Dear Parents/Carers,

The students have settled into their new class routines and as I visit classes it is pleasing to see that the students are engaged in their learning and doing their best work.

**New play area**
This term we are allowing students to use the top carpark as another play area. The front gate is locked but partially opened for entry and exit by pedestrians only. The students have enjoyed using another area for play.

**Car parking in lower car park**
The staff and I have noticed unsafe driver behaviour in the lower car park. It is important that parents drive slowly, follow the arrow direction in and out of the car parking area and are aware that students will be using this area as well. Please do not double park as this creates blind spots for other parents. An alternative is the drop off zone at the cal-de-sac off Water Street. This is a safer area to drop off and collect your children morning and afternoon.

**School Improvement Agenda**
During the year the staff and I will be working on our School Improvement Agenda which is:

To improve student outcomes we will use the growth mindset strategies for

1. Student Case Management in Reading to use data to differentiate for students.
2. Action Learning projects to gain an understanding of effective teaching strategies in writing.
3. Talk partners within the classroom to support learners.
4. Digital Literacies as a tool to engage all learners.

What this means is:

**Student Case Management in Reading to use data to differentiate for students.** Teachers will be working in collaborative teams to look at student work. The team will suggest effective teaching practices to implement to support the student learning.

**Action Learning projects to gain an understanding of effective teaching strategies in writing.** Teachers have completed a whole school writing task using the NAPLAN writing marking criteria (adapted for Prep and Year 1) to assess the work. Teachers will use the data to form learning projects. The teachers will use the data and professional readings to investigate and discuss the most effective teaching practices to improve an aspect of students’ work.

**Talk partners within the classroom to support learners.** We are continuing the work started last year, where students get opportunities to speak with a partner in lessons. This allows students to consider the question or statement posed by the teacher and have someone to speak to about this before one or two students are selected to answer back.

**Digital Literacies as a tool to engage learners.** We are working on our understanding of how digital technology can assist with student learning. We are investigating the Digital literacies curriculum for implementation in 2017 by working with teachers to understand this initiative.

Regards,
Graham Rickuss
QAR - Teaching BCSS students to gain a deeper understanding of texts.

At Brisbane Central State School we use the QAR – Question Answer Relationships strategy to teach students how to uncover the meaning in texts. The students learn how to identify the type of comprehension question and how to use the matching strategies to find the meaning. Through this the students learn how to gain a deeper and more precise understanding of texts. QAR provides a common language and consistent strategy for students to use in all their classes to help unlock the meaning of the text. Below is the poster that we have in the classrooms to support QAR.

Maureen Kelly
Literacy Coach/Advanced Learner Program Manger

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Bonjour et Bienvenue ? Hello and Welcome to our school’s French Language Programme for 2016.

For those who have not met me yet my name is Rosa Maroto, (Madame Maroto), and I teach French / Français to all our students at B.C.S.S. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at: rmaro1@eq.edu.au

Our first cultural excursion will involve the Years 3H, 3Z, 4M, 4/5Y, 4/5M and 6S. They will be attending The Brisbane French Film Festival on Thursday 17 March. This is a great opportunity for our students to be immersed in French culture. A letter with all the relevant details will be sent home very soon. Please make sure you sign and return the permission form by Thursday 10 March.

To give you a brief outline for Trimester 1, the following classes will be working on the following topics:

**Prep:** Let's Celebrate: greetings and introductions, months, celebrations such as birthdays, mardi gras, poisson d'avril, les Pâques, numbers 1-10, colours, songs and games.

**Year 1:** Myself and let’s celebrate: revise greetings, introductions and farewells, days, months, numbers 1-20, months, name days, birthdays, other celebrations eg le premier mai, Saint Valentin... songs and games

**Year 2:** Myself and the world around me: revise greetings, introductions and farewells, days, months, numbers 1-31, the classroom, my school bag, instructions/commands, the body, expressing feelings.

**Year 3:** Myself and introduction to the class play (La Petite Pauline): revise greetings, farewells, introductions, describing myself and others, family colours, numbers 1-60, asking and answering questions....

**Year 4:** Myself and introduction to the class: (les trois petits cochons), revise greetings, farewells, introductions, describing myself, where I’m from, my house, my family, colours, numbers 1-100, asking and answering questions....

**Year 4/5:** Myself and introduction to the class play: (l’arbre ungali), revise greetings, farewells, introductions, describing myself, where I’m from, my house, family, expressing feelings/opinions, colours, numbers 1-100, asking and answering questions.....

**Year 6:** Myself and introduction to the class play: (Chat Angora), revise greetings, farewells, introductions, describing myself and others, and where I’m from, expressing feelings/qualities/ and opinions, asking and answering questions....
**Behaviour**

**Be Responsible: Accept Mistakes as part of the learning process.**

Teachers will be working with the students on building their understanding of Be Responsible: Accepting mistakes as part of the learning process. As learners, we need to find out what we know and build on that. When we make mistakes we are in the learning zone.

I have put some photographs of how teachers will be working with the students on explaining this. This links into our school improvement agenda by using the growth mindset strategies.

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**PE?Sports News**

**City District Swimming Carnival**

Today we have sent a team of 7 students to the Fortitude Valley pool to participate in the district swimming carnival and representing our school. Our team includes Isiah, Janet, Lara, Matilda, Rudra, Sam and Yolanda. We wish our team success in the events they are participating in.

**City District Sports Trials**

Parents wanting to nominate children for City District Trials in the following sports should email Mr Waugh at dwaug3@eq.edu.au for trial details. Children should be of a high standard in the nominated sport.

Children need to be turning 11 or 12 yrs of age in 2016.

City District will hold trials in the following sports.

**BOYS / GIRLS:** Touch Football, Hockey, Soccer, Tennis, Softball, Cricket.

**GIRL:** Netball

**BOYS:** Rugby League, Rugby Union

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**Social Media sites**

Download the app
iTunes
Google Play
Windows Phone

Become a fan

Follow us on twitter
Parent English Class for 2016 at BCSS

Free parent English Classes at B.C.S.S. start again on Tuesday, 16 February at 1:00pm and finish at 2:30pm. Our classes will be held in Room C01 (the French room, next door to the EAL Room).

Our classes are very informal and designed to:
- develop conversational English skills
- provide a relevant English grammar focus to assist oral English learning
- provide cultural information
- organise excursions within the Brisbane CBD and environs 2 or 3 times during the year

This class is a great place to form new friendships, and have some fun and laughter in learning English together. Pre-school children are welcome to come with you.

We look forward to welcoming back parents from 2015, and new parents to B.C.S.S. for our 2016 class.

Allison Chard, Sandra Trickett & Colleen Tuxworth
(Parent English class teachers)

From the Principal: At Brisbane Central, we are very fortunate to have Allison, Sandra and Colleen volunteer to assist our parents to learn English. The parents that participate also form friendship with others and participate in outings to a variety of places. This is a unique program, and the only one I know of at a school and I ask you to encourage parents to come along to have some fun, learn some English and make friends.

Graham Rickuss

P and C News

The Brisbane Central State School P&C Association is conducting a brief survey of parents to help us find out your ideas on how we can support the school through our fundraising efforts, as well as to invite general feedback. The questionnaire is not compulsory, however the more feedback and ideas we get, the better we can contribute to improving outcomes for our children and school by working together towards common goals. This survey has been sent home today with the oldest sibling. Look out for the pink form.

The next P & C meeting on Wednesday 4 March is our Annual General Meeting starting at 6.00pm in the French room. The P & C Executive is made up of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer and uniform shop convenor.

P & C members are elected to these positions at the Annual General Meeting and serve in an honorary capacity. For more information, please see the following document: http://www.pandcsqld.com.au/pc-resources/executive-roles/

2015 P&C Executive
President: Brian Steendyk
Vice President: Karyn Wernham
Vice President: Alyson Fenton
Non-Executive Vice President: Kirsten Lovejoy
Treasurer: Colleen Tuxworth
Assistant Treasurer: Peter Zunker
Secretary: Tony Holcroft

Our Fundraising Goals for 2015
ACHIEVED!:
- Air condition the classrooms in the lower school (F Block)
- Install another courtyard water fountain/bubbler.

Uniform Shop News

The NEW opening days and hours are
Every Tuesday 8.15 - 8.45 am
Every Friday 3.00 – 3.30 pm
Payment in cash or mobile banking.
Please contact Mahtab Nowrouzi uniforms@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au or 0449 112 061 if you require more information.
BPOINT as the new preferred payment method at Brisbane Central State School

BPOINT is the preferred method of payment for all student invoices at Queensland state schools. To allow parents to access this option easily we will be sending all our invoices via email in the future. On the bottom of each invoice that you will receive via email, the BPOINT payment method symbol will be displayed with a website link for you to visit and process your online payment (very similar to internet banking that many of you currently utilise). You can use a credit or bank debit card to make a payment. You do not need to register for BPOINT, you simply visit the link detailed below and enter CRN (customer reference number), invoice number, student name and exact amount of individual invoice (PLEASE DO NOT PAY MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL INVOICE AT A TIME). If you do not know your CRN please contact the school office for this information but the CRN will appear on the invoice.

BPOINT will issue you with a payment confirmation that you can email to yourself after making the payment or you can print or take a screen shot, for your records or if the payment is required for your child to attend an activity you can forward to the school immediately as proof of payment. If you would like an official OneSchool receipt you may need to visit the school and request for it to be printed. The school will no longer manually receipt through their OneSchool system for this payment method (BPOINT automatically talks to the school’s accounting system).

Payments will process overnight and will appear in the school’s bank account within 24 hours of making a payment. The school will receive a daily report detailing those who have made a payment.

You may still pay by cheque or cash if you wish on a Mondays only, and the Department of Education and Training is promoting BPOINT as preferred payment method from now on. If you choose to pay via the traditional payment methods, the school will issue you with a One School receipt from the office, but either way we can see from our end who has outstanding invoices and who does not. For more infoamtion please go to this site:

Important information for BPoint -
To make payment please click on the website link at the bottom of your invoice (under Invoice No), this will directly populate the Biller Code 1002534 for the department.
If you wish to print the invoice out for later payment and/or will be accessing the website directly please type in the Biller Code 1002534 as this will not be pre populated.

Community News

[Image of Community News]