From The Principal

Term 2 week 10 2015

Happy Holidays
This week brings us the beginning of a busy and productive term. It has been a term that has seen us acknowledge and celebrate individual and school success. This week you will also receive your child’s Semester One report. I encourage you to look closely at the scale on the front page and talk to your child about their report. Please take the opportunity to attend parent teacher meetings next term to further discuss your child’s progress with the class teacher. Term 3 will begin on Tuesday 14th July and I look forward to hearing great holiday stories from students when they return.

Gala Day
Last week Mrs Hughes visited all the Gala teams and was impressed by the efforts of students, staff and community. The behaviour and sportsmanship of students from our school is to be commended. It always makes me proud to see the immense effort and skill we have at Briar Road Public School. The new Gala Day uniforms should arrive in Term 3. Below are the sample designs for Soccer, Netball and Rugby League.

Safety and Security
Over the holidays I would like to remind our students that we have a state of the art security system, but community diligence always goes a long way in keeping our place safe and secure. As we come to the end of the first semester I would like to encourage all students to be on time and bring their books to school. It is important that your child attends school each day to ensure they are maximising their educational opportunities. It is policy of the Department that parents/carers provide a justifiable reason as to why their child is late within 7 days. The best learning times for students occur in the morning session. Students who begin school after 9am often miss out on core literacy experiences. If there is any way that the school may be able to assist you, such as providing early morning courtesy calls, please contact Mrs Thompson in the front office.

Attendance and Lateness
I have been impressed by the attendance levels we have been reaching as a school community this term and would like to see us improve on these levels even more in Term 3. It is important that your child attends school each day to ensure that they are maximising their educational opportunities. It is policy of the Department that parents/carers provide a justifiable reason as to why their child is late within 7 days. The best learning times for students occur in the morning session. Students who begin school after 9am often miss out on core literacy experiences. If there is any way that the school may be able to assist you, such as providing early morning courtesy calls, please contact Mrs Thompson in the front office.

Parent Excursion
Mrs Jones, Ms Munro, Ms Hodges and Mr Sampson took a group of dedicated parents to Mount Annan Botanic Gardens as the termly parent meeting that tied in with the creation of a school bush tucker garden. It was wonderful to see many parents and community members make an effort to attend this well-organised day. I hear that it was a great success. Well done to all those that attended.

NAIDOC Week
Each year NAIDOC continues to be a major event on the school calendar. This year we celebrate the theme ‘We All Stand on Sacred Ground’. What a wonderful theme for us to teach within our school and school community. There are a dedicated group of teachers and support staff who work hard to ensure that all students are provided with an opportunity to engage with and experience Aboriginal culture during the week. This week our school funded a whole school performance by renowned didgeridoo player Tjiwarl. He opened our NAIDOC week and was an engaging act that performed didgeridoo playing and beat boxing. I would like to thank the support of parents, students and staff throughout this wonderful and significant week.

Reading Workshop
When: Wednesday 24th June  
Time: 9am  
Where: Community Room  
Come along and hear about how to help with reading with your child.

Parent Teacher Interviews
When: Term 3 week 1  
Please return the note that was sent home last week, requesting times to meet with classroom teachers.

PBL News
Shopping week is held in week 5 and week 10 each term. The prize hive is full of great prizes. We earn points for being safe, respectful learners (the 3 B’s).

PLEASE NOTE - Changes to Afternoon Dismissal
During last week’s parent meeting there was some discussion around the gates being opened early in the afternoon. We have had ongoing issues with high school students and to combat this we will be making changes to dismissal in the afternoon. Gates will not be opened until the bell sounds. Currently they are opened 10 minutes before, however this has not been effective at combating high school students and disruption to students. It is important that as a school we ensure the safety and well-being of students is maintained at all times. The implementation of the dismissals process will allow us to ensure safety and supervision is maintained at a high level. I appreciate your support on this very important matter.

Happy Holidays
On behalf of all the staff and community we thank you for your support throughout Term 2 and look forward to making bigger and better progress in Term 3!

Yours in Partnership,  
Ms Tammy Anderson

Winter Gala Day 2
Congratulations to the sportsmanship shown by all students who went to the Gala Day on Friday 12th June.

The following students displayed outstanding sportsmanship:
Soccer: Pettie, Jayden G  
Netball: Laysharna, Breah  
Rugby: Kenny, Barry

Parent Feedback Dinner
A huge thank you to all of the parents and community that attended our second Feedback dinner of the year. We had a great evening of trivia, games and extensive meaningful conversations about how we can continue to show our Briar Brilliance. Looking forward to the next Parent Dinner in Week 7, Term 3.

Holiday Appeal
The school is also looking for volunteers to listen to children read. If you have some time to spare, we would love to hear from you.

PBL News
Some of us trade our 3 B’s points that we have earned throughout the term for a prize.

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Other students decide to save their points for shopping next term.

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Homework Survey
We are currently updating our Homework Policy and would like to consider the thoughts and ideas of our parents and carers. The survey was sent home in week 8.

Thank you to all our families who have returned the homework survey. The last day for surveys to be returned will be this Friday. When you return the survey, a raffle ticket with your child’s name on it will go into a prize draw. The prize will be drawn at our first assembly next term.

Miss Willoughby

Parent Teacher Interviews
When: Term 3 week 1

Please return the note that was sent home last week, requesting times to meet with classroom teachers.

Extra notes are in the office.

Parent Teacher interviews are a wonderful way to discuss student progress and further build the home / school relationship.

(2M and 5/6S interviews will be a little later in the term. Notes for those classes will go home individually.)