



BRISBANE CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

Cnr St Paul's Tce & Rogers St, Spring Hill Qld 4000



newsletter

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08 November 2013

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now officially halfway through the term! In the final five weeks, teachers will be focussing on teaching and assessing the final units of work and writing report cards. Our students will be finalising tasks and rehearsing for our annual Christmas Concert- it's all systems go!



Getting ready for Prep:

We will be welcoming our new 2014 Prep students to the school on Thursday November 14 as part of our Prep Open Day from 9.30 to 10.30 am. While our students are getting acquainted with their new surrounds, we will be offering parents the opportunity to purchase new school uniforms and have a tour of the school. If you haven't already registered for our Open Day, please do so as soon as possible by contacting Carolina in the office: admin@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au.



Classes for 2014:

We are currently finalising our classes for next year, and anticipate that we will be able to release classes and teachers for 2014 by the end of the 2013 school year.

When composing classes for next year, we will be taking the following factors into consideration:

- A balance of academic abilities across the classes of the year level;
- A gender balance across the classes of the year level;
- A balance across the classes of the year level in relation to social and behavioural factors;
- The combinations/dynamics of the group of students.

There will be a number of multi-age (combined year level) and straight year level classes next year, as there was this year. **The selection of students for either a multi-age class or a straight year level class will be based on the criteria stated above.**

Across Queensland, multi-age classes (or composite classes as they are sometimes known) are formed every year in small, medium and large size schools. Multi-age classes are classes that consist of two or more year levels together in the same room. They are predominately formed when there are too few or too many students to form a single year level class. Some schools actively choose to form multi-age classes in preference to straight year levels, embedding a defined multi-age philosophy across the school.

Did you know that the practice of creating straight year levels originates back to the Industrial Revolution and was based on a belief that students of the same age learn at the same rate and the same time? In the 1970's and 1980's, when forming a multi-age class, it was common to place the "advanced" students in the lower year level, with the "struggling" students in the higher year level. Luckily, education has evolved in the last 30-40 years and we now know that was a negative practice of limited educational value.



Fit n' Active: (Week 3 – Week 10)	Mondays: Year 4 – Year 7 Wednesdays: Prep – Year 3
Tuesdays	Junior Choir Rehearsals: 8:00am – 8:45am
Wednesdays	Band Rehearsals: 7:30am – 8:30am
	Ukulele Ensemble: 11:00am – 11:30am
Thursdays	Chess Program: 8:00am
	Senior Choir Rehearsals: 8:00am – 8:45am
Thursdays: 10/09/2013 – 28/11/2013	Write On: 7:45am
Fridays	Gardening Club: 8:30am
	Uniform Shop Open: 8:30am – 9:30am
Fridays: 25/10/2013 – 06/12/2013	Prep – Year 7 Swimming Lessons
14/11/2013	Prep Open Day: 9.30am – 10.30am
25/11/2013	Year 1 – Year 7 Swimming Carnival
04/12/2013	P&C Meeting: 8:00am
05/12/2013	Christmas Concert
09/12/2013 – 13/12/2013	Assessment Period
12/12/2013	End of Year Break Up
13/12/2013	Clean Up Day Last school day - Term 4, 2013
14/12/2013 – 27/01/2014	End of Year School holidays
28/01/2014	First school day – Term 1, 2014

So, how does a multi-age class operate now? Exactly the same as a straight year level! Within any class, either multi-age or straight year level, it is common to have a variance of 2-3 years between students (academically, developmentally and socio-emotionally). It is therefore, the role of the teacher to differentiate the teaching and learning to meet the needs of all students. Education today is never a “one size fits all” approach.

So what does it mean to differentiate the curriculum for all students? Differentiated Learning is a pedagogical approach that identifies and monitors the individual needs of students and matches these with ways of teaching. It focuses on HOW something is taught and centres the learner as pivotal in the classroom. It involves giving students a range of ways:

- To access curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- To demonstrate and express what they learn
- To understand and take in information

Charmaine Xinis, our Curriculum Coordinator will be working with teachers of multi-age classes this term to track and document the learning of students to ensure that there is continuity of learning between 2013 and 2014. This is a continuation of the practice that we initiated last year. The information collected will be provided to teachers as part of the handover, to ensure that our students continue to be extended and supported, and that there are no “gaps” in their learning. Should you have any concerns or questions about how we are monitoring student learning, please do not hesitate to contact either Charmaine or myself.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding classes for next year, I encourage you to discuss this either with myself, or your child’s teacher.



Professional Learning:

This week, our class teachers celebrated the completion of their Action Research through a “Learning Walk” through each classroom in the school. So, what is a “Learning Walk”? Learning Walks are:

- focussed on sharing our practice- what we have learned and what our students have learned;
- a process that will be part of our professional practice to gain collective understanding and shared knowledge in support of our inquiry into expert pedagogical practices;
- supported by systems of growth;
- are underpinned by a strong professional learning community based on trust, respect, support, research, relationships and a focus on inquiry;
- develop our professional learning conversations;
- enable us to identify and nurture models of expert pedagogical practice within our school
- are a celebration of our successes

Our Assistant Regional Director, Mike Kelly, joined us for the walks, and was highly impressed by the quality of the Action Research Projects, and the professionalism of our teachers at Brisbane Central State School.

A quick data “snapshot” of our Professional Learning this year:

- Over 90% of BCSS staff visited another teacher’s classroom or visited another school
- 100% of teachers engaged in professional discussions relating to professional learning goals and student learning goals.
- 40 individual coaching sessions were conducted totalling more than 90hrs of coaching and planning
- Staff engaged in 40hrs of professional learning at staff meetings
- Teachers were released for 6 hours of personalised Professional Learning in relation to their own Performance Development Plan
- Staff collaborated in 50 hours of data inquiry and analysis

My sincere thanks to our Curriculum Coordinator, Charmaine Xinis, for her exceptional leadership of professional learning at Brisbane Central. I am exceptionally proud of our teachers, and am forever impressed by their dedication professional learning and commitment to improved learning outcomes for our students.



Christmas Concert and Year 7 Leaving Ceremony:

Our Annual Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday December 5 at 6 pm , followed by the Year 7 Leaving Ceremony at 7.45 pm. Our classes, choirs, band and Ukulele Ensemble are busily rehearsing in preparation for our big night. We look forward to all our families joining us!



Like us and Follow us!

This week we have started to expand our ways of communicating with our school community by starting to engage in social media. You can now “like” us on Facebook – *Brisbane Central State School*, or follow us on Twitter - @Bris_Cent_SS. We now have a number of avenues to communicate with our parents regarding what is happening at school – newsletter, QSchools app, school sign, and now Facebook and Twitter. So jump on board, keep up to date and “like” and follow us today!



Preparing for 2014:

Are you leaving us? Will you be enrolling a student for the Preparatory Year? Are you taking holidays?

Last week, we sent home a form for you to complete to let us know whether you were leaving the school, or whether you were returning after January 28, 2014. Thank you to the parents who have already let us know their intentions for 2014. Preparations for 2014 classes and staffing have already commenced. **It is crucial** that parents let either Carolina Duncan or myself know **as soon as possible** if their child/ren will not be returning to Brisbane Central State School, or similarly, if they intend to enrol their child/ren for Prep in 2014.

We understand that many of our families use the summer holidays to visit family and friends overseas and interstate, and may return to school after the **commencement of school on January 28, 2014**.

Should this be the case for your family, **it is crucial** that you return the form sent home last week, or provide an email/ letter to Carolina Duncan (admin@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au) stating your return date so that your child is still considered as being enrolled in our school. Should your child be away for more than 10 consecutive days from the commencement of Term 1, 2014 (January 28, 2014), you will need to complete an Application for Exemption from Compulsory Schooling form. These forms are available from Carolina Duncan in the office. Our final staffing numbers for 2014 depend on the number of known enrolments (either students present at school, or students for whom we have a written correspondence stating their return or start date).

So... in summary:

If you are leaving the school and will not be returning:

- Please email Carolina Duncan – admin@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au stating your child/ren’s name and the name of the school your child/ren will be attending in 2014, or,
- Address a letter to Carolina Duncan stating the same, or,
- Complete the form at the end of this newsletter or return the form sent home last week, and return to the office.

If you will be returning to Brisbane Central State School, but your child will not be returning until after February 6, 2014:

- Please email Carolina Duncan stating your child/ren’s name, the reason for their absence from school, and the expected date of return to school, or,
- Address a letter to Carolina Duncan stating the same, or,
- Complete the form at the end of this newsletter or return the form sent home last week, and return to the office, and,
- Complete an Exemption from Compulsory School form (required if absence from school is greater than 10 days)

Please help us to make accurate predictions about our staffing for student numbers by letting us know whether you intend to leave our school, enrol a child, or return to school after January 28, 2014.

Have a great week!

Melissa

PARENT ENGLISH CLASS

This week we enjoyed a wonderful presentation on Colombia by two of our parents, Angela and Edicson. We learned some fascinating facts about Colombia and really enjoyed seeing & hearing a range of dance, music and traditional costumes from different regions of Colombia. Angela and Edicson finished with a demonstration of salsa dancing. Thank you Angela and Edicson, we all loved your presentation.

Please remember next week’s concert, ‘Brazil to Persia’ at the City Hall. We will meet at the school hall at 10.45am. Bring your own lunch and drink to have in the Roma Street Parklands afterwards.

So you all at 10:45am in the hall next Tuesday morning

YEAR 5/6 NEWS

This term, Year 5/6 have been learning a plethora of interesting things! In English we are comparing a range of literary and informative texts, in Science we are conducting environmental field studies and in History we are investigating the experiences of migration groups from all around the world. We are also excited about commencing our journey into school leadership. Over the next 6 weeks, we will learn more about what leadership encompasses and how we can become excellent leaders at Brisbane Central State School in 2014!

LE JOURNAL FRANÇAIS / THE FRENCH NEWS

Last Wednesday night the classes 3/4 to 6/7 presented their 4 plays in an evening of French Theatre. They did a splendid job, and I am very proud of them. Congratulations! I would like to thank them all for their hard work, and enthusiasm. I would also like to say a special thanks to those students who were understudies, prepared to step in if and when needed (and some were needed, thanks Liam D!), as well as those students who were gracious in stepping aside so that others could have a go on stage. Thanks too to my lunchtime helpers, who would always be there before me ready to create some more amazing props and backdrops. I am grateful to be working with such an amazing group of talented and generous students.

I would also like to thank the parents who helped with the drinks and the clearing up. And last but not least thank you to the parents and staff for your support, and attendance.

à la prochaine / till next time

Madame Maroto



P & C POSITION VACANCIES – UNIFORM CO-ORDINATOR/ SUBCOMMITTEE

This week our Uniform Co-ordinator, Amanda Woolnough, decided that she wished to stand down at the end of this year. We wish to whole-heartedly thank her for her hard work and effort in providing a great uniform service to the BCSS student and parent community.

This means that we now are asking for interested parents/caregivers who would like to volunteer to sell school uniforms, through either nominating as a the Uniform Coordinator, or as a member of the Uniform Sub-committee.

The **Uniform Coordinator** needs to be a member of the P & C and attend meetings during the year. Key tasks include ordering uniforms, banking, keeping a record of Stock on Hand, operating within a budget agreed at P & C meetings and, of course, selling uniforms. The Uniform Coordinator would need to be available for approximately 4-5 hours per week.

Members of the **Uniform Sub-committee** would not necessarily have to attend P & C meetings, and would assist the Coordinator in any of the tasks listed above. For example, if you can offer only an hour a month, that would be enough time to assist with a stocktake.

If you are looking at returning to, or joining the work force this could give you some retail experience to put on your resume.

If you are interested in volunteering as the Uniform Coordinator, or as a member of the Uniform Sub-Committee, would you please contact Alyson Fenton on 0416 220 868 or myself on 0439 933 991.

PREP NEWS

We are very excited about our swimming lessons. A big “thank-you” to all the mums and dads who help us get ready before and after swimming!

In Science we are learning how people, animal and machines move. We even made a rotocopter.

We love jigsaws and in technology we are making some. It’s great fun!

In SOSE we are learning about needs and wants.

Last week in Art we did paper weaving and we have made some very interesting collages (and making Christmas presents for our parents, it’s a secret!)

Mails In!!!! We are writing letters and posting them in our very own mail box. Mr Waugh said we might write one to fat man in a red suit???

We are still busy with our reading groups.

Thank-you to our teacher-aides and some mums for helping us with our reading. In Maths we are counting to 100, doing some simple additions and subtraction, telling time, learning number facts and playing bingo.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Junior Swimming Carnival 9.45am – 11.15am

Years 1 - 3

Students in Year 1 – Year 3 will participate in their annual swimming carnival on **Monday 25th November**. Students will travel by bus to Stafford State School for the carnival. The carnival will begin at 9.45am and finish at approximately 11.15am. Events will include the following races: Freestyle and Backstroke 25m (full lap), 12.5m (half lap), kickboard and noodle races. The junior school carnival is a short fun carnival with the emphasis being FUN and PARTICIPATION!!

At the conclusion of the carnival, students will travel back to Brisbane Central SS and continue lessons from 12.00pm

Please note that students in Year 3 that are 9 years old or turning 9 this year (born in 2004) will compete in the senior school swimming carnival.

Senior Swimming Carnival 11.45am – 2.15pm

9 Years – 12 Years

The fun and exciting senior school swimming carnival begins at **11.45am on Monday 25th November and will finish at approximately 2.15pm at Stafford State School**. Students will participate in normal lessons at Brisbane Central State School from 9am – 11am. At 11.15am students will travel by bus to Stafford State School for the carnival.

Students have been given the opportunity to nominate for any of the 25m and 50m finals events. Time trials have been completed during swimming lessons to find the fastest six students in each of the finals events. Age champions and district selection is decided from the finals.

If students did not make it into a final, they may still nominate to swim in any of 25m and 12.5m open events on the day. **House points are awarded for all events**. Novelty events such as a noodle race and a fashion parade will also be held on the day. The more participants swimming in each house = greater chance of winning the carnival. **So encourage your child/ren to get involved, have some fun, wear their house colours and most of all try their best for St Pauls and Rogers!!**

The fashion parade will be held after all of the swimming events. Students are encouraged to wear clothes in the colour of their house. Remember that St Pauls wears Purple and Rogers wears Red. The most interesting, creative and brightest male and female from each house will win a prize.

What to take to the carnivals

- Swimmers, swim shirt, cap, towel, goggles (optional)
- Hat and sunscreen
- Drink bottle, lunch / snacks (Tuck shop is **not** available)
- Medication if required

Parent, friends and family are encouraged attend the carnivals to support the students swimming. Please come along for a fabulous day!!

Students must bring their own lunch / snacks as there will be no food and drinks available to purchase throughout the day.

Kind regards, Ann Paton (PE Teacher)



**Quality Education
in the Best
Learning
Atmosphere**

**ENROL NOW
FOR 2014**



Learning Benefits

- ✓ Experienced teachers
- ✓ French lessons Prep to Year 7
- ✓ Comprehensive Music program
- ✓ Interactive whiteboards in every classroom
- ✓ Air conditioned classrooms
- ✓ Gifted and Talented programs, including dedicated Extension teacher
- ✓ Differentiated swimming programs
- ✓ Free English lessons for parents
- ✓ Oral language and Reading programs
- ✓ High student and parent satisfaction ratings on school opinion surveys
- ✓ High expectations for student behaviour
- ✓ High levels of academic achievement

LEAVING US? PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN

Child's name: _____

Parent's name: _____

Will not be returning to Brisbane Central State School in 2014. Please state the school child will be attending:

Will be returning to Brisbane Central State School after Tuesday January 28, 2014 (first day of school). Please state reason: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____