From The Principal  - Bruce Robertson

A mate of mine phoned last week and asked if schools could dispose of rubbish through the kerbside collection. I told him only if your neighbours agreed to place up to two cubic metres of your waste on their footpath. I don’t think he approached them, but his question prompted me to make sure I placed my personal rubbish on the footpath over the weekend.

It’s an interesting time of the year isn’t it? One man’s trash is another man’s treasure! Cars towing trailers, utes, trucks and vans all searching the streets to sift through the items we dispose of. I must say I was quite proud to see that all of my rubbish had been collected to be used by someone in greater need. I applied the two year rule - what hadn’t been used made its way to the kerbside. My wife was very impressed and only wished the same rule applied to some of my favourite clothing items. I thought it best not to make mention her extensive shoe collection, besides I have come to understand the importance of these essential accessories.

It would be handy for a school kerbside collection with a couple of considerable facilities projects in place at the moment. The lower driveway is being prepared for bitumen, which includes the car park on the lower level beside the hall. Both areas will be line marked for parking, kerbed and a concrete driveway will join the two, all helping to reduce the general wash and erosion heading downhill to the court precinct. All teachers will be able to park in this area which will create further spaces in the top car park.

To complement the great working bee we had last year, a rock wall will be established above the tennis courts with further landscaping to reduce the wash through that area. This will be mostly funded by the income generated through our tennis court lease agreement and hiring of facilities. The preparations for these programs has begun and work will be completed with the least impact on school operations, most likely scheduled for the June/July vacation period.

NAPLAN

Is NAPLAN a measure for determining a good school? My response would be that it depends on your results. It’s very true that NAPLAN is a point in time measure and should be considered with the full range of assessments that are undertaken throughout a school year.

Greens Senator Penny Wright was recently quoted saying, “A good school can’t be defined by NAPLAN scores because NAPLAN can’t tell you anything about a school’s community spirit, their inclusive values or passion for a well-rounded education.”

This is true. But NAPLAN is the only national test that all students complete and provides an indication of strengths and areas for growth in literacy and numeracy domains for all students in all schools across Australia. We make no apology for focusing on the main game; improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for every student in every classroom across our school. NAPLAN data helps provide a picture of student achievement and performance.

We are in the privileged position of being able to offer a well-rounded education through our supportive P&C, fabulous bank of volunteers, qualified and specialist staff and an inclusive and informed school community.
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy for students in Years 3 and 5 is only 10 school days away. Students have been prepared to best help them understand the testing requirements and types of questions. We do not place added pressure on students for these tests as they are a regular national test and part of our yearly assessment schedule.

ANZAC Day

Thank you to Rick Maher for the wonderful ANZAC service he put together for our school. It was incredibly moving to hear students read extracts from the McGrath children’s great, great grandfather’s diary from his time at Gallipoli.

The Kenmore ANZAC Service was also very well attended and I thank parents, students and staff who were present.

Master Teacher

We welcomed Tracey Campbell, our master teacher, who joined our ranks on Monday. Tracey is spending some time in all classes this week to get a feel for the expectations and culture of our school. Tracey will work across Brookfield and Chapel Hill State Schools, attending Brookfield in even weeks of each term.

Tracey will initially focus on our reading improvement agenda across Prep to Year 3, looking at the high yield reading comprehension strategies that provide the greatest success.

IPS – School Council

The school council will be responsible for informing and monitoring the school’s strategic direction, and approving future strategic documents that set the direction, culture and tone of the school.

With this in mind, I would encourage those of you interested in nominating for a position on the council to familiarise yourself with the previous School Annual Report, Teaching and Learning Audit Executive Summary and the Discipline Audit Executive Summary that are accessible on our school’s website www.brookfieldss.eq.edu.au

In addition, I will email the Strategic Plan 2015-2018 to those of you who have already expressed an interest in nominating.

A returning officer is yet to be appointed, but the likely dates for the necessary announcements are:

- Receipt of nominations – week beginning Monday 01 June 2015
- Election/s – week beginning Monday 15 June 2015

I encourage other parents who are considering nominating for a position to email me for a copy of the Strategic Plan. I will also make arrangements for this to be placed on our website.

Thought for the Week

Put off for one day and ten days will pass.
Korean proverb

Belong - Strive - Succeed
Bruce
brobe66@eq.edu.au

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Gabby D
Juliette L
Finn-Leigh H
Laird S
Hillary D
Liam Mc
Kael R
Noah R
Robert W
Maggie B

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From the Deputy – Katie Lewis

Reading Focus at Brookfield

Further to our focus on reading, our Master Teacher, Tracey Campbell, will be running a professional development session with our teachers on Reading Comprehension strategies this afternoon. Tracey has been working with teachers this week around how to enhance their pedagogy with reading in their classrooms. Tracey will be a wonderful asset to our school and we look forward to working closely with her over the remainder of the year.

As mentioned last week, many teachers provide prompts to support parents when completing “Home Reading” with students. Please find attached to this edition of the Banter, a sheet of questions you may find useful to use when reading with your child/children each night.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Robyn Perry back to the Brookfield Team. Robyn will be working with our Prep students in a support and intervention role on a Wednesday and Thursday morning. We are excited to have Robyn’s expertise in this area and are confident in the gains to be made with her supporting our Prep students and teachers in this way.

Pre Service Teachers

Practical teaching experiences are an integral part of a Pre Service Teacher’s degree. Brookfield supports Pre Service teachers from QUT throughout their degree by offering practicum placements in classrooms. During Term 2, we will have a range of Pre Service Teachers working in our classrooms:

- Jade Thomsen
  - With Melinda Kienzle and Prep D
- Abbey Lanham
  - With Bec Moore, Deb Minczanowski and Year 3A
- Megan Brodie
  - With Kirsty Cunnington, Lisa McKay and Year 2A
- Stephanie Webb
  - With Michele Higgins and Prep A
- Emily Brown
  - With Margie Dixon, Leah Cathcart and Year 1A

Please make these Pre Service Teachers feel welcome at Brookfield and be sure to talk with your child’s teacher should you have any queries about their role in the classroom.

Brookie Bears and Brumbies

This term, we will promote our Brookfield State School qualities of *Be Safe*, *Be Respectful* and *Be Responsible* through Brookie Bears (P-3) and Brookie Brumbies (Years 4–6). Students will receive “Brookie Bears” or “Brookie Brumbies” when they display our values and qualities in their playground behaviour and choices. Each week, Brookie Bear and Brookie Brumbies recipients will be drawn on assembly and one class per week will have the privilege of having Brookie in their room to acknowledge their quality choices.

Brookie Bears and Brumbies commence this week.

Have a wonderful week,
Katie
klewi114@eq.edu.au
Resource Centre News

Anzac Day Display

The Anzac Day Queensland Remembers mini-museum, large trunk and kit bag full of uniforms, kit supplies and historical artefacts continue on display until the end of this week.

Readers Cup Inter-House Competition for Year 5 & 6 students

Readers Cup is a literature competition each year where schools compete against each other in teams of 5 in June. Team members read 5 books and are asked questions about their knowledge and understanding of the events and characters in the 5 books.

We are holding an inter-house competition in Week 7 this term with teams of 5 per house competing against each other! Unfortunately Readers Cup 2014 team members cannot enter again this year. The teams will be decided this week. The competition books include: Forests of Silence, Red Dog, Matty Forever, The Peasant Prince (picture book) and Holes. Team members do not have to read every book. A team will be chosen from these participating students to represent the school in the Corinda District Inter-school competition. It will certainly be a battle to watch!

New Library Aide

We welcome Mrs Claire Manase to the Resource Centre as our new Library Aide to replace Mrs Susan Colley who retired at the end of last term. She is very happy to assist students and parents alike with before-school borrowing or during the school day on Monday and Tuesdays.

Read and be entertained
Fiona Allison
Teacher Librarian

Year 1 Excursion

Year One had an exciting day exploring prehistoric creatures in an amazing dinosaur lost kingdom at the Queensland Museum last week.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 3 orders are due by Friday 8th May please. Brookfield SS uses the Linked Online Ordering Platform (LOOP) so please go to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP to order OR download the LOOP app that is available for iPhone, iPad and now Android. No need to return any
forms to the office. Please feel free to contact me through bookclub@brookfieldss.eq.edu.au or 0413 443 632 if you have any questions.

Mother’s Day Stall

Our Mother’s Day Stall will be held next week, Thursday 07 May in front of the tuckshop. We have a range of gorgeous gifts available.

Please remember to send your child/ren along with some money to purchase some of our wonderful gifts on the day.

To all of our Prep Classes, a roster has been placed in your child’s classroom for some much needed and appreciated help on the day.

Thank you in advance.
Sarah Stefanaras and Shelley McGregor

BURGER BAR....this Friday night 1st May 2015!!

Class 6A will be hosting this week’s Burger Bar.

Come and join us at the Burger Bar this Friday night, feed the kids a quick and easy dinner then take them home... or stay around for a few drinks and enjoy the people and the music!!

We hope to see you there.

Andy Dart
Burger Bar Co-ordinator.

Brookfield Show Stall Raffle....you have to be in it, to WIN it!

Would you love to WIN a basket full of fabulous goodies?? There’s plenty of wine to win, gift vouchers, gourmet food, some gorgeous LouenHide handbags, delicious treats from Wild Canary, and even a 12 month membership package to Martial Arts Queensland. The school’s cake stall raffle has something for everyone!!

But you have to be in it, to win it!! Raffle tickets are being sent home with your child this week. Tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5. Write your name/contact number on the back of the ticket stubs, keep the other half, then return your tickets (and your money) to the ‘Returns box’ in the office (by Friday 15 May). It’s that simple. The raffle will be drawn at the Brookfield Show Sunday 17 May.

...and don’t forget to drop any treats/gifts you’d like to donate to the raffle tubs in the office. Thanking you in advance for your support!!!

Baking for the cake stall

Attached to this week’s Banter is a list of tried’n’tested delicious recipes that are best sellers each year at the school’s cake stall at the Brookfield Show. The stall organisers would LOVE you to bake something from the list...or even bake one of your family favourites for us to sell. Cakes, jams, biscuits...whatever you’d like, just bake and donate!!

Then on the afternoon of Friday 15th May, if you could please drop off your yummy baked goodies (either in labelled or disposable containers) to the school tuckshop, where we’ll be boxing and labelling all the treats ready to sell on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th. Or you can
even drop-off at the cake stand at the Show (but we’d prefer deliveries to the tuckshop).

The show’s just over a couple of weeks away and we really need your help! The most popular items in previous years have been whole large cakes, (particularly fruit, banana, orange, lemon and carrot cakes, and chocolate cakes), biscuits, shortbread, jams, preserves, confectionery (coconut ice, fudge and rum balls), lemon, lime or passionfruit curd. We have found that individual items, such as cupcakes, pop cakes, marshmallows on sticks or cookies that children can eat there and then have also sold very well. But please, we do ask that you only donate homemade items, not goodies from the shops.

We will also have labels and lid covers for any jams, fruits, chutneys or preserves that you make - we just need to know what’s in your goodies so we can label everything correctly. Please also tell us if your baking contains any allergens (nuts or eggs) or if they’re gluten free, or from a packet mix.

Thanks in advance for helping with some baking...the cake stall’s success depends on your help!! Also keep an eye out for the roster for the 2 days - there are plenty of available times to volunteer.

If you have any questions, you can email the organising team at: Brookfieldschool-cakestall@hotmail.com or call Liz Mortensen (0407 130 631), Beata O’Dwyer (0414 634 528), Mel Harris (0448 916 713), Louisa Wijaha (0418 798 438) or Aneta Zielinski (0419 703 144).

Happy baking!!!
Liz Mortensen

Brookfield Show - Children’s Art Exhibition

Do you have a child who loves to paint or draw? Why not enter them in the Children’s Art Exhibition at the Brookfield Show this year. Heaps of fantastic cash prizes! Work will be displayed as part of a large exhibition. See website for entry form and format requirements.


Prue Cooper-White
Chief Steward
0437991920
thedramaworkshop@yahoo.com.au

Brookfield Show - 15th – 17th May

It’s less than 3 weeks ‘til the Brookfield Show. This year’s Show promises an action packed three day program. Enter your handiwork or your pet (or just come along and take a look at the local talent) in the all the pavilions - art, children’s art, children’s handicraft, cookery, dogs, guinea pigs, horticulture, literary, needlework, photography, poultry, waterfowl or woodwork. The Show is famous for its fabulous horse events and we can expect the main arena to provide us with three days of great competition again this year.

There’s Sideshow Alley, a venomous snake show, the famous Friday night Rodeo, live music, clowns, wrestling, fireworks, face painting, pony rides, fabulous food stalls and vendors. You name it, they’ve got it. Go to the website for more information, to enter the competitions or purchase your membership or entry passes... www.brookfieldshowground.com.

See you at the Show!

Ali Bull
VP Brookfield Show Society
PCYC News

Hi Everyone!

We are super excited to finally be able to play in our new outdoor camping area for some creative imaginative play and it will tie in really nicely with our new Life Skills program that is being implemented into our PCYC before and after school care program next week also! Yippee!!!

We would also like to introduce to everyone a wonderful, vibrant and full of enthusiasm new staff member at PCYC, Steph! Steph recently graduated from university after studying a Bachelor of Social Science majoring in Youth Welfare! She will be an invaluable Educator within our PCYC team and she looks forward to meeting and getting to know all our wonderful children and families! Thank you to all the amazing families and children who have already introduced themselves and made Steph feel very welcome.

A new week means a new menu. Please see below for this week’s menu of healthy and fun Easter food! Mmmm!!!

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<td>Healthy Choc Chip Pancakes</td>
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<td>Cinnamon Toast</td>
<td>French Toast</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>Chicken and cheese sandwiches</td>
<td>Crackers with homemade Mexican dip</td>
<td>Healthy Chocolate Pancakes</td>
<td>Jelly Cups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Have a great week!
Kristy Nuttall

KINDY OPEN DAY - ALL WELCOME
Come and explore the fabulous facilities and meet the passionate educators at Kenmore District Kindergarten’s Open Day.

The Open Day will be held on Saturday 9 May from 9.30 – 11.30.

Kenmore District Kindergarten offers a minimum of 60 hours of play opportunities for all children in the early years:

+ Group Size: 0-3 years
+ Approximately 8 children
+ No more than 2 groups per year

We believe in excellence in education and care for each child through play… Kenmore District Kindergarten creates a supportive environment that empowers children to develop, discover, imagine and engage.

All members of the family are welcome to attend. Please contact our office for more information.

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