From The Principal  - Bruce Robertson

Dear Parents and Carers

I was present for my mother’s 75th birthday over the weekend. Geoff and Claire, my parents, live on a small cattle property at Boonoo Boonoo, between Stanthorpe and Tenterfield on the old Mt Lindsay Highway. They find it more and more difficult to do the cattle work so my visit to help muster the herd and run about 150 calves up the race for their vaccinations, ear marks and tags just happened to coincide with Claire’s big day.

They had some life-long friends visiting too and spent Saturday afternoon at the Stanthorpe Races (this is only an annual event so it draws a crowd) while I happily pretended to be John Wayne back on the property and wrestle the calves. For those of you who know about calves, this was their second vaccination, so most of them weighed well over 200kg.

When the adults returned from their day out we had a traditional family barbecue, sang happy birthday and went to bed at a reasonable hour in preparation for an early start again on Sunday.

Geoff and Claire have solar power, a combustion stove for heating the water and limited mobile signal. It’s quite the dream place for a parent who took a car full of teenage kids with him for the weekend. They played cards and read books and magazines in their spare time. And guess what? They loved it!

With my wife happily shopping back in Brisbane, I did some reflecting and took the opportunity to talk over the last 75 years of my mother’s life. Claire loves to tell a story so it was nice just to be able to sit back and listen, especially with her friends being there, people I have known my entire life. It was also interesting to hear the plan for the future.

On Monday, our staff reflected on the previous four years at Brookfield State School. We reviewed the data that has been collated and then set about nominating performance measures, targets and strategies for the next four-year period. This will form our Strategic Plan for 2015-2018.

The Strategic Plan addresses key school priorities around Literacy, Numeracy, Science, pedagogy, attendance and retention. The strategies are aligned to achieving targets that reflect the supportive, inclusive and high performance culture of our school.

I look forward to sharing our Strategic Plan at the November P&C meeting.

P-4 Science Day

Science was celebrated in style last Thursday with over 300 students dressing up along with staff to highlight the wonder of Science. Students participated in a variety of Science experiments, moving away from the usual curriculum to include experiments with the WOW factor!

Thank you to Mrs Weigel for leading this event which along with the upper school Science Fair will now become an annual feature of our school calendar.
Toorak Primary Visit

Some of the highest performing schools across Australia are located in Victoria. Next week, a group of teachers will be joining me to visit Toorak Primary in Melbourne to look at a number of their operations and in particular the structure and focus of their daily Literacy and Numeracy blocks.

Melinda Kienzle, Leah Cathcart, Vickie Craig, Nola Culhane, Steph Weigel and Mandy Salisbury will join me on a study tour over Monday and Tuesday. Toorak Primary is similar to Brookfield in many respects and we hope to build a strong relationship with them so that best practice can be shared across the two campuses.

I look forward to bringing you the findings from our visit.

Personal and Social Development Education

Thank you to our P&C for engaging the services of Jennifer Mason from Life Work in Progress to present the Personal and Social Development workshops to students in Years 4&5 and in Years 6&7 and their parents.

Over 100 students and parents attended over the two evenings with a lot of positive feedback on the content and method of delivery. I thought the discussions that were generated between students and parents were very worthwhile and helpful.

Thought for the Week

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.

Walt Disney

Have a great week!

Bruce
brobe66@eq.edu.au

From the Deputy – Katie Lewis

2015 Booklists

It is time to order your school stationery for 2015!

This year we have changed our supplier to Brodies Bookstore and I am sure you will appreciate the new products and fantastic prices. In line with the school’s move to paper free information where possible, this year Brookfield State School has opted to present your 2015 booklist requirements in a digital format.

Important information you need to order your stationery is:

1. Order on-line from Brodies Bookstore website, www.brodiesbookstore.com.au. Our school code 024257. You will require this to access your booklists. You can complete your order online or if you require print your list from here.

A free courier delivery service is available from Brodies to your home, if you use the on-line ordering service by Friday 07 November, 2014. After this time there is a $8.95 per address delivery charge and a $3.00 packing fee per order.

2. Order distribution via the school, for those who do not want home delivery, is on Monday 08 December, 2014. Late orders received after Friday 07 November, 2014, cannot be sent to the school.
3. You can also go the School’s website, **www.brookfieldss.eq.edu.au**, click on the link to download the relevant Year level requirement list.

4. If you do not have access to the internet, either the School or Brodies can email/post you a copy.

5. If you do not have access to a computer, you can obtain a printed copy from the school office, phone 33747333 or Brodies Bookstore phone 33615777.

So please access your school booklists and complete them by the 07 November to enjoy free home delivery or free delivery to the school. Families living up the back of Upper Brookfield or other remote areas are recommended to use the school delivery service as a courier will not deliver to your home. These deliveries will be made by Australia Post.

For more information, please refer to your email from your Parent Representative, or contact Rebecca Harrison (our Stationery Coordinator).

**Science Day Fun!**

Last Thursday, students in Prep to Year 4 participated in the inaugural Brookfield State School P-4 Science Day. The students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was wonderful to see so many students dressing up as their favourite scientist. Thanks to Mrs Steph Weigel and the Science Committee for co-ordinating the day.
BeLearning - BYOD iPad Classes in 2015

We have had high levels of interest in BYOD iPad Classes at Brookfield in 2015. If you have yet to return your form, please do so by Friday 24 October, to enable us to complete our decisions regarding classes.

Please note:
- Selection of teachers for BYOD iPad classes will take place following all staffing concerns being met.
- BYOD iPad classes will be announced along with all other classes in the latter part of Term 4.

For more information, refer to the BeLearning BYOD Information Pack available at the school office or on the school website. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Prep in 2015

Prep Interviews were completed on Monday this week – thanks to all our future Preppies for coming along with your parents and meeting our friendly teaching team.

There are a few additional interviews occurring on Wednesday 05 November; if you have yet to have an interview, or were unable to attend on Monday, please contact the office to make a time for an interview on Wednesday 05 November, thank you.

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

Congratulations to Year 4A for being awarded “Most Respectful Class” on last week’s assembly for being on time, sitting beautifully, listening and being respectful, well done Year 4A!

Students 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. Well done to this week’s winners - Erica (2A), Anthony (3B) and Lachlan (1B)!

Have a great week,
Katie
klewi114@eq.edu.au

Music News

Music Concert Date Claimer

Yes, this is the one that you have all been waiting for - it’s out End of Year Music Concert! Mark Wednesday, November 26 onto your calendars, because this will be the best night’s entertainment that you’ve had all year. Every musical group in the school will be performing for you - Junior, Intermediate and Senior Choirs, Beginner, Intermediate and Senior Strings, Junior and Senior Bands and three marimba groups.

This year, we have decided to trial having all of our groups in the one HUGE concert in the evening. This way, parents who are unable to attend a daytime concert can come along to watch the Junior groups perform, and the younger groups can also see our Senior ensembles perform and see where all of their hard work is taking them. The evening kicks off at 6pm and we anticipate being finished by 8pm. Emails and/or letters will be sent out soon with all the details that you will need.

Instrumental Program 2015

Last week, letters were sent home to all Year 2, 3 and 4 students regarding beginning to learn an instrument through the School Instrumental Program in 2015. Please make sure that
all responses are returned to the All Returns Box in the Office by this Friday (October 24) so that we are able to move along with the selection process. If you missed your letter, copies are available from the Office. Any queries can be directed to Melissa McMillan (Classroom Music Teacher.)

Brisbane Bands Festival

This weekend, our Senior Strings and Senior Band will both be competing in the Brisbane Bands Festival at Centenary SHS. Both groups are putting the finishing touches on their performance pieces, and are sounding great. Good luck to you all on the weekend!

Melissa McMillan
Music Teacher

String News

Good luck to the Senior Strings who are competing in the Brisbane Bands Festival this Saturday morning at Centenary High School. Please arrive at by 10.40am, dressed in your black and whites (we will finish dressing you when you arrive!) and with your instruments and music.

Next Wednesday, October 29th, I won’t be at Brookfield School as I am on excursion with my Mt Crosby students. There will NO rehearsal or lesson October 29th.

Thank you
Jennifer Hemmings

Working Bee - Date Claimer - Sunday 2nd November

Please put aside Sunday 2nd November from 8am until 1pm to join our annual Working Bee. Our school relies on this event to help provide what cannot be funded elsewhere.

This event also provides a great social time to catch up with friends (old and new). The P & C will be providing a sausage sizzle and drinks to make sure everyone is well fed and hydrated throughout the morning. Please could we ask that you let your class rep know whether you will be able to assist for a couple of hours, so that we know how many people to cater for.

We have a long list of jobs that need to be attended to such as mulching and planting near the Year 5 and 6 classrooms and also next to the stairs going down from the hall to the netball courts.

We will be needing additional tools to help us with these jobs, so would be much appreciated if you could bring any of the following: wheelbarrows, mulching and gardening forks, crowbars, matics, garden spades both big and small.

Kids are encouraged to come and be part of the working bee!

Look forward to seeing you and catching up.

Thank you from the P & C

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 7 orders are due this Friday 24th October. No cash or late orders please. Issue 8 will out in November and will be the last catalogue for the year.

Thank you,
Nicola
bookclub@brookfieldss.eq.edu.au
Uniform Shop

I will be asking our school bag supplier representative to come into the school next week. Please let me know if you have a faulty bag you would like looked at.

Swimming caps: Don’t forget the shop sells swimming caps in the house colours.

Western Suburbs Inter Schools Tennis Challenge

Our first ever Western Suburbs Inter Schools Tennis Challenge starts this Sunday 26th October at the Brookfield Tennis Centre. Brookfield State School will be competing against 8 other Western Suburbs schools.

There are a total of 45 kids that will be representing our school over 6 Sundays in this competition. We have 3 Red Ball Teams, 2 Orange Ball Teams and 2 Green Ball Teams.

Good luck to all the teams, look forward to seeing some great tennis on Sunday.

Shelley Pishief

Before School Sport

We are in desperate need for some helpers on a Tuesday morning. The job is just watching a game of soccer being played. The kids will referee themselves.

Any students not on the oval by 8:10 will not be added or be allowed to watch. To keep adding students ruins it for those already there.

Roanne Lemmon-Warde

P & C News

Zooper Dooper Fridays

Thank you for your support last Friday and Emma and Georgia who served. Unfortunately some of our bags didn’t freeze and we had to substitute our icypoles. The children were fantastic and very understanding. We have now fixed that problem and have plenty frozen ready for this Friday. Mrs Doyle will be on duty this week and we will open two windows to make the service faster. Thank you for supporting the Year 6 and 7’s fundraiser. See you at the Tuckshop on Fridays at 11.15 (when released by staff from eating) with your 50c.

Trivia Night - Friday 24 October

Deb Minczanowski still needs prizes for the Trivia Night. If you have anything lying around that would make an excellent raffle prize, please send it to the office tomorrow.

Burger Bar Friday 7 Nov

This is the LAST Burger Bar for the year and the last one for many of our Year 6 and 7 families moving onto high school. We are hoping for a mega turnout!

Covering of Library/Reading Books

Books are constantly coming through the Library and are in need of covering. Please keep this on your mind, when you’re wondering what you can do to help. It really is as easy as wrapping a present.
Book Week 22 Oct – 29 Oct

Book Week starts today in the Library at 3.00pm and ends next Wednesday at 8.45am. When selecting books for your child, please think about making a purchase to donate to the school!

Fundraising Coordinator Role

My family leaves primary school at the end of this year, so it is important to find someone to take on this very important role. It is an extremely rewarding job because this role coordinates the funds needed to purchase things that directly benefit our children’s education. Our hard working P&C spend as much money as they can in the year in which it is raised. Of course some money is held over for big projects planned for coming years. There are many wonderful Coordinators within the Fundraising umbrella that the Fundraising Coordinator oversees and makes their job a lot easier. If you like writing up articles and organizing people, then this is a job for you. Please feel free to contact me directly on my mobile 0417 0417 32 or email me at arleneaitchison1@bigpond.com to discuss any aspect of this role.

Thank you,
Arlene Aitchison
Fundraising Coordinator

Trivia Night 2014

We are looking forward to an amazing night... Bring on Friday 24th October!

We could still possibly squeeze in an extra table if you haven't booked yours yet - but please let me know asap!

Just a couple of details to mention before the BIG night!

- **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN FOOD:** We will not be serving any food so please bring plenty of nibbles, etc. There will be breaks at around 8.30pm and 9.40pm if you would like to organise for any food deliveries (pizza, etc)

- **WE WILL HAVE A FULL BAR:** Serving beer, wine, spirits and soft drink. Prices range from $5 - $7.5 per drink, with bottles from $20. Please do not bring your own drinks

- **THE HALL WILL BE OPEN FROM 3PM ON FRIDAY THE 24TH:** allowing you access to decorate your tables.

- **WE WILL BE STARTING PROMPTLY AT 7PM:** so don’t be late!!

- **BRING ALONG SOME GOLD COINS:** We will be running a couple of games in which you will need a gold coin to participate so don’t forget to bring them along with you.

- Your amazing children have been working on some FABULOUS PIECES OF ART THAT WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF ON THE NIGHT. They should be on display in the classrooms from Monday, so if you get the chance, pop in and check them out!

  If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on either 0409 924 608 or at debmmobile@bigpond.com.

Many thanks for all your support this year. We have had an amazing response and are looking forward to a fabulous evening!

Deb Minczanowski
What is Nude Food?

Nude Food is simply food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic or commercial packaging.

The best type of nude food consists mainly of fresh food, so that it is healthy and nutritious PLUS environmentally friendly.

Promoting Nude Food empowers students to make conscious choices about what they eat, and encourages them to think about their impact on the environment (and their health). You might be amazed with how enthused your child can become on this...

To pack a Nude Food Lunch or Snack, you will need:
- Cutlery from home is better than throwaway plastic ones
- Plastic or metal drink bottles are recommended for refilling with water
- Reusable containers for putting all of your food, snacks and drinks into
- Lunch boxes that have lots of separate sections can be useful to avoid lost lids or containers

Try to avoid:
- Zip lock or plastic bags, plastic wrap or aluminium foil
- Tetra packed drinks, single serve yoghurts and cheese
- Single use plastic forks and spoons
- Prepackaged food, i.e. biscuits, snack bars and chips

Tips for Packing Nude Food Lunches:
- Try to involve the kids in helping decide what to take. This will help to avoid uneaten foods being thrown out, plus will save your family money as well. Also, remember to praise your child if they do eat something healthy which is new for them.
- Try to pack the lunches the night before and store in the fridge overnight to avoid the mad rush in the morning.
- If your child normally enjoys chips, yoghurt or other prepackaged snacks, buy these in a larger format and you can decant these into smaller reusable containers or lunchbox.
- If your child does enjoy chips, why not try making your own vegie versions using sliced beetroot, parsnip or sweet potato and baking in the oven?
- Try to use fruit and vegetables that are in season. Seasonal produce is friendly to the environment as well as to your budget, as less fuels are used to transport it into your supermarket.