FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are in the home stretch this week, with assessments and report cards in the process of being finalised. However, we are not slowing down one bit! Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating Under 8’s Day, our choirs and bands will be performing in our end of semester concert, and our Year 2 students are off to the Out of the Box Festival.

**Fanfare:**

Congratulations to our Band students who performed in Fanfare today! At the point of publishing, it was unknown how we fared, but we are proud of our students regardless! We are now starting to look like a “proper” school band with designated Music shirts, BCSS banners and folders! A HUGE thanks to Mr Colin McIntyre for this enthusiasm and commitment to our school band. For his 3.5 hours assigned to the school, Colin does a great job. Thanks also to Cecilia Huang for coordinating transport to and from the event.

**Needles on school grounds:**

On Monday we had an incident where students found a needle behind the basketball courts in a plastic sheath. First Aid was applied immediately, the affected students’ parents were notified and the area rechecked for any other needles. Students were educated at assembly about what to do if they find a needle, and were shown the implements required to safely dispose of needles. Each class was educated again by our Workplace Health and Safety Officer, Jenny Gilmour on Friday, and reminded that if they see a sharp implement in the playground they should notify a teacher immediately. Every day our School’s Officers, Glen Appleyard and Gary Gradwell check the school grounds before students arrive for any discarded needles. Fortunately, the occurrence of discarded needles in our school grounds is not common. My thanks to Janet Fletcher, Jenny Gilmour, Carolina Duncan and Glen Appleyard who handled the incident sensitively and efficiently in my absence.

**Reporting to Parents:**

Achievement scales for your child’s report card are as follows:

- **Prep:** Teachers will use the following five-point scale to report student achievement in the Australian Curriculum English, Mathematics, Science and History: Applying, Making Connections, Working With, Exploring, Becoming Aware and N (Insufficient Evidence to make a judgement). Teachers will use comments to report on student achievement in the early learning areas of: Social and personal learning; Health and physical learning; and Active learning processes. Teachers will also Report on effort and behaviour using comments.

- **Years 1 and 2:** Teachers will continue to use the following five-point scale to report student achievement: Very High, High, Sound, Developing, Support required. Teachers will report on effort and behaviour using: Very High, High, Sound, Developing, and Support required.

- **Years 3 – 7:** Use of the five-point scale: A, B, C, D, E, N. Teachers will report on effort and behaviour using: Excellent, Very Good, Satisfactory, Needs attention, Unacceptable.

Reporting is part of communicating with parents and building the school-parent partnership to improve student learning. School reporting processes should be clear and transparent for parents and the community, so that parents understand:

- the learning expectations for the student
- the student’s achievement against expected standards
- how well the student is engaging with the expected learning
- how the student may be able to improve.

Should you have any questions or concerns about report cards or your child’s progress, please do not hesitate to ask your child’s teacher. My sincere thanks to all our teachers, who are working very hard to provide the best education possible for your children by day, and are reporting at night.

**Communication:**

Next semester, we will be transferring to a fortnightly newsletter. As we now send electronic newsletters, update our website every Friday, and utilize the QSchools app, Twitter and Facebook to keep in touch, parents are now even more informed than ever about what is going on in our school. On the “off” newsletter weeks, there will still be updates to the QSchools app, website, Facebook and Twitter, so parents will continue to know about what is going on in our school. A fortnightly newsletter will also ensure that our staff spend more time focusing on student learning, rather than on editing and publishing. If you have a smart phone or android phone, make sure you download the QSchools app today for free from iTunes or Google Play stores.

Did you know that the QSchools app contains the following information?

- Uniform Shop
- Tuckshop
- News Events
- Calendar events
- Newsletters
- Class times
- Links to the school’s Facebook account
- Links to the school’s Twitter account
- Links to forms and documents

**Library open times:**

Our Library will now be opening on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:30am. Parents and students are welcome to visit for reading and sharing of books. Borrowing will still occur during class times. Thank you to Miss Rae Ross, Mrs Janet Fletcher and Mrs Narelle Hoelzl for making themselves available during these times.

**Welcome:**

Welcome to some new faces around the school! Mandy O’Conner will be working in our P-1 classrooms, providing some additional support to these teachers on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until the end of term. Jenny Glynn is also joining us a teacher aide in our P-1 classrooms on Mondays and Tuesdays, also until the end of term.

Have a great week!

Melissa
YEAR 4/5 OVERTAKES ST. HELENA ISLAND!

It was the 27th of May 2014 when our 4/5 class went on an excursion to St. Helena Island. Firstly, we got on a bus which departed from the school at around 8:20 in the morning. It wasn’t a long bus journey when we finally arrived at Manly and disembarked the bus to quickly walk to the Cat-o-nine Tails ferry. The trip on the ferry was fun; we listened to a humorous safety message from a prison guard and two prisoners.

When we arrived at the island we walked along a long jetty to see an old, iron swimming pool. We were told a gruesome story about a guard who dived into it only to perish in a very painful way. It was good timing because we were about to have morning tea, which we shared with another school.

After our quick snack we headed off down a long, dirt road. We had to walk in straight lines and were not allowed to talk; we were recreating ‘the walk of the prisoners’. Once the long walk was over we split into groups to observe old buildings and structures. We also learned about how prisoners were treated, what type of work they had to do and the horrible punishments they had to endure if they did not follow the rules. Divyang Chovatia was pulled out of the crowd and given the name of Prisoner 3 and a half; he mustn’t have followed the rules!

At the end of our prison life tour we had the opportunity to visit a cemetery where prisoners were buried and where the children of the guards were buried. It was sad to hear about the misfortune of these people. Something we learned was that St. Helena Island Prison was officially opened on the 14th of May 1867 and closed in 1932.

After all the excitement, it was time to go, so after lunch we headed toward the ferry. On our journey back we were lucky enough to see some dolphins playing around in the ocean. We also took part in a St. Helena trivia game! Some of us even got some prizes. We had a great time and learned a lot which will help us in our History class!

Written by Brielli S. and Nichole J. (4/5 class)

CHANGE FOR ICAS SCIENCE TESTING

We have changed the ICAS Science test day to Tuesday 3 June, instead of the advertised Wednesday 4 June. This has been done, because some of our students will be off campus participating in specially selected activities. The Science ICAS Test will begin at 9:00am on Tuesday 3 June, 2014. The Science Test will be held in the assembly hall. We have 42, Year 3-7 students, participating this year.

Regards, Michelle Martin

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.