robert’s commitment to our school is greatly appreciated.

Brisbane Central State School to double in size!

I am delighted to report that Education Queensland is in the process of transferring the 6000 square metre former Queensland Health property on Water Street. Early plans suggest five additional classrooms, grounds and other potential facilities to meet the education needs of the local community. Upon coming to office I immediately met with representatives from the school and the Minister for Education, to set out a plan and path to make the Brisbane Central State School reunification project a reality. I have been able to deliver, in our first year of Government, something that has been talked about for several years.

I look forward to working alongside the school and the Minister, in determining what ultimate outcomes might be achieved on the site and how we might deliver them. This is another great result for education in the inner city; in addition to our $160,000 for each school to clear their decade old maintenance backlog. There is more to be done, but we are making progress. My sincere thanks to the Brisbane Central State School P&C and Minister Langbroek for working with me on this important task.

Every week, there are always so many people to thank for their contribution to our school community. This week I would like to thank the parents, who, while juggling work, personal commitments and parenthood, have gone the extra mile to make life better for our school and our students.

A HUGE, MASSIVE thanks to:
- Miranda Crisci and Rose Hristova for the development of a school branding document that allows us to ensure there is now some consistency in how we market and promote the school
- Karyn Wernham, for coordinating the sale of the Entertainment Books - the books raised $450 for the school
- Our fete organisers – Alyson Fenton, Amanda Woolnough and Miranda Crisci (as well as a band of helpers) for leading, coordinating and organising the Spring Hill Fair (more on this later)
- The many parents, who volunteer in our classrooms to read, take small groups, lend expertise, act as a guest speaker, and accompany students on excursion and join in on gardening ... The list goes on!

Your contribution is noticed and makes a difference - thank you!

P-2 Sports Day:

A HUGE thanks to Miss Anna Paton, for running our P-2 Sports Day on Tuesday. I know that Anna really appreciated the positive feedback from parents and staff! Thank you to the parents who came along to cheer on their child. A BIG thanks to Theresa and Sargent Rob Duffner from PCYC, who ran a free sausage sizzle for parents and students.
**Spring Hill Fair:**
The plans for the Spring Hill Fair on Saturday, September 14 are really coming along now! You may have noticed the great, big, promotional banners up on the fence on St Pauls Terrace and Rogers Street. Thank you to Miranda Crisci and Alyson Fenton for their work in putting them up on Monday - they look great!

The Spring Hill Fair also has a website - [www.springhillfair.com.au](http://www.springhillfair.com.au). The website will be updated frequently, so please ensure that you check it regularly for news and updates. You can also follow the Spring Hill Fair on Twitter: @springhillfair1, and through Facebook: “Spring Hill Fair”. Get connected and get involved!!

If you would like to sponsor a stall, have a skill that can be used or would like to help on the day, please let us know by emailing our P&C members – [pandc@brisbanecentraless.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandc@brisbanecentraless.eq.edu.au).

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**Explicit Vocabulary Instruction at Brisbane Central State School:**
Over the past twelve months, teachers at Brisbane Central have been focussing their teaching on enhancing, extending and improving students’ vocabularies through Explicit Vocabulary Instruction. Our research into vocabulary instruction has revealed that “best practice” includes:

- The use of methods that are appropriate to the age and ability of the reader
- Ensuring students learn vocabulary incidentally in the context of storybook reading or in listening to others
- Pre-teaching words before reading a text also is helpful
- Techniques such as task restructuring and repeated exposure (including having the student encounter words in various contexts) appear to enhance vocabulary development
- Vocabulary should be taught both directly and indirectly
- Repetition and multiple exposures to vocabulary items are important
- Learning in rich contexts, incidental learning, and use of computer technology all enhance the acquisition of vocabulary
- Dependence on a single vocabulary instruction method will not result in optimal learning
- Effective vocabulary instruction does not just rely on definitions
- Students must represent their knowledge of words in linguistic and nonlinguistic ways
- Effective vocabulary instruction involves the gradual shaping of word meanings through multiple exposures
- Teaching word parts enhances students’ understanding of terms
- Different types of words require different types of instruction
- Students should discuss the terms they are learning
- Students should play with words
- Instruction should focus on terms that have a high probability of enhancing academic success

This week our teachers reviewed the Brisbane Central State School Vocabulary Framework (a document which sets out how we teach students vocabulary across the school), and are examining ways that they can improve their vocabulary teaching. Our teacher-aides have also had focussed training in Explicit Vocabulary Instruction, and now have “Vocabulary Kits” that they can use when working with small groups of students. One day a week of teacher-aide time is dedicated to working with students to pre-teach the vocabulary for the week across the school. All classes are expected to have dedicated “word walls” up in their rooms. All these initiatives demonstrate how important improving our students’ vocabularies is!!!
My research into Explicit Vocabulary Instruction has also influenced and changed the way that I support the learning of my children at home. So what can parents do at home to improve their children’s vocabularies? When you come across an unfamiliar word (when watching TV, reading a book), you can:

- Tell them the meaning of the word using child-friendly language - “Grumpy means when you are feeling angry or annoyed about something”
- Use a sentence that illustrates what the word means - “I felt really grumpy when I dropped my ice-cream on the floor” and then ask your child to use the word in their own sentence
- Ask your child to repeat the new word so they understand how it is pronounced
- Talk about related words – grumpy, grumpier, grumpiest
- Revisit the word again and again – it can take up to 30 exposures to a new word before a child is able to include it in their vocabularies and research suggests that students need to learn 8-10 new words a week

Talk to your child’s teacher today about they are teaching vocabulary and how you can further support vocabulary acquisition at home.

Visit by TUH CEO:

Today, TUH CEO, Rob Seljac accepted my invitation to visit the school and see firsthand his employees in engaging in the Prep Oral Language program as part of their volunteer activities at Brisbane Central State School. My thanks goes to Rob for his visit and his ongoing support of the volunteering program.

School Opinion Survey:

Thank you to all the parents/caregivers, students and school staff who have completed their School Opinion Survey this year. Your effort to complete the survey shows your enduring commitment to our school. We will receive our schools’ reports later this year, and results will be published in our schools Annual Report which will be made available on our school website.

Have a great week!
Melissa

YEAR 4/5 NEWS

This term is an exciting 11 weeks for the Year 4/5s. As a class we will be working together on our reading strategies. We have come up with our own reading goals and we are working hard together as a team to achieve them. One of our reading goals is to improve our reading fluency. To help us practise this we have incorporated ‘Reader’s Theatre’ as one of our literacy activities. During ‘Reader’s Theatre’ we practice playing different characters from texts. We have to work hard to be conscious of our pace, expression and our tone. We are having great fun practicing our plays and acting out the different roles! We might even put on a mini performance at the end of this term so you can come and watch!

BOOKWEEK AUTHOR VISIT

Author Tristan Bancks will be visiting Brisbane Central SS for Book Week on Thursday 22 August, discussing his books and the writing process. As well as working with Tristan, students will have the opportunity to ask questions and have books signed to bring home.

If you would like to purchase any of Tristan’s books with a school discount, an order form can be obtained from the office and returned with payment on or before the day, or refer to the link on our school website.

Cash or cheques only. No credit cards. Please make all cheques payable to Tristan Bancks.
UNIFORM NEWS

OPENING HOURS – The Uniform Shop will only be open Thursday mornings from 8:30am to 9:30am.

With the weather getting cooler it is time to think about jumpers. Our winter stock of Zip-up Jackets has arrived. The price is $35.00 for sizes 4 to 14. We have a small supply of old-style screen-printed Zip-ups for $32.50 and Sloppy Joes for $24.00. Please email or text to make sure we have the correct size. We do not stock Tracksuit pants. You can pick up plain black Tracksuit pants for about $8.00 at Big W or Target.

ORDERING UNIFORMS - If you would like to order uniforms you can email Amanda on bcssspandc@hotmail.com and it will be put in your child’s school bag after payment is received. If you have ordered the wrong size, it can be returned as long as it has not been worn.

METHODS OF PAYMENT: You can put cash or cheque in an envelope for your child to give to their teacher, or

(1) You can put cash or cheque in an envelope for your child to give to their teacher, or

(2) You can bank the total into the P & C account BSB: 064012, Account: 0090 4486 (NOT THE SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT) - Detail uniform with your name (e.g. Uniform Smith).

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer in the Uniform Shop, please email Amanda bcssspandc@hotmail.com.

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<td>11</td>
<td>20 Sept</td>
<td>Indian cooking - Smita</td>
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9:00am every Friday in the hall (children welcome)

No sewing or cooking experience required… just turn up!

Cost is $2 – includes tea/coffee and morning tea

All welcome!
PLAIN CLOTHES DAY next Friday, 9th August
Children can come in plain clothes for a
GOLD COIN DONATION
Money raised on the day will go towards
costs of the Spring Hill Fair in September

“Many hands make light work”, so “THANK YOU” to everyone who have already volunteered. There is still a lot to do and we need help with the manning of stalls on the day of the Fair. If you are able to volunteer even for one hour out of the 5 hours of the Fair, let Alyson, Amanda or Sunitha know, as soon as you can. If everyone does a little...we can achieve a lot.

Hooray! TUH is sponsoring our Cake & Jam Stall, so let’s show them what BCSS is made of...let’s make it the most delicious and amazing Cake & Jam Stall ever!

If you can bake cakes, biscuits, cupcakes or brownies...make coconut ice, fudge, Chocolate Crackles, toffees, slices, jams, Turkish Delight, Baklava or any other sweet delicacies we would love to have your sweet creations on our stall. TUH’s sponsorship will go towards the purchase of ingredients.

Like TUH, you or someone you know could sponsor one of our stalls or our on-stage entertainment. Sponsorship and support can be financial, donation of products and services or a combination of these. Sponsors will have their name and logo placed on our Website, School newsletter and stall on the day. To find out more about Fair sponsorship, call Miranda on 0402 595 577.

It has been an exciting week with the following stall holders committing to the Fair....

• Gelateria Cremona Mobile Gelato Van, Yum!
• The House of Madison West, Spring Hill-The Little Shop for Little Dogs
• The Mamilias, Fair Trade and Ethically produced products
• Piccolatte - Retro Mobile Coffee Van
• Arakan Martial Arts

Our colourful and festive Fair Banners went up this week on St Paul’s Tce and Rogers St. Make sure you take a look at them the next time you go past.