Achieving and Improving

Key Priorities
Our key priority this year are an unrelenting focus on improving reading, writing and numeracy in all students through a whole school approach which includes explicit instruction. We also have unrelenting focus on attendance.

Responsible Behaviour Plan
When responding to inappropriate or unacceptable behaviours, staff members ensure that students understand the relationship of the behaviour to expected school behaviour. One method that staff members might use to achieve this is to have students:

- articulate the relevant expected school behaviour
- explain how their behaviour differs from expected school behaviour,
- describe the likely consequences if the problem behaviour continues; and
- identify what they will do to change their behaviour in line with expected school behaviour.

Should an inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour be repeated, the staff member may not repeat the discussion/explanation process but simply remind the student of the consequences of their problem behaviour.

Everyday counts
Everyday Counts is an ongoing initiative of the Queensland Government. Everyday counts...because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day
Everyday counts...because going to school means getting a better chance at life
Everyday counts...because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience
Everyday counts...because going to school is a legal requirement

What the law says: Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on all school days unless you have a reasonable excuse. Students are expected to attend school every day. Absences should be only for genuine reasons e.g. illness, serious family circumstances, unavoidable appointments etc. Taking a day off for birthdays, to go shopping, because visitors are arriving etc. are not reasonable reasons. Absence interrupts students’ learning and often restrictions the progressive learning of other students. Let’s make every day really count!

Evacuations and lockdowns
Due to a range of potential risks from within and outside any school, it is necessary for the protection and safety of students and staff that each school has well-rehearsed lockdown and evacuation procedures. The purpose of the procedures are shared and practiced with students regularly. It is also important that parents are aware of our procedures. During school hours please let the office know when you arrive on and leave the school grounds so that we know to account for you if an emergency situation occurs.
For your information, details of the procedures are:-

**Lockdown** – students and staff move to either the media room (if upstairs) or the large storage room in the downstairs classroom. The windows and doors are secured by adults. Students and staff need to be protected from aggressive intruders (e.g. estranged adult, large dogs etc.) and environmental mishaps (e.g. dangerous chemical spill). A siren wail signals a lockdown.

**Evacuation** – students and staff move to the assembly area, which is the oval, as quickly and orderly as possible. Buildings are checked by staff as the leave each area and the roll is taken on the oval. Students and staff must be able to evacuate buildings quickly in the case of fire or bomb threat. A bell ringing signals evacuations.

Each term students practise both procedures. Should parents be on the grounds during either an evacuation or lockdown procedure, please follow directions given by staff heading to the areas mentioned.

**Classroom news**

**Science - Mr Holmes**

The focus in our science competition is around growing plants and experimenting with light requirements. This is the international year of light. Parents are encouraged to have conversations at home about light and how it affects your life. If you see a rainbow it is a perfect opportunity to describe the range of colours that are normally hidden in white light. We are looking for any plant experts who can provide extra information about plant habits in different light conditions.

**Geography 3 - 6 - Mr Holmes**

Every student has a geography journal and this will contain many of the work samples being used in our weekly lessons. Each week the class will focus on developing geographical skills such as using maps, interpreting tables and graphs. These skills will allow the students to identify and describe the similarities and differences between places. Later these skills will support a better understanding of floods in our catchment and the complex interconnections that exist between floods and all who have to live through them. Parents are welcome to come and see how journals are being used and online blog tools can help students share their thinking.

**Geography P - 2 - Mrs Brady**

This week the students will continue to explore symbols on maps and what they can tell us, as well as investigating what a local scale is and how they are used in mapping. They will be using directional terminology and start to understand why features are placed in the chosen locations. Our Aboriginal maps are developing nicely and they children are excited by the prospect of sharing their map story with each other.

**HPE - Swimming - Mrs Brady**

Swimming has started again and we have had a lovely start to the term. With small numbers in the pool and lots of adult support, we have developed a program that will help the children refine their swimming stroke technique. Last week we focused on breathing and freestyle, using encouraging words like big arms, bent elbows, bubble, bubble, breath. Every child was successful and we saw some lovely swimming techniques being developed. This week our focus will be on breaststroke. We find that through modelling and a slow progression through the stroke process, children are responding well.
This week some students received certificates for completing Duck Level 1, Duck Level 2 and even Duck Level 3! Keep up the great momentum at home because it is definitely helping. Prep and Year 1 are using their writing skills to label and describe items. The importance of letter formations continues to be a focus as it will mean they become faster writers and won’t have to wait for their hand to catch up to their brain when writing creatively.

This week Year 3-6 students continued to code sentences using the sound pictures. They are making great use of the cloud key rings and the clouds are making it easier to find out which sound pictures to use. We started to unpack NAPLAN style questions, starting with the ones we get for homework then working our way through previous tests one question at a time.

Please note: For homework if students don’t know how to answer a question let them mark the question with an asterisk and ‘have a go’ this is what they will have to do during the test. When I go through the test with them I will then be able to identify the work we need to review.

Maths

This week the Prep to Year 2 students are continuing work on place value 10’s and ones and we have even been using our hundred’s. They have enjoyed making small or large numbers from a given set of numbers. For homework continue to practise skip counting in 2’s to 20 or 30 depending on ability as well as working on our rainbow facts. Know the rainbow facts well and being able to recall them quickly helps students with all sorts of problem solving.

Students in Years 3 - 6 are continuing work on place value in the 1000’s and trading both with concrete materials and without. They looked at sets of numbers and worked out what combination of numbers made the largest or smallest number possible. For homework some students have been asked to work on their rainbow facts and improving their ability to recall them, they should practise their tables. This week it is the 3x tables.

Show work

This week we have started our show work. We will spend the next couple of weeks completing posters and projects on Egypt and working on our handwriting samples.

SSP Duck Level Awards

Awards this week went to:

**Duck Level 1**
Clayton Armstrong
Wade Armstrong
Jake Armstrong
Hannah Chapman
Lacee Chapman
Shelby Chapman
Cooper McKenzie
Sophie Olive
Katelyn Rasmussen
Justin Sharps
Meg Truelson
Bonnie Truelson
Charli White
Madison Wooley

**Duck Level 2**
Hannah Chapman
Lacee Chapman
Cooper McKenzie
Sophie Olive
Justin Sharps
Meg Truelson
Charli White
Madison Wooley

**Duck Level 3**
Hannah Chapman
**PUB RAFFLES:** Following is a roster for pub raffles this term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/2</td>
<td>Armstrong</td>
<td>13/3</td>
<td>Olive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/2</td>
<td>Rasmussen</td>
<td>20/3</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>Sharps</td>
<td>27/3</td>
<td>McKenzie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to only 8 families available to sell tickets there will be time when you may need to sell tickets twice a term. This will be shared out evenly between families.

If you are unable to help on the night listed please change amongst yourselves or contact Sharyn. Remember to purchase tickets to be in the running to win 4 meat trays, a six pack or a bottle of wine.

**MEET, GREET & FAREWELL BBQ - This Friday** Come along at 6pm to kick off the P&C year in good spirits. Come meet our new family and say Good-bye to the Noakes Family who have sadly left the school community this year.

Please bring a plate to share:

- Prep - Year 2: Salad
- Year 3 - 6: Dessert
- Staff: Either
- (Meat is Supplied)

Make sure to return your RSVP slip to the school ASAP for catering purposes.

**Working Bee** - Thanks to all the families who attended our working bee last Wednesday afternoon. Just one afternoons work and the school looks great again!!!

**AGM & General Meeting - This Friday:** 20th February @ 5pm (prior to BBQ)

Due to the loss of some very valuable P&C members this year, it would be great if you can all make the next meeting. We are looking for some new executive members this year so please consider taking on a roll. It’s really a great way to get involved in your child’s education and become a part of a great bunch of people.