Principal’s Message:

In last week’s newsletter I mentioned our efforts to pursue our improvement agenda across the focus areas of literacy, numeracy, behaviour and support for students. Therefore in all classes there is an unrelenting and keen focus on literacy and numeracy. But this is not all that is covered in each class.

Our school is also implementing the national curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography across all year levels. Geography as a primary school subject is in its first year of implementation in all Australian schools. At each year level teachers use a common program developed from Education Queensland’s C2C (Curriculum into the Classroom) units. These comprehensive units of work in each subject area span about five weeks and cover what to teach, ideas for teaching and assessment tasks to gauge what has been learned. At year level meetings before or after school, teachers plan the common unit of work from this wonderful set of C2C resources.

The focus on behaviour at the classroom level uses Program Achieve or “You Can Do It” materials from which teachers conduct activities in their classes focussed on developing student resilience, organization, confidence, getting along and persistence. Behaviour and social skills are explicitly taught in each class and reinforced throughout all aspects of school operation.

In addition to this, children at each year level attend specialist lessons in music and physical education. Year 6 and 7 students also study German as their LOTE (Language other than English). Selected students in years 5-7 learn to play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument as part of our instrumental music program, a wonderful program funded by Education Queensland. At this stage of the year, the senior concert band is about to formed. Later in the year, our beginners will form the junior concert band. Auditions for our two choirs, Chorus and Chorale, will commence shortly. In order to preserve teaching and learning time, children in the choirs will need to commit to before school and lunchtime rehearsals.

Electronic Newsletters!

If you have not already registered how you will receive your newsletter please complete the form located on our school website or email msmit631@eq.edu.au to notify us of how you would like to receive your newsletter.
At this stage of the year in every classroom, apart from establishing the class routines and procedures, teaching the C2C units and contributing to children’s capacity to manage their own behaviour, there is an urgency to get to know the children and really focus on what each child needs to know in order to improve their outcomes in reading and numeracy in particular. A range of assessments on each individual child is used to identify the specific learning needs of each child so that what happens in the class is relevant and targeted at that child's improvement. The question teachers ask is “what does this child need to know in order to meet our high expectations around his/her learning and development”. This becomes the child’s learning goal in that area of literacy or numeracy.

Schools are busy places where our core business is learning. Currently in all classrooms the groundwork is being established to ensure that every child can be the best they can be in all they do at school.

P&C Annual General Meeting

The AGM of our Parents and Citizens Association will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 11 February in the seminar rooms of the library. All parents and citizens are invited to attend this meeting and subsequent monthly meetings of our P&C.

At the AGM, all positions on the P&C will be declared vacant and nominations called for a new P&C. As most of last year’s P&C executive have moved on to new places or their children have gone to secondary school, we need lots of new faces to have our P&C function effectively. Belonging to the P&C is a great way to meet new friends and have a say in how the school operates.

Our P&C is a vital in providing the enhancements to our school that add that little extra to school improvement. Each year our P&C fundraises for important school resources such as computers for classrooms and equipment for play in the playground. The P&C also serves as very important function as the parent representative group through which the school can obtain guidance and opinion on its activities.

The research is clear that the success of the child is directly proportional to the amount of involvement of that child’s parents in activities of the school. Children whose parents are involved and have a presence in the school have a better chance of excelling than those whose parents are never seen at the school.

With 640 children in our school including over 100 Prep students, we would hope to have a great roll-up of new parents and parents of our Preps. Please come along and help our “Good School” be even better. Hopefully with an enthusiastic and effective P&C we can take a step further to being a truly great school.

Jon Simpson
Principal
Parking in Burrel Street

Please remember that a bus zone has been designated outside Collingwood Park Dental Clinic on Burrel Street. This means parents/carers cannot park in that area between 2 and 4pm.

I appeal to all parents to be careful when driving around our schools, please obey road rules and demonstrate patience. There have been a number of incidents reported to the office regarding driver behaviour on Burrel Street in the afternoon.

**Please do not exit your vehicle or stay longer than two (2) minutes in the drop off zone.** Staff on duty are concerned for the safety and well-being of students. Please do not abuse staff who ask you to move on or obey road rules. It would be disastrous if any of our children were to be hit by your car.

**Please see the attached map which clearly identifies the Loading and Bus Zones.**

Music News

**2014 Choirs**

The choirs will take a somewhat different form this year. Years 4 to 7 will be combined into two choirs, tryouts for which have taken place this week. Each choir will rehearse twice a week – one morning and one lunch time.

We will be doing Eisteddfod work and a mini musical in addition to singing at school ceremonies.

**2014 Instrumental Program**

Lessons for continuing students commence next week.

Students will not be able to take their hire instrument home until the form is returned and the $100 hire fee (or $60/semester) is paid. If you were offered a hire instrument but managed to get your own instrument over the holidays, please let Ms Ping or Mr Bignell know as soon as possible so the instrument can be allocated to someone else.

The Music Department looks forward to a very exciting year of making music together with the very talented student of Collingwood Park State School.

Deian Ping  
Music Specialist

Scott Bignell  
Instrumental Music Teacher

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<tr>
<th>Rehearsal Times</th>
<th>Monday 11 Feb</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 Feb</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 Feb</th>
<th>Thursday 14 Feb</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
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<td>8:00am - 8:45am</td>
<td>Chorale</td>
<td>Chorus</td>
<td>Senior Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:10pm - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Chorus</td>
<td>Chorale</td>
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A core focus and priority for our school is the continual improvement in student learning, specifically in the areas of reading and numeracy. One of the strongest predictors of reading success, is children’s vocabulary knowledge. Children who are poor readers may lack the vocabulary to understand what is read and will find reading difficult.

Vocabulary development of all students has been identified by our school as one of the areas of improvement. Last year, our speech language pathologist, Alexandra Gorrie, trained all staff in the S.T.R.I.V.E. program. S.T.R.I.V.E. stands for Structured Tier –Two Robust Instruction in Vocabulary Experiences. Alexandra then coached our Year 1 teachers in the implementation of this program. The results were outstanding. This year, each teacher will implement the program. ‘S.T.R.I.V.E. in C2C’ as a whole school approach to the explicit teaching of tier two vocabulary in the classroom. Tier two words are high frequency words with a sophisticated meaning that can be used across a variety of contexts and require direct instruction (e.g. ‘compare’).

The aim of using S.T.R.I.V.E is

- to improve NAPLAN results in all areas.
- to prevent and address the reading accuracy and comprehension gap seen in the ‘middle years slump’.
- because vocabulary is the strongest predictor of reading success!
- because students must know 92% of the words in a sentence to understand it!

Talking to and reading with your child are two terrific ways to help them hear and read new words. Conversations and questions about interesting words (“The book says, ‘The boy tumbled down the hill,’ and look at the picture! How do you think he went down the hill?”) are easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday talk.

When introducing new words to your child, keep the following four helpful hints in mind:

1. First, provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word: **Enormous** means that something is really, really big.

2. Second, provide a simple, kid-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life: **Remember that really big watermelon we got from the supermarket? That was an enormous watermelon!**

3. Third, encourage your child to develop their own example: **What enormous thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That’s right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tyres were huge.**

Last, keep your new words active within your house. Over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary word in conversation.

Take the time to share new words and build your child’s vocabulary. You’ll be **enormously** glad you did! If you would like a list of the words targeted and how you could assist your child’s learning, please see your child’s class teacher. **For more resources, visit the vocabulary section on Reading Rockets:** [www.ReadingRockets.org/atoz/vocabulary](http://www.ReadingRockets.org/atoz/vocabulary)
Who Am I at CPSS?
I am a mirror image (SHHHHH I am a twin)
I am a chocoholic.
I am a Bayside girl.
I am a lover of food.
I have a front line position in our school.
I am a lover of roses.

Who Am I at CPSS?
I played the clarinet when I was in Primary School.
I am a qualified PE teacher.
I love to play and coach netball.
I have been teaching at Collingwood Park State School for 8 years.
I am due to have my 2nd baby in March 2014.

Who Am I at CPSS?
I went to Ipswich SHS and finished year 12 in 1987
I am a Cub Scout Leader
I love Purple
I have 2 boys
Dogs are my favourite pet

Last Week’s Answers:
I greet you with a smile each day...
My uniform is bright and colourful...
I work in all weather conditions—sunshine, wind, rain and storms...
In my job, I keep you safe...
I see you safely across the road each day...
I am Jay—your crossing supervisor.

I have been at CPSS for 10 years and have taught year 1, 2 and 4.
I love reading.
I have a Shih Tzu called Hermione.
You might say I am a fan of Harry Potter books.
This year I travelled to France and Italy.
I am Ms Amanda Mulcahy—Literacy and Numeracy Coach

First job was working at Big Rooster
I represented Qld in Netball and Softball when I was in primary school
I didn’t always work at a school
I have two teenage children
I am Mrs Kerry Johnson—Year 4 Teacher
Get Started round 3 opens for voucher applications at 10am on Monday 10 February 2014.

Changes to the referral agent process
To refer a child or young person, the referral agent must now provide the parent, carer or guardian with a Get Started Fact Sheet with the referral agent section completed or an email or letter on letterhead containing the referral agent statement and the referral agent’s contact details. The parent, carer or guardian will be required to upload this as part of the application process.

Referral agents are people who hold one of the following positions - state/federal member of parliament, police officer/police liaison officer, local councillor/council youth development officer or school teacher/principal/guidance counsellor.

New activity supported
In round 3, organisations that currently meet the Get Started criteria, such as PCYCs and those affiliated with Queensland Gymnastics Association Inc, DanceSport Ltd Australia and DrillDance Queensland, will be able to accept vouchers for dance activities, if offered, as part of the Start Playing, Stay Playing strategy.

General information
The program has a limit of one voucher per child or young person per calendar year. If a child or young person received a voucher in round 1 or 2, they are eligible for a voucher in round 3. If a child receives a voucher in round 3, the child is not eligible for another voucher until round 5, opening in early 2015.

Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government’s Get in the Game initiative to support sport and recreation at the grassroots level. Get Started assists children and young people who can least afford, or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club. Eligible children and young people aged 5 and up to age 17 can apply online for a voucher valued up to $150, to help pay for club membership and/or participation fees.

If you would like additional information about the program please visit our website at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/getinthegame/getstarted.html.

Should you have any questions, please email getstarted@nprsr.qld.gov.au.

We’re on the Web........

www.collparkss.eq.edu.au