From The Principal - Bruce Robertson

What constitutes a great school? I’m always interested to hear people explain what it is that makes a great school. Some responses include: the academic achievement and progress (NAPLAN or OP scores), special programs, how happy their child is, the relationships between students, staff and parents, sport, music, the Arts, pride in the uniform, the physical resources, high expectations, disciplinary data, well-mannered students, opportunities and pathways, school culture, community partnerships, the P&C, parents, teachers and the principal.

Sometimes I think it’s better to begin with the end in mind and consider what it is that you want for your child. In a primary school setting, I want a happy, optimistic, positive, curious, resourceful, problem-solving literate, numerate, confident, well-balanced, well-mannered, hard-working and resilient child. That’s not too much to ask and as a parent, I’m willing to contribute my share to meet these expectations.

If we look back over what Brookfield has achieved this year, we’d tick many of the boxes. NAPLAN results, high levels of academic success in various competitions, coding and robotics, sport, athletics, cross country, music, social and emotional well-being, resilience building, literacy and numeracy development, curiosity and higher order thinking, enquiry learning, high expectations, safe and disciplined environment, supportive P&C, and on the whole, positive and respectful relationships.

Very recently, to add to our list of accomplishments, we were announced the ‘Most Outstanding School’ by Tennis Queensland at their Annual Awards Ceremony at the Convention Centre on Saturday evening. This certainly reflects our very strong community partnership with the Brookfield Tennis Centre.

The following criteria were used to determine the ‘Most Outstanding School’:

- Qualified coaches assigned to the school
- Dedicated staff assigned to tennis
- Support from principal and teachers
- HotShots program incorporated into the school curriculum
- An established link between the school and a local club / facility
- A pathway for the student’s development
- Students feed into the Tennis Australia programs

Brookfield State School came out on top of the other finalists including Brisbane Boys College (previous Tennis Australia’s National Most Outstanding School in 2015), St Andrews Anglican College on the Sunshine Coast, Kelvin Grove State School and St Joseph’s. When you consider the depth of tennis across Queensland in all schools this is a significant achievement. It wasn’t that long ago we were building tennis courts and seeking to form a partnership with a local club and coach. This is an outstanding achievement in a very short period of time with every child at our school developing various skills through an excellent modified program that is HotShots. I acknowledge our P&C who were successfully awarded a grant and then heavily involved in the approval and construction of the courts on the current site. We are also extremely appreciative of the Brookfield Tennis Centre’s involvement and their on-going support of the school’s PE curriculum led by Libby Wark. It was fitting that Libby Wark and Roanne Lemmon-Warde received the award on Saturday evening.

The points of difference that led to our success included:

- Overall level of participation is 54% of the school in formal tennis coaching in the past 12 months
- All students from Prep to Year 6 went through tennis coaching with qualified coaches in PE lessons over a 6 – 8 week period in Term 3.
- Brookfield SS has won the state Red Ball Championships three years back to back.
• Brookfield SS orange ball team won the MetWest inter schools challenge
• Brookfield State School has been champion school in all four inter Schools tennis challenges held at the GAP Health and Racquet Club and the Brookfield Tennis Centre that they have participated in.
• Community involvement extends beyond the students as many parents participate in the programs on offer including the most registered cardio tennis players at a club in Qld in 2015.

Our school now stands to qualify as a finalist in Tennis Australia’s National Awards Ceremony in the category for Most Outstanding School. The schools will be announced this month and I’ll keep you posted.

Fun Run

We had great support for our inaugural Fun Run on Saturday afternoon. There was plenty of colour, fancy costumes, athleticism and community spirit on hand. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. Taryn Noonan did a great job as the organiser and was well supported by our usual volunteers.

Sponsorship money is due back at the school on Friday.

Year 6 Graduation

The Graduation Committee is doing a great job in preparation for the celebration on Wednesday 07 December. To assist with the preparations, I encourage our Year 6 families to order tickets through Flexischools. It would be helpful if this is done prior to our Canberra tour, however, tickets can be ordered up until Friday 11 November.

Year 6 Canberra Tour

Our Year 6 students will be touring our national capital this time next week. Please see the latest correspondence via email for final preparations. The forecast temperature range for Canberra next week is 7-24 degrees. This is an excellent experience for students and something I’m certain they will treasure for years to come.

Year 5 Camp – Mapleton

Final preparations for the Year 5 Camp to Mapleton from Monday 14 November to Wednesday 16 November are being managed. The program looks terrific and the excitement amongst students and staff is certainly building.

2017 Leadership Positions

Applications for School Captains and Vice-Captains is being sought from current Year 5 students. Teachers have discussed the position descriptions and shared the suitability criteria. The positions will be finalised this term and announced on the whole school assembly on Monday 05 December at 9am.
The Music, House and Environmental Captains will be filled in the first few weeks of 2017 with a formal badge ceremony for all student leaders taking place in February.

**Thought for the Week**

*Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned at school*

Albert Einstein

Have a great week,
Bruce
brobe66@eq.edu.au
Belong - Strive - Succeed

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**From the Deputy – Tracey Campbell**

**Board Games in the Resource Centre**

Did you know that apart from being able to check out books in our resource centre over lunch break, our students can also take up the opportunity to learn how to play board games.

Playing a board game is more than just a fun lunch time activity, it can teach important social skills, such as communicating verbally, sharing, waiting, taking turns, and enjoying interaction with others. Board games can foster the ability to focus, and lengthen your child’s attention span by encouraging the completion of an exciting, enjoyable game.

So if your child comes home a little despondent and says they didn’t have anyone to play with today, encourage them to go to the resource centre to meet up with some new friends over a board game!  

**Writing in Prep**

The Preps continue to amaze me with what they are achieving already. They have developed into confident and eager readers and writers. There is no shyness now when I pop in and ask them about what they have been doing in class. I have so many volunteers ready and willing to share all their great work.

Today as I wandered through Prep I saw one of our Preps proudly reading back to her class a letter she had written to a friend that has recently moved away. What a wonderful and thoughtful piece it was.

Well done Prep teachers, it is great to see all your hard work is paying off!
Junior Assembly

This week on Junior Assembly the Junior Choir will perform for us. Junior Assembly this week will be held on Thursday from 1:50pm; we hope you can join us.

Have a great week!
Tracey Campbell
tcamp10@eq.edu.au

Resource Centre News

THE BIG BOOK SWAP returns next week!

We know many students have great quality books that would not to be read again at home. We also know many students have an insatiable appetite to devour new books! This popular event is back to solve all these problems.

Next week students can bring in books to the Resource Centre to receive one token for each book to swap for another book they like - for free!

How it works:
1. Bring books
2. Get 1 token for each book
3. Swap for different Book Swap books

Where: Resource Centre verandah.
What: Junior Fiction, Fiction and Non-Fiction.
Book Swap Opening Times: Week 6, Mon 07 – Thurs 10 November, 8:30 - 8:50 and 1st Breaks

We are unable to accept pre-school/toddler level books.
Books need to be appropriate for primary school reading levels and in good condition (undamaged).

* students can bring along tokens from the last Big Book Swap for use in this Book Swap!

Book Covering Help Needed

We have some wonderful new resources ready for release to students and classrooms requiring covering with contact already cut. If you are able to take some home or cover them here it would be greatly appreciated. It’s as easy as wrapping a present- we’ll show you how if needed.

Read and get excited!
Fiona Allison
Teacher Librarian

Year 2 and 3 Swimming - Tuckshop

The tuckshop ladies are having some difficulty making lunches early for students leaving before 1st break, keeping lunches for those returning after 1st break and providing the usual service to the children in other grades at school.

If possible, could children participating in swimming lessons not order lunch items through flexischools on Fridays. Thank you.

Office Staff

PCYC News

Hi all and welcome to another exciting week. One of our main focuses heading into the end of the year is recycling and sustainability. We are working on rearranging the room and have set up a sustainability corner.
We are teaching the children on what they can and can’t recycle and the correct use of the recycle bins. We are also concentrating on power saving and water usage. We are encouraging the children not to waste water and to turn electrical items off at the wall when not in use.

Have a great week and take care,
Andrew and the team at Brookfield PCYC

Brookfield School Tennis

Over the past three Sundays, 96 kids from schools in the Western Suburbs have participated in the third annual Western Suburbs Inter Schools Challenge. Brookfield School entered eight teams into this competition. This Sunday is the Finals day where the Red, Orange and Green Ball champions will be crowned. In addition to this the trophy for the Champion School will also be up for grabs. Brookfield School will be defending their Champion school title for the third year running. The following teams will be playing off in the Grand Final to see which team wins their division:

- Red Ball – Brookfield Djokovic vs Fig Tree Pocket A
- Orange Ball – Brookfield Murray vs Fig Tree Pocket A
- Green Ball – Brookfield Ellis vs Fig Tree Pocket A

Good Luck to all the teams playing on Sunday.

Save the Moon Bears!

Donate to the Moon Bears by bringing in money to your class by Friday the 5th of November and your whole class could win ice blocks and a negotiated prize with your teacher. The Moon Bears live a life of cruelty and are juiced for their bile, which is a healthier alternative and is easier to access.
Bear baiting in the name of entertainment is a bear whose teeth have been removed or filed down and is secured with a rope to a stake in the ground. Two or more trained fighting dogs are then set loose to attack the defenseless bear. The more ferocious the fight, the greater the entertainment value. The bear’s nose, muzzle, and ears are often ripped open by the frenzied dogs causing it much excruciating pain. SO PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Toby K

You’re Invited to the Brookfield Members’ Bar Official Opening

The school community’s invited to help celebrate the official opening of the renovated Brookfield Members’ Bar at 6.30pm on Saturday 26 November at the Brookfield Showgrounds. It’s a cocktail party with live music under the stars by covers band First Summer, champagne on arrival, canapes and ‘live’ food stations, and a cocktail mixologist to get the party going.

Buy your tickets by Monday 21 November at www.brookfieldshowground.com.au. Contact bar@brookfieldshow.com with any questions. See the attached flyer for more details. Brookfield Show Society’s organising committee

ARE YOU LOOKING TO

› Build your confidence?
› Grow as a leader?
› Improve your communication & public speaking skills?

Visit Kenmore Toastmasters Club
2nd and 4th Monday each month
6.45 pm Kenmore Library

Contact:-1813882@toastmastersclubs.org