PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS

On Sunday and Monday I attended the Nerang Alliance Cluster Retreat at Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre. This was an extremely valuable time spent with the Principals of the Primary Schools in the Nerang area and the Nerang High School Principal.

The purpose of this retreat was to develop a strategy to enable a smooth transition for the Year 6 students to move into high school in 2015. There are many things to consider and I feel confident that our children will be well prepared for the move when it occurs in 2015.

I will keep you posted on the developments. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to drop in and have a chat. Here is the link which will assist in providing you with further information: http://flyingstart.qld.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx

Crichton Roberts

SYDNEY + CANBERRA CAMP

The dates for the trip have been confirmed. The dates are August 26-30. We are still awaiting final costs and will advise as soon as they are confirmed. On confirmation of the final cost invoices will be generated and parents will need to make final payment by 31st July. The school has paid a deposit and this will enable the flights to be booked. Parents who wish to commence paying by instalment may do so, cost is approximately $820-$850.

WARNING

Last Friday at Parade children were asked to stay out of the gardens as there have been a couple of sightings of snakes. Could you please help us by reminding the children to remember this important notice.

WELCOME

Welcome to our newest Possums Destinee (Yr 2) and Xzavier Cresswell (Prep). We hope you enjoy your new school up in the mountain.

TYPING PROGRAM

Typequick, the ten finger typing program that we use a school, is now available at a reduced price for home use. This has proved to be an effective program for teaching children to type using ten fingers. Efficient typing skills are important for children as they progress towards High School. Please refer to the attached flyer for details of how to purchase this product for home use. There are also details on a Typequick program for adults or High School students.

The Opti-MINDS Creative Thinking Skills program is an inclusive team challenge which EMPOWERS participants to THINK, CREATE & COMMUNICATE. Open to Yr 4-7. If you are NOT participating in the Sydney/Canberra School Camp this year (finals occur same date), and you are interested in participating in Opti-MINDS fill in the expression of interest form on the back page and return to school. Approx cost is $160 pp inclusive of camp, rego, stationary. More information provided at the end of the newsletter.

A caring family school...
**COMING EVENTS**

May
08 May  P & C Meeting
10 May  Mothers Day Stall
17 May  Interhouse Cross Country

**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**

Each year our P & C holds a Mothers Day Stall to raise funds for our children. It's a fun little opportunity for the children to choose a gift for their Mum for Mother's Day. We ask for your help with small gift donations. The gifts will be wrapped (in clear paper) and priced from $3 - $10. Suggestions for donations include: toiletries, small garden tools, soaps, coffee mugs, chocolates or anything you think a Mum would like to receive.

There will be a box in the office for donations. Please no second hand or fragile items. If you would like more information or would like to help, please call Julie on 5533 3226.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

I hope all Parent Volunteers received the Tuckshop Roster for Term 2, 2013 (sent out end of Term 1). Please alert the school if you did not get your copy. As a reminder please review dates and volunteers below. We understand that there will be times you may be unavailable please either swap your shift or contact the School or Kathleen (0409 642743) so a replacement can be arranged as extra pairs of hands are required. Thank you for your help.

*Kathleen Callister*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 01 May</th>
<th>Stephanie Utakea</th>
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<td>Fri 03 May</td>
<td>Michelle Moyce</td>
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<td>Wed 08 May</td>
<td>Vicki Bouwer</td>
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<td>Fri 10 May</td>
<td>Kerry Murphy &amp; Janine Van B</td>
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<td>Wed 15 May</td>
<td>Stephanie Utakea</td>
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<td>Fri 17 May</td>
<td>Michelle Moyce</td>
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<td>Wed 22 May</td>
<td>Vicki Bouwer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24 May</td>
<td>Kikumi Bennett &amp; Janine Van B</td>
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**NEW LOOK IN OFFICE**

Douglas is away this week. Suzanne Noakes & Cathleen Callister will be minding the phones and assisting where possible. Thank you for your patience as there maybe some queries they may not be able to assist with and need to leave until Douglas returns. Please leave all credit card payments until his return as access to the school accounting system is limited until his return Monday 06 May 2013.

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**THANK YOU**

Thank you from Bonnie, William and Dawn for sponsoring us in the World’s Greatest Shave. We managed to reach our $2000 goal and greatly appreciate the Beechmont Communities Support.

**MOUNTAINS MATES MUTTERINGS**

Outside School Hours Care Service
Ph. 55459124 or a/h 55333340
email-mountainmates@bigpond.com

**Week 3 Term 2**

We are getting into our new activities for Term 2. Last week was our first week of skipping with Jenny from Gold Coast Skipping. Tae Kwon Do will start this Thursday as last Thursday was ANZAC DAY.

The children are thoroughly enjoying the beautiful afternoons outside so we are extending on this lovely weather and incorporating our program to include plenty of outdoor time.Last Friday we created some very special penguins using paper plates. They are very cute.

As the afternoons cool off the children are enjoying a warm drink and some toast as they sit and chat about their day.

We would like to welcome Christie to Mountain Mates. Christie has been helping us out while Janine & Kerry have been away.

*From Kim, Janine, Kerry, Clare, Kara & Christie. Your Mountain Mates Team.*

**ANZAC THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to the hard working volunteers, on Anzac Day: Wendy, Dan, Carlia & Coen Blunt, Wendi Japser & Ulla Trulson, Renae & tony Knowles, Greg slater, Joy Carter & Kanoa, Asta Christopherson, Kikumi Bennett, Karen Gording, Kim Crow & her firemen! If we missed you, sorry, thank you as well. Thank you to everyone who donated yummy biscuits and cakes. You showcased the great ANZAC spirit and helped raise valuable funds for the school.
NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

LIBRARY NEWS

Have a great week.
Trish O’Connell pocon7@eq.edu.au

PREP NEWS

Hi everyone hope you are all having a good week. This week the preps have been practicing for the cross country. We have been running 400metres every day. In maths we are looking at patterning. We have been looking at colour, shape and motion patterns. In literacy we have been continuing with our reading groups and we have learnt the sounds ee/or and z. Today we also wrote a recount on what we did on the holidays. Hope you have a great week, warm Regards,

Tania Evans tevan27@eq.edu.au

YEAR 1/2 CLASS

Well it seems there are a few issues with gaining access to the Ed Studio from home which I will try to sort out this week, thank you for letting me know. In Literacy we are studying nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs as they apply to characters in picture books. We have had some fun making silly sentences by firstly writing a sentence that has a who? what? where? when? component and then cutting them up and seeing if they make sense when mixed in with someone else’s sentence pieces. In History we discussed, drew and wrote about a significant memory and why we remember it. In Science we will be investigating the materials used to build houses. Congratulations to last week’s award winners: Mikah Browning and Austin Knowles for their insightful thinking, Jela Sola for excellent word hunting, Dylan Lester for making an effort with his homework and Corbin O’Toole for his best effort in writing. If there is anything you wish to discuss you are welcome to contact me on 55459100 or via email. Wishing you all a good week,

Kerry Pryor kpryo8@eq.edu.au

YEAR 2/3 CLASS

Congratulations to last week’s award winners: Cameron McIntyre, Zoe Hendrix and Ruby Cook. Well done!

The children have been making significant progress with their typing skills at school this year. This is an important skill for the future as so much work is now done on computers or keyboards, particularly at High School. Information is included in this newsletter regarding home use of this program.

In Science this week we have been continuing with our experiment on plants and their growth. We have been learning about temperature and how this is measured. We will be continuing with this work as well as beginning a new unit in Science this week.

In Maths, our focus for this week is 3D and 2D shapes. We will be discussing the features of shapes including: sides, angles, faces, vertices, edges. Children will be learning the features of prisms, pyramids, cones, spheres, cylinders etc. Have a good week. Regards,

Dan Albright dalbr1@eq.edu.au

YEAR 3/4 CLASS

Congratulations to our award winners for last week: Cameron Ayers, Kailah Norris, Abbey Trikilis, Chloe Kapusin, Sebastian Cording and Coen Blunt. Well done!

The children have been making significant progress with their typing skills at school this year. This is an important skill for the future as so much work is now done on computers or keyboards, particularly at High School. Information is included in this newsletter regarding home use of this program.

In History lessons this week the focus question is: How are objects from the past preserved to inform the present and the future? Students will look at objects on display in a museum and think about why these objects from the past have been preserved. Students will explore and pose questions about a range of objects from the past by looking at the slideshow ABC amazing museum objects and clicking through the alphabet of images. Have a great week.

Demelza Atherton dathe1@eq.edu.au

YEAR 5/6 CLASS

An assignment on the Australian Gold Rush has been handed out. Children will be given class time to do some of the research, but most of the work will need to be completed at home as part of their homework. The class has been shown a sample of a quality assignment on this topic, so they know what the expectations are. They also have a criteria checklist to assist them with completing the tasks set.

During our literacy rotations we are use the Literacy Planet website and the Typequick program. These are interactive activities with audio and all children need to have their own headphone. Sharing headphones is not the most hygienic, and without the volume, instructions cannot be heard. Please check...
with your child to make sure they have their own headphone.

Award winners for week 2 were: Lachlan McIntyre, Taije Nielsen, Noah Pearce, Eliana-Li Tari, Mikaela Jones and Elly Lewis. Congratulations to all. Hope you have a great week. Regards,

Katie and Joyce
kmann38@eq.edu.au
jbour96@eq.edu.au

*YEAR 6/7 CLASS*

Welcome to week 3. Last week, and during the next couple of weeks, our class will be doing some preparation in order to get ready for the NAPLAN tests in week 5. We will be looking at how to focus on decoding the questions, writing, comprehension and maths, as well as strategies to use for multiple choice questions and when to ask for assistance. We will try to build up the children’s confidence and reduce the pressures that come with sitting tests. This practice will also benefit the year 6 children as they will be sitting NAPLAN next year.

So far in English we have been focussing on Persuasive texts. We have been looking at the specific language and writing devices used as well as how to structure a text in order to grab the attention of an audience and convince them of your point of view.

This week I have also begun to implement some behaviour and work incentives for the children. Those children who consistently perform to the best of their ability will receive rewards eg. ice blocks or possibly a week of homework (if your child comes home and says they have a week off homework, it’s probably true!!). Have a good week. Regards,

Elizabeth Perkins perk17@eq.edu.au &
Crichton Roberts erobe60@eq.edu.au

“I’m just reloading the RPG7. Ok it’s loaded.”

“Gunfire”

“Yes the alien is dead. Let’s go get Ostom.”

“Whoohoo! We’ve finally saved Ostom. Now let’s find shelter.”

“Look out! ALIENS at 2 O’CLOCK!!!!”

“Take them out!”

“Good they’re all dead. Let’s go”

The Opti-Minds Creative Sustainability Challenge is an inclusive team challenge which EMPOWERS participants to THINK, CREATE & COMMUNICATE.

Opti-MINDS is a process of PREVENTION – rather than a damage control; it instills a PROACTIVE mindset of:

- Capability – ‘Can Do’!
- Responsibility – ‘If not me – then who?  
- Creativity & Innovation; &
- UNASHAMED EXCELLENCE®

within participants; encouraging them to REALISE their own capacity and responsibility to ‘MAKE the DIFFERENCE’ for themselves – and to come from an “IF NOT, WHY NOT?” stance.

The challenge is open to Yr4-7 students. Only students who are not participating in the school camp are eligible to register as finals occur on the same date as the Sydney to Canberra Camp dates.

The cost of the program is approx $160 per student which includes the following: weekend camp, all necessary stationary, registration for team/school.

To register your interest please complete the below and return to the school by this Friday 3 May 2013.

Cut out below and return to school by 7th May

**Opti-MINDS Expression of Interest Form**

To be completed and returned to school by

Tuesday 07 May 2013:

Name of Student:  

Year Level:  

Parent/Guardian authority signature to participant:  

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**STUDENT REPORTERS**

**Awesome Authors of the 5/6 Class**

Using the 7 Steps to Writing Program, our class has been busy trying to write in a manner that makes the reader want to read on. We have now looked at 4 steps so far: Sizzling Starts, Tightening Tension, Planning for Success and Dynamic Dialogue.

Below is one of the pieces of writing that was based on these steps and is focused on the Dynamic Dialogue in particular.

**Aliens**

“Austin I can see an alien it’s coming closer to us and it’s kidnapping Ostom Piggott. We have to save him!”

“But we are out of bullets.”

“We can use that RPG7 over there.”

“Ok.”

“Oh, no! They’re trying to kill Ostom. We have to move fast. Let’s go”
COMMUNITY NEWS

Beechmont Netball Club News

Well done Eagles in an amazing 20 to 6 win last Saturday.

The Bandicoots were absolutely brilliant in their 12 to 0 victory.

The Saints were not so lucky but tried hard in the very hot conditions.

Kim’s Tigers are continuing to learn more each week and are really enjoying themselves. This week Jela Sola won the referee’s award for her brilliant effort.

Well done everyone and Good Luck next week.

FAMILY HOME FOR RENT

- 5 x bedroom
- 3 x living areas
- walking distance to school.
- $375/week
- garden maintenance included
- Phone 0412 313 310

THE BEECHMONT SOCIAL CLUB

Our Club is looking for anyone in the Community who would like to play Indoor Soccer at the Hall on Graceleigh this Friday 03rd May 2013.

All welcome for information contact Greg on 0405 206 076

Free treatment for children (aged 8 to 12 years) who WORRY a lot @ GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Parents, is your child a worrier or a “worry wart”? Does your child worry a lot about everything like school, family, friends, their health and saying the wrong thing? At Griffith University we are offering a free treatment program for children aged 8 to 12 years who worry a lot.

Interested? Contact Dr. Lara Farrell (07) 5552 8317 or Monique Holmes (07) 3735 3305; email noworriesprogram@griffith.edu.au; Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NoWorriesProgram