From The Principal  - Bruce Robertson

Service learning by definition is a method of teaching that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service, emphasising critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility.

I am one of three boys and I can assure you that my brothers and I are all very different. We all emerged from the same gene pool (my mother promises), but neither of my brothers have the unique talents I have acquired and I put a lot of our differences down to the time I spent with my grandparents. I'm the middle child, so those of you with the same syndrome will appreciate the relationship I have with my brothers.

I remember some of the really important things my grandparents taught me. My parents used to put me on a bus every school holiday from Brisbane to Tenterfield. I was about 6 when it first began. My brothers thought they were too important to spend their holiday on the farm away from their city friends. I would be dropped off on the highway in Tenterfield and there to my surprise was the little old Datsun Bluebird, along with gunga (this was first name my older brother babbled for my grandfather) and my grandma.

My grandparents had a modest house in Tenterfield and each day we'd travel out to Boonoo Boonoo to the property to check on the cows and calves, walk some of the boundary fences, ride the horses and do a few other odd jobs. There wasn't any electricity on the property hence the dwelling in Tenterfield, but occasionally we'd stay out there and rough it so I could have the full bush experience.

It was my grandmother who helped me to overcome my fear of the dark. She simply explained it was just like daytime only with your eyes closed. She also taught me the valuable lesson of remaining well back when someone was hitting a golf ball with a one wood. I could show you the spot on the 18th tee at the Tenterfield Gold Club where she clobbered me (by accident). My grandfather taught me to ride a horse and instilled in me the need to save money and not waste it on unnecessary items. I still remember the two dollar note he pinned on the wall and he made me work every holiday for a whole year before handing it over.

On reflection, there are so many things I learned from spending time with my grandparents and their group of friends who had so much to tell and share. Most importantly, I believe I am a better human being for those experiences.

Earlier this week I met with Sandy Ryerson (a Divisional Therapist) and Roumiana Clark (a volunteer) to discuss a proposal of Community/Service Learning with residents at the Tarry Brae Hostel, a division within the Blue Care facility on Brookfield Road.

The proposal includes visiting residents with 3 groups of 10 students (Prep-Yr6) for an hour/week for a number of weeks each term. Each group that visits would have a different focus and no group would visit more than twice in a term, therefore a total of 2 hours in any term. Activities will include, but not necessarily be limited to, reading, games, knitting, gardening and music. A number of residents have been carefully selected to maximise the learning interactions with students.

There are many benefits for both our school students and the residents of the Tarry Brae Hostel. There is no doubt that some students would benefit from these experiences more than others and
that is why I would like parents to nominate their child/ren to be considered. I would ask that you please register your interest directly with me via email (brobe66@eq.edu.au) stating your child’s name and class.

I see this community/service learning opportunity as something that will become part of a total social and emotional learning program of Brookfield. Visits to Blue Care will begin next term so please register your interest at your earliest convenience.

Student Reporting

Each student will receive a report outlining their achievement for Semester One. The reports will be sealed in an envelope and be handed to students on Thursday 25 June. Please see your child’s teacher if you’d like to make alternative arrangements to collect the report.

School Uniform

There has been some conjecture about our school uniform in recent weeks. Please see the attached 2015 Uniform Policy that clearly states our expectations. Mrs Lewis will chair a sub-committee who will review this policy and make recommendations for the future.

ICAS – Writing/Spelling

ICAS – Writing is scheduled for Monday 15 June and ICAS – Spelling is scheduled for Tuesday 16 June. Students will sit the test in B Block in the morning session and will require a B or 2B pencil, eraser and a sharpener. Teachers will remind participating students of these requirements later this week.

Independent Public School (IPS) - School Council

Thank you to those who nominated for a position on the council. The Returning Officer will request a short paragraph from each parent nominee introducing themselves leading up to elections. These will appear in next week’s banter.

Elections will take place on Tuesday 23 June between 8-9am and 2:30-6:30pm in B Block. This is also the date of our full school athletics carnival.

Once the council is elected, meetings for Semester Two will be proposed and the council will preside over the strategic direction of the school.

Thought for the Week

We know what we are,
But know not what we may be.

- William Skakespeare

From the Deputy – Katie Lewis

AEDC

Our school, along with thousands of others across the country will complete Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) over the next two weeks.

The AEDC measures five key areas of development in children during their first year of full-time school to build a national picture of health and wellbeing. Since 2009, the census results
have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and target support for children and families.

Teachers are trained to assess each child and answer questions. Children don’t need to be present so no class time is missed, and parents/carers don’t need to supply schools with any new information for the census. Teachers’ individual assessments are then analysed by the AEDC and reported as anonymous groups of children in the final report.

Teachers have also noticed practical benefits in the classroom. Some said in previous years that completing the assessments made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole. Others reported that the census results are useful in planning for transitions to school and for developing class programmes.

Participation in the AEDC is voluntary. Parents/carers don’t need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census.

To find out more about the census and how communities are using the data to help children and families visit the AEDC website.

Prep families will receive a letter providing further information later this week.

We strongly encourage the participation of all students, however, if you wish to opt out of the AEDC, please notify me via email - klewi114@eq.edu.au.

Prep Orientation Morning

We would like to extend an invitation to parents and prospective 2016 Prep students to meet our Principal, Deputy Principal and Prep Teaching Team and to find out about our Prep Program and schooling expectations for 2016.

When: Thursday 20 August, 2015
Time: 9:30am to 11:00am
Where: School Hall
RSVP: By 14 August, 2015
Email: admin@brookfieldss.eq.edu.au
Phone: 3374 7333

Your 2016 Prep aged child will be invited to spend time in the Prep classrooms while you are in the hall. We ask that, if possible, child care is arranged for your other children on the day.

We are more than happy to accept enrolments before the Orientation Morning, and enrolments will also be taken on the day. Please ensure you have your child’s birth certificate as proof of age.

At the Orientation Morning, we will also be encouraging parents to book in for a 15 minute interview with your child and a member of the Prep Teaching Team on Monday 19 October, 2015. We will be conducting these interviews to enable us to get to know our future students and families better and to assist us with our preparations for classes in 2016. More information about these interviews and Prep in 2016 will be available at the Orientation Morning.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the school either by phone or email.

Have a wonderful week,
Katie
klewi114@eq.edu.au
Pirate Day - THIS FRIDAY

Aargh, me Harteys… this Friday, 12 June is Pirate Day Friday. Bring a gold coin and come dressed as a pirate to raise funds for The Kids’ Cancer Project. This charity is one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in Australia. So come along and join in the fun. If you would like more information please visit www.piratedayfriday.com.

Fiona Echberg

String News

I had an amazing time at Westcent last week and I hope all of the students did too. The concert was exceptional and I was very proud, as a teacher, to see the Strings from Brookfield so well represented at each camp.

There are a few changes next week (week 9) as I have yet another camp with one of my schools. I will away both Tuesday and Wednesday, so I will be coming here on Monday 15th instead. I will need to fit everyone in by 2nd break, so the groups may be mixed up and slightly larger than usual. ALL string students will need to bring their instruments next Monday. SENIOR STRING REHEARSAL will be on Monday at 8am. There will be no Intermediate String rehearsal next week, only a lesson. Beginners, please bring your instruments on Monday too. I will also send an email home to everyone as a reminder later this week.

Thank you for your patience this term with the disruptions,

Jen Hemmings

P&C Update

Brookfield State School is no ordinary state school. Our high levels of achievements and extra programs come at a cost. While not compulsory, it is our hope every family can contribute annually to assist the P&C with their beneficial funding to the school. Contributions to the P&C Building Fund, are tax deductible and contributions to the Voluntary Fund, are not tax deductible. Please consider using the guide of $100 per student or $250 per family, you can contribute to either or both funds.

A letter outlining what the money is used for along with a form to make a contribution was sent home last week. This form and letter can be found on the BSS website under “our community”.

Victoria Brown
P&C President

Uniform Shop

More winter stock has been ordered and should be here within the next 2 weeks. We have had quite a bit of second hand items donated so feel free to come and have a browse.

Tuckshop

With the onset of the cold weather I am losing volunteers to sick children! Please consider volunteering your time in the Tuckshop once a month, even if it is only for an hour. On that note a huge thank you to Soloman, Alita, Rone, Surinder and Lizzie, who came to my rescue last week when I was 5 volunteers down! Much appreciated!

Please remember that from next term ordering on Flexischools will cut off at 8:50. This will enable us to start preparations a bit earlier.

Susan Sansbury
Uniform Shop / Tuckshop Convenor
Burger Bar (BB) news…….

4A did a brilliant job of hosting The Burger Bar on Friday night. The raffle prizes included a meat tray, Brookfield Vet voucher and wine, 2 kids watches from Nathan Graetz and a Bokkie Kids voucher!! The winners were thrilled!

A special thanks to Abby and Alex’s Grandma Pam for doing such a great job in selling raffle tickets!!

It ended up being a fairly quiet Burger Bar but still lots of fun for all involved.

The next BB will be on 7 August due to school holidays in July.

See you then.

Thanks,
Andy Dart

PCYC News

Hi everyone!

We are fast approaching the end of term which means it is nearly HOLI-DAYS! Our vacation care program is already starting to book fast- we are very affordable and the children always have a blast! If you would like to book in for any days please contact Kristy on 3374 2107 or send an email to brookfieldsac@pcyc.org.au We hope to see some new faces!!

Our Life Skills program has been very successful so far but we would love to see more children attend. Our Life Skills program aims to teach children skills that are not generally taught in this common day and age. This Thursday we are going to be learning the art of folding paper--- otherwise known as origami. We are looking forward to seeing what beautiful creations the children make.

If you wish to take a tour of the service or have any queries about enrolling your child, please do not hesitate to talk to Kristy at the centre or on 3374 2107 or via email brookfieldsac@pcyc.org.au.

Winter Holiday Workshops for Gifted Children

Registration deadline is this Friday June 12.

The Queensland Association for Gifted and Talented Children Inc.
Tenth Children’s Workshops for the Gifted
Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July
at Anglican Church Grammar School, East Brisbane

Challenge 2015 presents a series of workshops for Gifted Young People aimed at providing opportunities to experience the excitement of learning extension within novel and engaging workshops conducted by experts in a variety of disciplines. (Gifted education extension provides opportunities to engage with tasks achievable by students at least two years in advance of a gifted child’s chronological age.)

Details of the exciting workshops and registration is via www.qagtc.org.au/challenge-2015-workshops-for-gifted
The New 2015 | 2016 Entertainment Books are here!

Choose from the traditional Entertainment™ Book or the NEW Entertainment™ Digital Membership, which puts the value of the Book into your iPhone or Android smartphone! Each membership has hundreds of 50% off and 2-for-1 offers and contain over 2,000 offers that you can use whenever you like until 1st June 2016.

PLUS Brookfield State School P & C Association retains 20% of the price of every Membership sold which goes towards our fundraising! Order now or pass onto family and friends: http://www.entbook.com.au/221a607

Local venues include: Sitar Indian Restaurant, Plum Café, Subway, Red Rooster, Pizza Capers, Hundred Acre Bar, St Lucia, Hog’s Breath Café, Event Cinemas, Curry Story, Baskin Robbins, Coffee Club, 85 Miskin Street, Crema Espresso, Movenpick and much more!

Thanks,
Tamara Hamilton
brookfieldentertainmentbook@gmail.com

Gan Gani
Community Kindergarten
Fig Tree Pocket
All families welcome
Kindergarten – Play and Learn for 3 to 5 year olds

OPEN DAY
Wednesday 24th June
9am - 12pm
Bookings now open for 2016 & beyond*
Come and visit us to see our kindy in action.
Single unit offering 5 day fortnight program in a semi-rural setting.
Meet our passionate early years educators Sally, Colleen, Lori & Lisa.

*Limited places available for semester 2 2015

691-695 Fig Tree Pocket Road, Fig Tree Pocket
info@gangani.net.au 3378 9233 www.gangani.net.au

OUR SPONSORS: