Dear Parents/Carers,

Five Key Questions for Learners
The students have made a great start to the year. Leesa-Maree Jedras and I have been visiting classes and interviewing students. We use the Five Key Questions for Learners from Sharratt and Fullan (2012), ‘Putting Faces on the Data’, when speaking the the students. These questions are:

What are you learning?
How are you doing?
How do you know?
How can you improve?
Where do you go for help?

For our younger and EAL/D students we ask clarifying questions to help them with their answers. We have had some very positive conversations about what the students are learning. Well done to our teachers for the great work they are doing with our students.

End of Term Parent Interviews
At the end of this term, we will be trialling an alternative way to conduct our end of term interivews. We will be holding the majority of them on one evening from 3:30pm to 8:30pm. Class teachers will offer a 15 minute slot for the meetings which will be held in the hall. At the end of the 15 minute slot a sound will indicate the end of that session. During this time the teachers will outline your child’s progress, areas of strength and what they need to work on. A letter will go home outlining the date, the process and allowing you to select times to meet with the teacher.

Student Attendance
It is very important the students attend school regularly. Studies have shown declining student results when they do not attend school. Even a few minutes late at the beginning of the day impacts on your child’s learning. More information about regular school attendance is availale at: http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html

Please follow our procedures if you child is:
Sick: We understand that from time to time that children do get sick and we would appreciate if you called 3230 4366 or emailed admin@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au to let us know.

Arriving Late: If you are running late please come to the office to get a late slip for the teacher.

Leaving Early: If you need to collect your child/children early please come to the office first before going to the classroom.

Regards,
Graham Rickuss

2016 School Improvement Agenda
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 learners.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 February</td>
<td>P and C Survey to be returned to the office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 March</td>
<td>P and C AGM starting at 6pm in the French Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>6S to Young Leaders Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Year 2S – History Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Year 2W – History Excursion</td>
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Regular events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Swimming for 3H, 32, 4M, 4/5Y, 4/5M</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework Club run by Mrs Paull and Mrs Raulini 3pm to 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Uniform Shop is open: 8:15am – 8:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming for 1F, 1R, 2S, 2W, 6S</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent English Classes 1.00pm – 2.30pm in the French room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly: 2:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chinese Classes: please contact <a href="mailto:brisbanechinese.edu@gmail.com">brisbanechinese.edu@gmail.com</a> for more details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Senior Choir 8.15am in the music room.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Junior Choir 8am in Miss Wall’s room.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Play and Stay: 3pm – 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Chess Club: 7:45am – 8:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MK13 Soccer After School Program: <a href="http://www.mk13soccer.com">www.mk13soccer.com</a> for more details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Play and Stay: 3pm – 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform Shop is open: 3:00pm – 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>French Classes: please contact</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Learners Program

You, as parents, can help us deliver optimal learning programs by sharing your expertise and special interests with us. ‘...there is strong consensus, supported by a variety of evidence dating from over 40 years, that positive parental engagement can and does significantly influence student academic attainment.’ (Emerson, Fear, Fox and Sanders (2012). Parental engagement in learning and schooling: Lessons from research.)

We are conducting a survey to form a register of parent volunteers that can be drawn upon to support and enrich our learning programs at Brisbane Central State School. We wish to collate a list of parents with specific skills, expertise and interests who would like to contribute to school programs.

Volunteers can then be drawn upon to help with a range of situations including special events, classroom programs and enhancement programs. The support may be for a single event or a series of events and the level of support is at the discretion of the volunteer. This survey does not cover weekly classroom helpers. Class teachers will request for general classroom helpers separately or teachers can be approached with an offer of help.

If you would like to help us in your area of special interest or expertise please fill out this survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VW3FNTL

Maureen Kelly
Literacy Coach/Advanced Learner Program Manager

The Importance of Oral Language

Did you know that around 98% of human teaching and learning is passed on through language (Manzo, Manzo & Thomas, 2006)? Not only does oral language provide the foundations of learning to read and write, but it is also related to overall reading achievement throughout primary and secondary school (Wise et al, 2007). Children who are surrounded by, and included in, rich conversations, have an overwhelming advantage in vocabulary development and in understanding the structures of language.

As parents interact with their children, they shape the foundations of language development. Children need strong vocabularies to understand the broad range of words in texts. An awareness that marks on a page can represent a language, develops from a very young age if children observe people around them reading for pleasure and have stories read to them. Certain features of these early interjections with parents are particularly important:

- regular one-to-one or small group conversations
- the number and variety of actual words that children hear
- the reading aloud of story books
- rhyming games, singing and word play

Engaging in conversations with children as often as possible, providing many opportunities to engage with other fluent speakers and exploring books together are simple and rewarding ways to help develop these critical skills.

References

Jo Gawne
Intervention Teacher
**Behaviour**

**Be Responsible and Be Respectful - Follow directions the first time.**

Teachers will be working with the students on our expectations of Being Responsible and Being Respectful and focusing on following directions the first time.

At Brisbane Central State School it is important the students follow directions of all staff members the first time, regardless of the location of the instruction. Students are mostly very good at this in the classroom and we need to work on this particularly during play time, when instructions are repeated.

I know it is a common problem with parents as well, getting children to follow directions the first time. Please support us to work together on this.

**PE/Sports News**

**City District Swimming Carnival**

Our team of students participated very well at the City District Swimming Carnival. Although our team members did not progress to the next stage we are very proud of their participation in their events. Their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship by our students did BCSS proud.

**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

**Parent English Class for 2016 at BCSS**

Free parent English Classes at B.C.S.S. have started and are held **Tuesdays 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)

**Social Media sites**

Download the app
- iTunes
- Google Play
- Windows Phone

Become a fan

Follow us on twitter
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. **Look for the pink form.**

Please return the form TODAY.

The next P & C meeting on **Wednesday 2 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/](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

Contact us at [pandc@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandc@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au)

### Our Fundraising Goals for 2015

**ACHIEVED!**

**Air condition the classrooms in the lower school (F Block)**

**and**

**Install another courtyard water fountain/bubbler.**

### Uniform Shop News

The 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](mailto:uniforms@brisbanecentralss.eq.edu.au) or 0449 112 061 if you require more information.

### POINT as the new preferred payment method at Brisbane Central State School

Thank you to everyone for helping make the transition to BPOINT for our accounts so smooth.

To assist with the process, it is best to use the link attached to the invoice to make the payment as it populates the Biller Code for the Department.

If you print the invoice out for later payment, please type in the Biller Code 1002534.

You will need to enter the customer reference code either way for the payment. Each invoice has a unique code.

If you prefer to make cash payments, please bring along the invoice and can be done on Monday mornings from 7.00am – 9.00am.
The Queensland Academies Brilliant Futures Program is open to very highly capable students in Year 5 and 6 in 2016 who are seeking an assured pathway into the Queensland Academies campuses for commencement in Year 10. Applications closing soon for Year 6. See website for more information.

http://qa.eq.edu.au/brilliant-futures/