Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Year 3, 5 and 7 students were very brave this week when sitting the NAPLAN exams. With 5 tests over 3 days, and many sniffing noses, they did magnificently!! My thanks to our teachers and support staff who ensured that the tests were executed smoothly, and students were supported throughout the process. Parents will receive their child’s results later in the year.

**Great Results Guarantee:**

As you would be aware, our school recently received $165,944 to support the learning needs of students across the school. The focus of the Great Results Guarantee is to ensure that every child reaches the National Minimum Standard in NAPLAN, and if not, to have a plan in place to support their learning.

Since Term 1, we have been striving to improve learning outcomes for our students through:

- Employing a full-time, English as an Additional Language Specialist Teacher to support small group and whole class learning
- Releasing our 0.6 EALD Specialist Teacher to coach teachers, model practices, develop strategic vision for EALD education, and to help lead Action Research across the school
- Employing a 0.5 Science teacher to release teachers for weekly, 1 hour coaching sessions with our Head of Curriculum, EALD Specialist and Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy.
- Employing our ST:LaN an additional 0.7 to work across P-3 classrooms to support students’ numeracy development and to case manage students at risk of not meeting National Minimum Standards
- Employing a 0.6 Intervention/ extension teacher to run “booster” Numeracy sessions in Problem Solving for Year 3, 5 and 7 students.

We look forward to providing updates on how our programs are progressing throughout the year.

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**Fit n’ Active:**

- **3:00pm – 4:15pm**
  - Mondays: Year 4 – Year 7
  - Thursdays: Prep – Year 3

**Play and Stay:**

- **3:00pm – 4:00pm**
  - Wednesdays and Fridays

**Mondays:**

- Uniform Shop Open: 8:15am – 8:45am
- Religious Education: 11:00am – 11:30am
- Band Rehearsals: 2:30pm
- Year 4 – 7 fort nightly from 28/04/2014
- Years 1 – 3 fort nightly from 05/05/2014

**Tuesdays:**

- Junior Choir Rehearsals: 8:00am
- Parent English Class: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
  - **Recommencing June 10th**
- Assembly: 2:30pm

**Wednesdays:**

- Ukulele Ensemble: 10:45am
- Senior Choir Rehearsals: 8:15am

**Thursdays:**

- Chess Club: 8:00am
- Science Club: 11:00am – 11:30am
- Band Rehearsals: 2:30pm
- Instrumental Music: 12:00pm – 2:30pm

**Fridays:**

- Gardening Club: 8:30am
- UQ Sport Aussie Rules Program: 3:00pm
- City Science Investigation Program: Wednesdays
- Mini Writers’ Festival: 8:30am
- Fanfare Competition Brisbane SHS: 1:40pm – 3:15pm
- Mini Thinkers’ Festival: 8:30am
- Mini Writers’ Festival: 10:30am – 11:30am
- Asia Pacific Music: 12:00pm – 2:45pm
- Middle School Choir: 1:30pm – 4:00pm
- Band Rehearsals: 2:30pm
- Year 4 P-7 Under 8’s Day: 9:00am – 10:45am

**28/05/2014**

- P & C Meeting: 5:30pm
- Mini Writers’ Festival: 2:30pm
- Mini Thinkers’ Festival: 1:30pm
- High Achievers’ Program: 10:30am
- ICAS Science Test: 10:30am

**09/06/2014**

- Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- 10/06/2014 – 12/06/2014
- Northside Junior Music Camp
- 11/06/2014
- Mini Writers’ Festival
- 18/06/2014
- Mini Thinkers’ Festival
- 19/06/2014
- School Disco: 11:00am
- Concert: Choirs, Instrumental Music & Band: 1:30pm
- 20/06/2014
- P-7 Under 8’s Day: 9:00am – 10:45am
- 25/06/2014
- Report cards distributed to parents
- 26/06/2014
- Year 2 Out of the Box Excursion: 9:00am – 10:45am
- Year 4-7 Athletics Carnival

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**27/06/2014**

- Last school day – Term 2, 2014
- 28/06/2014 – 13/07/2014
- Term 2 School Holidays
- 14/07/2014
- First school day – Term 3, 2014
In progressing our Action Research work on Mathematics Vocabulary, this week in our staff meeting we refreshed our memory of Bruner’s work, and the importance of ensuring that when effectively teaching mathematics concepts to students, that we continue to focus on the “Concrete-Pictorial/ Representation-Abstract” instructional strategy. The Concrete Pictorial Abstract sequence for maths lessons should be very explicit and systematic, with multiple opportunities for both guided practice and independent practice. The use of manipulatives or models that represent the concept being studied is critical. This is the “doing” step of instruction. Students must be fluent in manipulation of the concrete materials and must be able to explain the connection to the skill, before progressing to the written form. For example, if teaching fractions, your child’s teacher would provide many opportunities for students to cut up “real life” materials such as apples, paper, play dough into various equal parts (half, quarters, eighths etc.). Following this, students colour portions of items to make a fraction, then finally writing abstract symbols (e.g. \( \frac{3}{4} \)) to represent a fraction. Through engaging with the concrete and pictorial representations first, students will be able to consolidate and retain their understanding of key mathematical concepts. The diagrams below help to further illustrate this strategy. Have any further questions? Why not start a conversation about this with your child’s teacher?

![Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract](image)

**Extra-Curricular Activities:**

Over the past two years, we have been steadily increasing our extra-curricular offerings at Brisbane Central State School. We are very proud that a small school is able to offer the breadth of activities that we do. I sincerely thank our teachers who willingly give up their time to support the interests of our students. If you are new to our school, or not up to date with what we offer, please see our table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Day/ Time</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Choir</td>
<td>Tuesday 8:00am</td>
<td>Year 1-3</td>
<td>Miss Kylie Wall and Miss Rae Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Choir</td>
<td>Wednesday 8:15am</td>
<td>Year 4-7</td>
<td>Mrs Jenny Battersby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukulele Ensemble</td>
<td>Wednesday 10:45am</td>
<td>Year 4-7</td>
<td>Mrs Jenny Battersby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music</td>
<td>Thursday 12:00pm – 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Year 5-7</td>
<td>Mr Colin McIntyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>Thursday 2:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>Year 5-7</td>
<td>Mr Colin McIntyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>Thursday 8:00am</td>
<td>Prep – 7</td>
<td>Mrs Connie Pizzato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Club</td>
<td>Thursday 11:00am - 11.30am</td>
<td>Year 4-7</td>
<td>Mr Fynn Stark and Miss Caitlin Ashcroft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening Club</td>
<td>Friday 8:30am</td>
<td>Prep-7</td>
<td>Mr Brendan Stock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also continue to offer a number of extension programs for our Year 4-7 students. This year, selected students have been chosen to participate in the High Achievers’, Mini Scientists’, Mini Thinkers’ and Mini Writers’ programs through the City Cluster Schools’ Alliance. Over the past three years, we have also offered a number of on-line extension programs in Mathematics, Science and Writing through the Brisbane School of Distance Education. A number of our talented students have also been chosen to be involved in face-to-face and online programs through the Young Scholars’ program offered through the Queensland Academies, one of our partnership schools. Parents may choose to nominate their child for this program which runs workshops and online learning opportunities outside school hours and on weekends. For more information, you can contact Kathy Mackey, Manager, Queensland Academies, via email: Kathy.MACKEY@dete.qld.gov.au.
**Play and Stay:**

Just a reminder that our Play and Stay afternoons are on Wednesdays and Fridays. These are days when the oval and play areas are free from other scheduled activities. On Mondays and Thursdays, our oval is occupied by our Fit and Active program. Please be respectful of other groups using our oval, by ensuring that you have vacated the oval by the commencement of Fit and Active on Monday and Thursday afternoons. You are welcome to enjoy our oval and play areas on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Have a great week!
Melissa

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**P&C NEWS**

The P&C have requested that the Principal include the following information in this week’s newsletter.

The P&C has lodged an e-petition on the Queensland parliamentary website regarding the Queensland Health site adjacent to Brisbane Central State School. Community members wishing to access the e-petition can use the following link: [http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petition?PetNum=2247](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petition?PetNum=2247). This petition closes on midnight Monday 19 May 2014. Paper petitions can be returned to Amanda Woolnough, Alyson Fenton, or Karyn Wernham by Friday 16 May 2014.

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**UNIFORM NEWS**

OPENING HOURS – The Uniform Shop will be open Mondays from 8:15am - 8:45am (or by appointment only).

ORDERING UNIFORMS – If you would like to order uniforms you can email Paula at uniforms@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au. The order will go home in your child’s bag once payment has been received. If you ordered the wrong size, it can be returned as long as it has not been worn.

* NEW IN STOCK* - all sizes of black zip up jackets available $35. Plus old style jackets & jumpers available at lower cost.

METHODS OF PAYMENT:

(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).

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS – The uniform shop also has second-hand uniforms for sale. If you are leaving the school or have old uniforms at home please donate them to the school office.

ENQUIRES – If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Uniform Shop please email Paula uniforms@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au or TEXT ONLY to 0449 017 711.

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**YIPPEE!**

Parent English Class at BCSS starts soon

Don’t miss it!

**10th June**

is the start date

Hope to see you back at Parent English Class

12:00pm in the School Hall on

**10th June**
Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Amanda Karo, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(07) 3115 6202 / 0417 436 183
or amanda.karo@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus is developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and is delivered in Brisbane South by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.