FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Ipswich East State School for 2017. I am glad to see so many students have returned and started the year in such a positive frame of mind. Thursday is Day 8 which is when our enrolment numbers confirm our staffing and class allocations. It is envisaged that changes will occur however any students effected will be notified on Friday. I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

I would like to welcome all of our new families and our new and returning staff. We welcome, Sarah Bottle (Yr.2), Charlene Long (Prep), Tamecka Robinson (DRT), Brittany Weir and Sarah Murphy (Yr.6), Ildika Koppen (Library), Helen Grace (Yr.1) and Pamela Sippel (Guidance Officer).

The school Priorities this year remain the same with Reading and Culture (attendance and behaviour) as our main focus. Reading is the greatest gift we can give to a child and we need to continue to work together this year to improve the reading level for all of our students.

Safety is a big issue for our school. We ask parents to support us by following the safety expectations such as remaining in the undercover area with your child/ren until the 8.50am bell and refraining from using the carpark as a thoroughfare.

Daily attendance is extremely important in supporting student learning. Last year new laws came into effect after tragic circumstances surrounding a student that did not attend school. As a result we have implemented an SMS system to help you inform the school of the reasons for absences. Schools are required to account for every absence and to ensure these absences are authorised. We thank you for your assistance in this matter and ask that you keep your mobile and address details up to date.

School Leaders will be determined over the next few weeks to assist with Leadership opportunities throughout the school. I am looking forward to working with our students, Leaders and you for a successful 2017.

Naomi Meerwald (Principal)

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME (SRS)

The 2017 SRS is only $25 and covers the digital resources of Reading Eggs and Mathletics and allows 24 hour access to the programs. Please complete your blue SRS Form (which can collected from the office) and return it by Friday 03 February 2017.

BOOKLISTS

There is no SRS for school books in 2017. Each child has been issued with a Booklist. Could parents please ensure that all resources are provided and clearly named.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of injury or illness of students it is important that we have up to date contact numbers. These usually consist of parents or guardians and three (3) other contacts per family. Parents are requested to notify the school of changes to phone numbers to enable emergency information to be kept up to date.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

At Ipswich East State School students participate in one half hour Religious Instruction (RI) lesson per week. It is a co-operative agreement with qualified instructors from churches in our region. If you do not wish your child to participate in these lessons you need to send a note to the office stating that your child does not have permission to participate in RI.

EVERY DAY COUNTS - Focus on Attendance and Absences

A reminder to all parents, that school policy requires all student absences to be ‘explained’. Parents have the option to ring on the morning of the absence on 3432 6333, write a note to the classroom teacher upon the student’s return, or send an email to report your child’s absence from school. Teachers have provided their own email addresses on class newsletters, however you can send an email to absences@ipsweastss.eq.edu.au. Any unexplained absences will be investigated by administration and prolonged absences reported to the relevant authorities if required.

Over the next four weeks, the school will focus on student attendance. A ‘routine’ has been developed to assist staff, students and family members to respond appropriately to expectations around non-attendance.

We seek your assistance in supporting your child to achieve this. Remember, just a little bit a day doesn’t seem much, however:

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<th>Over 13 Years of schooling</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 mins per day</td>
<td>50 mins per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1/2 a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 mins per day</td>
<td>1 hr 40 mins per week</td>
<td>2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
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<td>30 mins per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
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<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
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SWIMMING 2017

To eliminate loss of teaching time when transitioning students from their music lesson to their swimming lesson and vice versa, in Term One and Term Four, students will participate in one of these key learning areas for 60 for the first half of the term and then the other key learning area for the second half.
of the term. Previously, it was a weekly 30 minute lesson. This will mean, some classes will not be commencing swimming until Week 6. Prep Years will start swimming in Term 4. Can parents please ensure that the swimming permission note has been sent back to the class teacher.

SWIM SHIRTS AND SUNSCREEN IN STATE SCHOOL
Swim shirts must be worn by Prep - Year 6 students during all water-based activities including swimming lessons. The only exception will be that swim shirts do not need to be worn during races at school swimming carnivals. In these cases, spectators will be required to adopt a range of sun protection measures.

If parents are unable to provide a swim shirt, schools can allow students to wear a t-shirt.

All state schools will be required to provide a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen of at least SPF 30+ for students to apply on uncovered areas of the skin, such as the face and the back of the hands for all outdoor activities. Staff are not required to apply sunscreen for students, but can provide assistance to those students who may be experiencing difficulty in applying sunscreen if necessary.

All classrooms will have access to sunscreen. We are currently using Aldi brand, which complies with all Australian standards.

If you believe that your child might have a reaction to this product or you have a preference for a different product, you are welcome to provide your child with an alternative as long as it is labelled with your child’s name and class and is not shared with other students. Your child will be responsible for maintaining and applying this product.

ONLINE REWARDS SYSTEM VIVO
Education is about all round development, not just learning facts. Part of this is encouraging good behavior, giving recognition to children when they do well and motivating them to do more. In an effort to improve our reward system for students we introduced VIVO a few years ago!

VIVO enables us to provide points, or Vs, to reward positive behavior. Children can save up their Vs in a personal account and exchange them for a range of items through our on-line shop.

VIVO allows us to be more consistent in the way we recognize children's efforts and in supporting their needs more effectively. Children get early experience at choosing how much to ‘spend’ or save and it’s their decision what to do with their Vs.

Importantly, VIVO gives you the opportunity to see the progress your child is making and to celebrate their successes. All students have a user name and password, as do all parents. Don’t hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher to obtain your own login. VIVO can be accessed at www.vivomiles.com.au

Celebrating their success is a big contribution to building their desire to learn. We hope and encourage you to join in the celebration.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING PASSPORTS
Expectations for all students at Ipswich East State School is that they are Safe, Organised, Achievers and Respectful. On Monday, all students were issued with an I’ve caught you SOARing passport, which is about the expectation for the week. Each day, students have the opportunity to have their passport stamped (or receive a SOARING Eddie Sticker). To receive a stamp for the expected behavior, students need to show what is expected during the week. The Weekly Expectation will be talked about at the beginning of each week on Parade. Classrooms will then find a number of opportunities during the week to teach explicitly what is expected.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS
It is essential that all visitors to the school, including parents, report to Reception in the Administration block. If students are going home early the procedure is that the parent collects an early departure slip from the office and then hands this to the child’s class teacher. Children cannot be released without the early departure slip.

ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL
All children should arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:45am. This will allow children sufficient time to greet their friends and teachers, prepare necessary resources and be ready for school. Children who arrive before 8:30am must sit (with their bags) under the Parade Shelter until the 8:30am bell goes. Students then have a choice to go to the hall for activities, go to breakfast club or continue to sit in the parade shelter.

WAITING AT THE END OF THE DAY
During the first few weeks it is understandable that many parents/carers wish to be right outside the classroom to collect their child at the end of the day. However, this eagerness from parents causes some difficulties for both students and teachers. Firstly, children can become very distracted when they see their parents through the window or door of the classroom and this makes the job much more difficult for teachers to conclude their end of day activities and give instructions about homework or home readers. Children are always excited to see their parents and it is very hard for teachers to compete with that!

Secondly, when a number of parents gather outside a classroom from about 2:45pm onwards, the volume of conversation that occurs can be very disruptive to nearby classes and creates congestion near bag racks.

To help with this problem, I am requesting that parents wait in the undercover areas away from classrooms at the end of the day. When the bell rings to signal the end of school, parents/carers are free to move to the classroom to collect children. Thank you for your help in this matter.

MARKING OF SCHOOL CLOTHING
Parents, please ensure all your child’s/children’s belongings are clearly marked with their name as this helps to return lost items to their correct owners.

STAFF CAR PARK
A reminder to all parents that the Staff Car Park is not to be utilised for dropping off or picking up students. This is strictly prohibited and endangers the lives of students and staff. The only vehicles allowed to enter the grounds are those displaying a disabled sticker, in order to access the disabled car park outside the Resource Centre. Application to park here must be made through a meeting with the principal.

Byron Van Der Zee (Deputy Principal)
CURRICULUM NEWS

2017 is shaping up to be a great year at Ipswich East State School. Teaching and Learning is our core business and our teachers have been working very hard to ensure that they are ready to support successful learning in our classrooms with quality teaching.

Parent information sessions are just around the corner - Tuesday February 14th.

Parent information sessions are an important opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and listen to the learning experiences that will be offered to your child throughout the year. It is also a great way of ensuring you are connected to the curriculum and classroom expectations to support learning at home and to ask general questions of the teachers. Research shows that home and school working together provides a benefit to student outcomes.

I will be opening the Library/Conference Room until 4.30pm on these days to children of any parent attending an information session with a class teacher. Children need to be dropped off to me and collected from me at the Library (I’ll draw up a little sign in/out sheet). I will have some colouring in etc. and a DVD available to entertain. Children are encouraged to bring a small snack and water bottle.

Amanda Richardson (Head of Curriculum)

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

This term the resource centre will be offering student borrowing from Week 3. Students can bring their library bags along for their borrowing sessions. Many thanks to students and families that have returned lost items from last year.

Library borrowing is available before (8:15 – 8:30 am) and after school (3:00 – 3:30 pm) with the exception of Tuesday after school due to staff meetings.

Our theme in the library for February is “Love your library” with St Valentine’s Day art and literacy activities available for students to do at 1st lunch breaks.

Aspiring library leaders and library helpers are sought to learn library skills at lunchtimes. We are looking for students who SOAR and who follow school expectations. Nomination forms are available at the library. Your classroom teacher has to endorse it and interviews will be held.

We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Ms Koppen (Teacher/Librarian)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

Welcome to the beginning of the school year and to the Instrumental Program for 2017. This year promises to be an exciting and eventful one for all involved, with many performances planned throughout the year.

Lessons for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion students start on Thursday 2nd February with a workshop afternoon to introduce new students to their instrument and continuing students to their new ensemble music. Students have received a copy of the workshop timetable and will receive their regular timetable on this day.

Please note that Enrolment & Loan Agreement forms will need to be returned on or before this lesson.

Student Resource Scheme – Instrumental Music

All instrumental students will be issued with an invoice as part of the new student resource scheme. This payment contributes towards our Instrumental program by offsetting the cost of maintaining equipment, purchasing band music etc. Please forward all payments through the school office.

Payments need to be finalized before instruments are issued.

Want to learn an instrument?

There are still places in the instrumental program for 2017. If you are interested in learning a woodwind, brass, percussion instrument please complete the brochure available from the school office or music room.

Julie Lewis (Instrumental Music Teacher)

FROM THE P&C

Kids Café

Kids Café will be open in week 2. Lunch Packs will be available on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Kids Café will be in full swing on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Welcome to the school BBQ cancelled

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Welcome to our School BBQ event that was to be held on Wednesday 15th February 2017. We have had a busy start to the new school year planning for the Annual General Meeting. The school will run a Welcome event once we are all settled into the new year.

AGM reminder

The next meeting will be the AGM planned for Monday 20th February at 5:30pm in the Conference Room. All members are strongly encouraged to attend the AGM as voting will take place for the 2016 P&C executive.

The following positions will be declared vacant and need to be elected:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Fundraising Coordinator
- School Banking Coordinator.

Any new interest in the positions will be warmly received. Despite appearances, being part of the P&C Committee is not an onerous responsibility, for most people all we ask for is a couple hours of your time once a month to help us make decisions, raise issues and for you to have your voice as a parent heard. All current members must submit a new membership form for 2016. If you are unable to attend the AGM please ensure you have completed a P&C Membership form and submitted it prior to the meeting. Forms are available from the office. For more information concerning any aspects of the P&C including the conduct of the AGM, and the roles of executives please go to the P&C Queensland website: http://www.pandcsqld.com.au.

Amanda Brady (P&C President)
Our school newsletter is produced fortnightly and goes out on a Wednesday and the preferred delivery method is email. This year we are embarking on a new avenue of delivering these emails in which you subscribe to receive the emails and unsubscribe yourself when you no longer wish to receive them. We have created a specific ‘Distribution List’ within the Education Department that will have the full protection of the department's information security. It will be a distribution service only, which means that you will not be able to reply to the email address that the newsletter is sent from, or see the email addresses that it is sent to. We are still in the process of setting this up so the first two newsletters will be paper copies and will be sent home with your youngest child. Issue 2 will have details on how to subscribe. For those that don’t have email access there will be limited copies available in the office.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)**

Each week we have a ‘Behaviour Expectation’ that is the focus of the week. Those who excel at that expectation will be awarded an Eddie Eagle Award on parade.

**Week 1 Expectation:** Overall Good Behaviour

Eddie Eagle Awards go to:

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<td>1/2C</td>
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