Dear Parents and Carers

Feedback is a two way street. You need to know how to give it effectively and you need to know how to receive it constructively. Given on a regular basis, it is a powerful means of professional and personal development.

I received feedback on last week’s banter. Some of it was positive, some constructive and some on the point of being rude in questioning my age. I should add at this point that every tiny chick from the Henny Penny farm, including Toothless, was adopted into a loving and caring home.

I give my wife positive feedback every morning. On average, I'd say she tries on three different outfits. I provide positive feedback such as, “That looks lovely!”, “Very professional!”, “Stunning!” Sometimes I’m feeling brave and provide what I’d describe as constructive feedback like, “That looks new. It’s a beautiful outfit! How much did it cost?” Even though I’m only asking out of curiosity, I have discovered that positive feedback works much better for me personally, similar to our schools Responsible Behaviour Plan where we use positive reinforcement to encourage the desired behaviours.

In the workplace, a culture of feedback has the potential of making it a more productive, harmonious and enjoyable place to be. I am forever appreciative of the wonderful positive culture that exists in Brookfield. Yes there are some speed bumps, but we have bright and delightful students, supportive and caring parents, a hard-working P&C, and fabulous teachers who are committed to achieving the maximum learning outcomes for every student.

This is a recipe for success and one which we will all work in partnership to foster and improve. Feedback, given and received appropriately, is an important element of continuous improvement.

District Athletics

Our athletics team performed exceptionally well at the West Akuna Carnival last week. Brookfield finished 3rd overall behind Fig Tree Pocket SS and Jindalee SS. Many thanks to Libby Wark and Lizel Moore (and numerous volunteers) who have been training and preparing our athletes for weeks. A number of our students were selected in the West Akuna team to compete in the Regional Carnival on 26-28 August. Congratulations to all students who represented Brookfield!

Independent Public Schools

Expressions of Interest (EOI) in becoming an Independent Public School (IPS) close on 05 September. This week, staff at our school voted on whether we would submit an EOI. The majority of staff were in favour and our submission is being prepared.
One benefit of becoming an IPS is the funding provided in the first year. We are currently considering the following:

- Increasing the fraction of our Extension Teacher
- Employing a Literacy and/or Numeracy Coach
- Improved data analysis and interpretation
- Establishing a centralised Resource Room (English, Maths, Science) managed with TA hours; and
- Reviewing student well-being, Social/Emotional Resilience Program.

**Toorak Primary Visit (Victoria)**

Up to six members of our teaching team will join me to visit Toorak Primary School in Victoria on 27 & 28 October to look at a number of their operations including:

- Daily Literacy (2 hours) and Numeracy (1 hour) blocks
- Netbook Program (learning anywhere, anyhow, anytime)
- Improvement agenda (focus and priority areas)
- School-wide expectations
- Curriculum Frameworks (inclusion of the National Curriculum)
- Pedagogical Framework
- Resources and texts
- Organisational structures and leadership responsibilities
- Student well-being, social and emotional resilience
- Communication and celebrations

Toorak Primary have achieved outstanding results, particularly in the early years, and we are keen to learn from our southern friends. The principal, Mrs Julie Manallack, has expressed her delight in our visit. Teachers will observe classroom instruction and we will meet with their administration team to discuss the points above along with various other questions.

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**

The suite of ICAS competitions for 2014 is now complete. As results and certificates are returned to our school, they will be forwarded to students.

I congratulate our students who entered these extremely challenging competitions.

**Discipline Audit**

Our audit will take place on Wednesday 20 August and be conducted by Mr Michael Sawbridge. The Discipline Audit investigates the range of information on a school’s behaviour programs, practices and procedures.

The 5 domains of the audit instrument include:

- Principal leadership
- Parent and community engagement
- Data informed decision-making
- Clear and consistent expectations for behaviour
- Explicit teaching of appropriate behaviour

Michael will talk to teachers, students, parents and the P&C as part of his visit. A report will be provided to the school and it will be published on our website.
Free Dress Friday throughout August

This Friday is the third of our Free Dress Days for August - Gold Coin donation. Funds raised will go towards the Years 6 and 7 end-of-year art project. Mrs Carolyn Parsons, our resident artist, will be working with students on this project. Please remember to dress appropriately and be sunsafe!

2015 Enrolments

In preparation for forming classes in 2015 please let your child’s teacher know if a student is not returning to Brookfield the following year. Accurate information is imperative to assist with staffing and class organisation.

Thought for the Week

You’re only given one little spark of madness.
You mustn’t lose it!
Robin Williams

Enjoy you week,
Bruce
brobe66@eq.edu.au

From the Deputy – Katie Lewis

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

Congratulations to Prep B for being awarded “Most Respectful Class” on last week’s assembly for being on time, sitting beautifully, listening and being respectful, well done Prep B!

We are starting “Gotchas” this term also. Students will receive a “Gotcha” when they are displaying responsible, respectful and safe behaviour in the playground. Prep - Year 3 “Gotchas” go into the draw for a prize from the Lucky Dip box. The weekly “Gotcha” draw will take place on assembly. Congratulations to last week’s winners - Elia (1B), Phoebe (3C) and Alice (3C), well done!

Year Seven Mouse Trap Cars

The Year Seven children have been participating in a Science unit called “Mousetrap Racer”. The children have created a mousetrap racer that is powered by the energy that is stored in its wound up spring. Students have designed their racers, identified variables, built and tested their racers. Below are some of the fantastic creations by students in 7A:
Prep Orientation Morning

We would like to extend an invitation to parents and prospective 2015 prep students to meet our Principal, Deputy Principal and Prep Teaching Team and to find out about our Prep Program and schooling expectations for 2015.

When: Friday 12 September, 2014
Time: 9:30am to 11:00am
Where: School Hall
RSVP: By 5 September, 2014
Email: admin@brookfieldss.eq.edu.au
Phone: 3374 7333

Your 2015 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.

Prep Interviews - Online Bookings NOW OPEN!

Parents of 2015 Prep children are encouraged to book in for a 15 minute interview with your child and a member of the Prep Teaching Team on Monday 20 October, 2014. 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 2015.

When: Monday 20 October, 2014
Duration: 15 minute interview
Time: 8:00am to 4:00pm
Where: Resource Centre (Library)
Bring: Your child’s favourite book

Please click on the link below and enter our event code M7PPE to secure your interview time slot.

Event Code: M7PPE

You are able to book in with either Teacher 1, Teacher 2, or Teacher 3. This does not indicate which class your child will be in next year and our teachers all meet to share and discuss the interviews when creating class lists for 2015.

Please be sure to arrive a few minutes early to enable us to keep to our scheduled times on the day, thank you.

Bookings will close next Friday 17 October at 4pm. If you experience any difficulties booking please contact the school either by phone or email.

Footsteps Dance - Disco

Footsteps Dance lessons are continuing and our students (and teachers!) are thoroughly enjoying learning the new steps each week! These lessons will conclude with a lunch time disco on Monday 15 September where students will be able to perform the dances they have learnt during the term.
District Athletics

Congratulations to all the students who competed at the District Athletics Carnival. Brookfield finished in third place out of the twelve schools. It was noted by a few schools how impressive our students were on the track. Our field events can improve, so next year we will address this by organising more coaching in these events.

Well done to Lachlan G who broke the 12 year boys 800m record by a massive 4 seconds. Congratulations also to Keira M and Rachie B who finished 1st and 3rd age champions in the 10 year old age group. Rachie B only missed 2nd place on a count back.

The following athletes placed in the top 3. These athletes, with the exception of the 9 year olds, will be competing in the Metropolitan West Championships at the end of the month. The winning relay team in each age group also qualifies for the regional championships.

9 year old girls and boys
Amelia H 1st in 80m
Sophie M 2nd in 80m

10 year old girls and boys
Rourke S 3rd in 800m
Liam Mc G 1st in 200m, 3rd in 100m
Keira M 1st in 100m, 200m, 800m, 2nd in Long Jump, High Jump and Multi
Rachie B 2nd in 100m, 3rd in High Jump (4th in 800m, 200m)

11 year old girls and boys
Sarah L-W 2nd in 800m, 3rd in Multi, (7th in 200m)
Tara B 1st in Shot Put

12 year old girls and boys
Gabrielle L 3rd in 100m (7th in 200m)
Nikita M 1st in 800m
Lachlan G 1st in Multi and 800m in new record (6th in 200m)
Max H 3rd in 800m

13 year boys
Joshua C 2nd in shot put
Relays
1st 10 year old girls relay team - Rachel B, Keira M, Ella E and Maddy W (this team qualifies for regionals).
2nd 11 year old girls relay team - Sarah L-W, Anne L, Nicola F and Chloe W
2nd 12 year old girls relay team - Gabrielle L, Holly D-A, Nikita M and Bella T

Thank you to all the helpers throughout the year. A special mention to Gareth Thorne for running with the distance runners. Not sure if he is keeping them honest or the other way around.

OUR SPONSORS:

Rebecca B, Elle E, Nikita M and Maddie W

Rourke S, Kai S, Jarrod R and Liam Mc

Cameron N

Lily W
String News

There are NO Senior Strings lessons or rehearsals next Wednesday, August 20th as Miss Hemmings is competing in the Silkstone Eisteddfod with her Mt Crosby students.

Intermediate and Beginner String lessons and rehearsals remain the same on Monday.

Thank you
Jennifer Hemmings
jhemm15@eq.edu.au

Father’s Day Stall

Father’s Day is creeping up on us and is only 3 weeks away!

We will be holding our yearly Father’s Day Stall on Thursday 4 September in front of the tuckshop. This is a convenient and wonderful opportunity to send your child along with some money to purchase something special.

Our Grade One families will be hosting the day which will start at 9am and run through to 1pm.

As our Grade 4 children will be off at the Writer’s Festival on this day, we will be holding a special stall for ONLY the Grade 4’s on Friday 5 September outside their classrooms starting at 10am.

We look forward to another fabulous Father’s Day and welcome as many volunteers as possible to help us make the day a success.

Please mark the date in your calendar.

Sarah Stefanaras and Shelley McGregor
Stall Coordinators

Resource Centre News

Book Covering Help Needed

We have many new classroom readers and fiction books with contact pre-cut for any parents who could take some home and cover for us. Any assistance greatly appreciated!

Student Book Trailer ICT Competition!

Q. What is a book Trailer?
A. In short, it’s a succinct digital advertisement or teaser for a book.

Task: Make a Book Trailer of any book you love! Needs to be 30-90 seconds in Photostory3, PowerPoint, iMovie or any photo-editing software you like!

How: Photostory instructions on Student Intranet Page/ Shared Documents

When: On now! Entries need to be in the G:/Common/Finished Student Book Trailers folder by 3pm Week 6 Tuesday 19th August

Book Trailer Photostory Masterclass - How-to-Book-Trailer!
When: Wednesday and Thursday 1st & 2nd breaks Resource Centre Lab. All welcome!

Book Week Reading Festival - Weeks 5 & 6

Lots of fun activities before school at the Resource Centre and at break times at the Sail and Circle Lawn related to the short-listed Book Week Books. More to come soon
Book Week Assemblies in Book Week, Week 6 at normal assembly times
Students - Remember to come dressed as a Book Character and join in the Book Week fun!
- Years 4-7 Wednesday 20th August
- Years P-3 Thursday 21st August

Fiona Allison
Teacher Librarian

BSS Trivia & Games Night 2014
Friday 24th October, 6.30pm for a 7pm start

Release your inner child!

The theme for this year’s Trivia & Games night is: Children’s TV & Movies

As usual this will be an amazingly fun night. You do not need to be a trivia genius - you just need to bring your sense of humour and willingness to have a great time!

You have time to think up what you and your friends will come as, with tickets not going on sale until the morning of Monday 25th August.
Get your group ready to book your table and secure your theme on the 25th, as there can be only one of each theme on the night!

Tables of 6-10 people, $20 per person
Alcohol on Sale, BYO Food/Nibbles
Decorate your table

If you require any further info regarding the night, please feel free to contact me on either debmmobile@bigpond.com or 0409924608.

Deb Minczanowski

YOGA CLASSES
BROOKFIELD HALL
TUESDAYS + THURSDAYS
9.30am – 11.00am

Contact Mardi
0409 660 531
yoganature.com.au