

Principal's Pentium

Welcome

Hello to all and welcome or welcome back to Bribie for 2013. What a start! No power on Tuesday meant a closed school on the day. Further uncertainty around power for Wednesday meant that the late night decision (9:00pm) to open was not able to be communicated widely. Hopefully all is up and going now. Our school is looking forward **to guiding your child through this year's educational journey but remember it is famously quoted—"It takes a community to raise a child".**

Storm and Flood Damage

It seems like Mother Nature knows exactly when schools are to recommence and provides us all challenges each year to ensure we are focused on what we are looking to achieve. If you are still struggling personally with the impact of our severe storms and **floods our thoughts are with you. If this impacts on your capacity to support your child's learning please contact our office.**

Through some tremendous team work and support the school is operational. Special mention to our staff who all pitched in and assisted in the school clean-up on Tuesday. As well many parents, students and family members helped out. This was led by the untiring efforts of Brendan Jones. These included: Daniel and Lachlan Brown, Michael, **Kylie and Tallis O'Flynn, Carolyn Ephraims, Meredith and Richard Gates, Chris Giffin,** Kylie and Mariana Kerr, Anna and Anthony Jones, Carlie Crumpton, Taylor Jones, Bella and Riley Woodham, Sharon and Sarah Johnstone and Sandy Crouch. Our thanks cannot be expressed deeply enough. As Principal it gave me great pride to see our community united for the interests of our children.

Damage to the school was broad but minor. Most significant was some roofing damage to the hall (now repaired) and a tree leaning against a walkway (on the list with Qbuild).

Classes and Enrolments

Bribie has experienced some enrolment growth. While we have interim class placements for students at present, please remember these may change subject to final enrolment numbers on day eight. Day eight is the 7th February and on this date the Department provides every school with final staffing allocations for the year. We therefore need all enrolments by this date. If you know a neighbour, friend or family member who has not enrolled their children at present please ask them to contact our school office as soon as possible.

Staffing

We welcome several new members to our school staff. Some have worked here previously. Please make them welcome. This includes: John Opie and Paul Tonner (in our SEP), Laura Bosch (2D), Estelle Herring (3D), Sarah Nash (3A), Ehren Roebuck (one day a week 3B), William Brown (5C), Wendy Ferguson (6B), Angela Brown (replacing Dave Lawton 7C Semester One), Liz Palmer (replacing Netnapha Hayward for five weeks leave 7A) and Heidi Cooper (Instrumental Instructor). Also, Donna Ward is replacing Michelle Savy for Semester One as Teacher In-Charge of our Special Education Program. We also welcome Christine Harrison for Term One as Acting **Business Services manager following Linora Howell's retirement. A full list of staff will be provided following day eight final numbers.**

Continued over page

Diary Dates:

Assembly Time

2:15pm

February

13th & 27th

Semester 1

Term 1

February

- 7 Global Care breakfast
- 12 Pre Prep Playground at the Hall 9am-10:30am
- 12 Parent Information Sessions/BBQ
- Prep -Yr2 4:30-5:15pm
- Years 3-4 5:15-6pm
- Years 5-7 6pm-6:45pm
- 12 Active After School
- 13 Assembly 2:15pm Hall
- 13 Active After School
- 14 District Swimming Carnival
- 19 Pre Prep Playground at the Hall 9am-10:30am
- 19 Active After School
- 20 Active After School
- 21 Global Care breakfast
- 26 Pre Prep Playground at the Hall 9am-10:30am
- 26 Active After School
- 27 Assembly 2:15pm Hall
- 27 Active After School
- 28 Global Care breakfast

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@BribieIsFollow us on**

**View our newsletter on our
school website
<https://bribislass.eq.edu.au>**

Principal's Pentium continued.....

Class Sizes 2013

I am also reconfirming that our LCC (Local Consultative Committee) and P & C confirmed last year our intent for the school to attempt to establish, where possible, 'straight' year level classes for 2013. Class structures are of course impacted by any changes which may occur in our enrolment demographic, but at present this proposal looks like being able to occur. The impact however is that some of our classes may be slightly over the recommended class sizes in 2013.

Student Resources – Books etc

It is imperative that students have the resources they need to fully participate in the offered instruction program at Bribie. If you have not previously made payment to the school for your child to participate in the Student Resource Scheme it is your responsibility to ensure the items listed in the booklist are provided for your child. Children without items feel left out and can suffer negative thoughts around their education. If you are having concerns or issues please discuss these with your class teacher.

Parent / Teacher Meet and Greet

Tuesday 12th February 4:30pm—6:45pm

I truly value the important relationship between parents and their child's class teacher. This is the most crucial relationship in scaffolding your child's learning opportunities. To support the development of this important relationship we will be holding a parent / teacher meet and greet. This year will be run on similar grounds to last year.

All teachers will be available on the one evening—Tuesday 12th February— according to the roster (below). A free sausage sizzle will be run near the tuckshop, with drinks on sale. The sausage sizzle will run for the duration of the evening, prior to and after the formal class meetings. Teachers will make themselves available around the BBQ to meet any parents who could not make their session listed below:

Prep, Year One, and Year Two classes from 4:30pm—5:15pm

Year Three, Year Four and Year Five classes from 5:15pm—6:00pm

Year Six and Year Seven classes from 6:00pm—6:45pm

Venue for meetings will be advised in next week's newsletter.

These are general information sessions. If you require a specific meeting about your child I encourage you to arrange a formal meeting with your child's class teacher at a mutually agreed time.

Some Timetable Changes for 2013

- Staff Meetings for Teachers will be held each Monday afternoon from 3:15pm.
- School Assembly will be held every second Wednesday from 2:15pm.

I look forward to a tremendous 2013.



Paul Pickering
Principal

Disaster Preparedness and Resilience.

As 2013 begins we are reminded of the importance to be prepared for hazards and natural disasters as we reflect on residents in areas of Australia that have been through bushfires and excessive heat waves and just recently in Queensland with the Tornado, strong excessive winds and flooding.

Murriajabree and the Moreton Bay Council is working together to keep you informed for Disaster Preparedness and Resilience.

Moreton Bay Regional Council – Disaster Recovery, Preparedness and Resilience

Are you Prepared for the any Disaster that may hit in your community -

Sign up to **Moreton Alert** – either on council's website or by calling customer service on **(07) 3205 0555**

You can receive emails, text messages or a recorded message to a landline telephone.

- Follow the 5 Steps – **KNOW THE RISKS, BE PREPARED, STAY ALERT, TAKE ACTION AND RECOVER, HELP AND BE HELPED!**
- Know the risks in your local area– what threats might there be for your family, what safe places can you go, and where are they located. What resources will you need to have (fuel, ice, water, and medication etc.)?
- Know your community – who may help, who may need help?
- Know where to go, or who to call if you need assistance, to find out more information:

Go to council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au.

Contact Council on **(07) 3205 0555**,

Like Council on Facebook www.facebook.com/MoretonBayCouncil

Follow on Twitter www.twitter.com/MBRC disaster for updates during local disaster events.

From the Deputy Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Care Givers,

Welcome back to school for 2013. I would like to thank all the parents, students and staff who have supported me in settling into my new role. The first few weeks have been busy but very rewarding and enjoyable. I've been extremely impressed with the way students have settled down into their new classes. Over the next few weeks teachers will be reinforcing our school rules – Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be an Active Learner. It would be great if parents can employ this same language at home in developing positive behaviours in our children.

Year 7 Mapleton Camp is fast approaching on the 18th March 2013 and the \$100 deposit is due Friday 8th February, week 2. It would be fantastic to see all the year 7 students participating in this challenging camp that requires students to step outside their comfort zones and develop their leadership skills. There has also been an expression of interest put out to Year 6 for a camp later in the year. Please talk to your children as they are all encouraged to attend as part of the school program.

I'd like to welcome our new strings teacher Heidi Cooper who has visited the school and will be starting lessons for continuing strings students on Thursday 7th February. Students have been provided with information letters regarding the program.

The Active After Schools Communities program will be up and running from week 2. There will be tennis on a Tuesday and Golf on a Wednesday. Please let your class teacher know if your child is interested so they can be provided with the appropriate permission forms.

Yours in Education,



David Lawton
A/Deputy Principal

It's been raining again

Experiencing storms and floods, knowing others who are affected, as well as viewing media coverage of floods and disasters can cause anxiety and fear for us and our children.

Children and young people can be particularly vulnerable and may need strategies to cope with their emotions and fears.

Here are some tips to help your child cope:

- ◆ *The more you as a parent cope and remain calm, the more your child will cope and manage their feelings*
- ◆ *Talk about their feelings and ensure their understanding of what is happening is accurate – children can tend to overdramatise a situation, which then leads to unnecessary anxiety and fears.*
- ◆ *Limit the amount of TV and radio coverage about disasters (the media loves to focus on past and present catastrophes). Children need to talk about it, but too much watching can increase strong reactions/emotions*
- ◆ *Encourage your child to plan and participate in positive, meaningful activities to help improve their mood and regain a sense of control and normalcy eg. exercise will help improve sleep, school will be familiar and routine, playing board games rather than technology*
- ◆ *Although these weather situations are extreme, normalize them, i.e. tell your child that floods have happened before as have cyclones, people have survived, and already plans are in place to rebuild and help people*
- ◆ *Teach calming skills (relaxation, breathing techniques), and show them ways to put thoughts and feelings into words/drawings*
- ◆ *Help your child understand how thoughts influence their emotions, and how to replace their unhelpful thoughts with more helpful thoughts.*
- ◆ **Thoughts → feelings → actions**
- ◆ *Acknowledge the sadness, loss etc., but don't dwell on negative*
- ◆ *Do things that make you happy - laugh – we all enjoy a good laugh, especially children and youth, and it improves moods and health*
- ◆ *Talk about positive things that have emerged – government support, volunteer workers, food providers, people giving money and goods*

The rain will stop and the floods will subside. Emotions will settle and life will generally regain a level of normality. However, if symptoms of anxiety and fear persist then see your doctor, or for your child you can seek support through the school guidance officer.

Russell Perry
Guidance Officer