Principal’s Message:

**EVERY DAY COUNTS**

I have been astounded by the number of children absent across all year levels so far this year. The current school attendance is lower than our target of 95%. So far this term the best attendance has been on Wednesday 30 April when 25 children were absent. Sixteen of these were “unexplained absences” meaning that the school was provided with no reasons for the children being absent.

The worst day for absences this term has been Monday 19 May when 80 children were absent. This of course was the Monday after the Ipswich Show holiday “long weekend” and 42 of these were unexplained. There have been fourteen days when the number absent is astoundingly above 50 absences or the equivalent of two or more per class.

In Week 7 Term 1 newsletter, there was an article about the role of attendance in our school improvement agenda. We simply can’t achieve the improvement we want and know we should be able to achieve if children do not attend school.

Every day at school, students are involved in new learning and reinforcing what they have learnt. Every day that a child is away from school represents lost learning time. Because teaching and learning is done from the start of the day until the very end of each day, every time a child is late or leaves early they miss out on some aspect of learning.

Of course if children are genuinely sick or there is some other legitimate reason for not being at school they should not be here. We certainly don’t want epidemics of viruses spreading so that even more children are away. However, we know that some absences of children are for reasons that are not acceptable. Staying away because it is your birthday or to go shopping with mum or because the family has a visitor or because a family wants to extend a long weekend to four days are not legitimate reasons for absence.

School is important! It is a major factor in an individual achieving a happy and prosperous adulthood. Everyone’s future is affected to some extent by their school results. The future of Australia depends on the level of education of its
If we are to improve our literacy and numeracy data, if we are to improve the data (A-E results) we gather from half-yearly student reports, we need all children to be at school every day if possible.

As mentioned in a Term 1 newsletter, our school's overall attendance rate in 2013 was only 91.5%. This should be at least three or four percentage points higher. Even more concerning is the fact that 116 students attended for less than 85% of the year. This equates to each of those 116 students having more than 30 days absence in the one year. That is a total of at least 3480 days of learning lost just by those students. One quarter of those students were in Year 7. Add total days absent by this group and the absences of those who were in the 85% to 98% bracket and the number of days lost through absence is astounding and simply unacceptable.

An urgent review will be undertaken to address this issue. A range of further measures will be explored to improve our attendance rate.

For the time being, I am asking parents to support their children's learning and what the school is trying to achieve for their children by sending them to school every day. If a child is absent, it is a requirement that a parent advises the school about the reasons for that child's absence. This needs to be done by phone, by letter, by verbal advice to the teacher or via email to the school office. Every day counts!

**P&C MEETING**

The next general meeting of the School Parents and Citizens’ Association is scheduled for Tuesday 10 June at 7.00 pm. Agenda items will include planning for the working bee on Sunday 15 June, financial statements and an update on committee finances plus a fundraising update. All adult members of our school community are invited to attend.

**Reporting to Parents – Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews**

As Semester One comes to an end, teachers and students are busy completing end of term/semester assessment, ready for teachers to report to parents on student progress. Students will receive a written report on Wednesday, 16 July 2014 (first Wednesday of Term 3). We will hold parent/teacher interviews in Week 3 of Term 3 to individually discuss your child's progress.

**Understanding Your Child’s Report Card**

As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s C2C curriculum resources. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers are evaluating student work based on our C2C/ESL units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History. Due to the implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level. This is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks.

Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History this semester are based on the new content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at [http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/)
Principal’s Message Cont...

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland are gradually becoming more familiar with a 5-point scale (e.g. A-E) process for reporting in all schools.

The new system schools are using refers to attainment standards called “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria.” So what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined by a scale of achievement. Any student who shows evidence of meeting a particular level, deserves that benchmark grade.

This is what you could consider the new difference for a **“C” really means:**

A “C” means that the student has met the criteria for a learner to be at the appropriate age level.

A “C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level at school. The best description is to say that a “C” means that the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be.

**That means attaining a “C” for Achievement means you are **ON TARGET for your age level!”**

We no longer award ‘A’s and ‘B’ simply to the top students in the class. They are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria required for their Year Level.

Jon Simpson  
Principal

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Media Club Needs Your Help!

As many of you are aware our Media Club students are in the process of producing a yearbook for families to purchase at the end of the year. It will be a fantastic keepsake for the future and will be a full colour production. In order for this endeavour to become a reality we are seeking your help and support.

We are looking to print 250 copies and are offering businesses the opportunity to sponsor a page at a cost of $50 per page. This will see a banner across the bottom of a page in the year book which states “This page is proudly sponsored by…….” and include your business logo. The aim is to have all pages sponsored so we can decrease the cost to families when it comes time to purchase the yearbook.

If you know any local businesses or you are a business owner yourself and you are interested in sponsoring a page in our first ever yearbook, please email msmit631@eq.edu.au and I will be only too happy to send you further information.

We have had a great deal of interest from families wishing to purchase a yearbook and it is a fabulous opportunity for our students to further enhance their photography, writing and design skills.

We thank you in advance for your support.

CPSS Media Club
Library News (Premier’s Reading Challenge and Poetry Workshop)

For the ninth consecutive year, our school is registered in the 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge. This challenge is a statewide initiative for all students from Prep to Year 7 and aims to encourage children to engage in reading for learning and pleasure. **N.B. Participation is voluntary.**

**Starting Date** – Tuesday 20 May 2014  
**Finishing Date** – Friday 5 September 2014

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

**Prep to Year 2**  
Students read or “experience” 20 books to complete the Challenge. This means that the books can be read to them, shared with them or students can read independently. **N.B. Children cannot use home readers as part of the Reading Challenge.**

**Year 3-4**  
Students read 20 books (fiction or non-fiction) – independently. However, if your child has difficulty with reading, he/she can “experience” 20 books i.e. the books can be read to or shared with them.

**Years 5-7**  
Students read 15 books (fiction or non-fiction). (The requirement for Years 5-7 students to read 15 books rather than 20 books acknowledges that older students are likely to select longer, more complex books and because of this, it may take them longer to read the book.)

**N.B. Individual reading record sheets are available from the library or can be collected from the class teacher. Completed Reading Record sheets need to be forwarded to the class teacher by the closing date i.e. Friday 5 Sept.**

All students who successfully complete the challenge and hand in their Reading Record sheet will receive a certificate signed by the Premier of Queensland. Certificates should arrive in late November.

**Poetry Workshop**  
Recently, our school was selected to host a poetry writing workshop with visiting poet, Josh Donellan. This initiative was **sponsored by the Ipswich City Council** and is **run in conjunction with the annual Ipswich Poetry Feast festival.**

**Sixteen senior school students** were selected to participate in the writing workshop and all were inspired by Josh to “think outside the box”. He talked about a variety of poetic techniques, demonstrated how they can be used to get your message across when writing poetry and also shared some of his own poetry with the group.

The final activity had all students pinpointing a feeling that had significance for them and then they were asked to write a poem relating this feeling to his /her own life. Most students were able to complete a first draft during the workshop and a few brave souls: **Nikita Armstrong, Harry Delaney, Zachary Hyde and Wylen Collins** all shared their poems with the group at the end of the session. Nikita’s poem was voted by popular choice, as the winner, and she received a personal copy of one of Josh’s poetry books.

All participants now have the choice to edit their first draft or write another poem to enter in the Ipswich Poetry Feast Festival primary school competition. Entries will be forwarded to the competition early next term.

**Well done to the following students for their exemplary behaviour and enthusiastic participation:**  
Sebastian Garcia, Madelin Smith, Shelby Hayes, Nikita Armstrong, Meagan Siddel, Zachary Hyde, Mariana Belandria, Harry Delaney, Wylen Collins, Kevin Taylor, Kayliss Barrot, Taylor Robbins, Beyonce Daly, Olivia Reed, Maiah Whiting.

**Mrs Harrington**  
Teacher Librarian  
Premier’s Reading Challenge Co-ordinator
Hello! My name is Lauren Miller and I am your school’s Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). This week’s topic ‘Blank’s Questions’ follows on from the previous issue ‘Using books to stimulate language’.

WHAT are BLANK’S QUESTIONS ???

Blank’s questions are a list of different types of questions, from easy to more difficult, which have been found to help children learn. As your child’s language skills develop, they are able to understand and respond to more difficult questions. Work on Blank’s questions when reading stories, watching TV, at the grocery store, at the zoo or when playing! Give your child lots of praise and encouragement. Ask questions in a natural way so they don’t feel like they are being tested. Start at Level 1 and 2 below. Can your child answer these types of questions? Stay tuned for Levels 3 and 4 to come soon.

**LEVEL ONE**
**Right There!**

**THESE QUESTIONS ARE RELATED TO WHAT THE CHILD CAN SEE IN FRONT OF THEM.**
Find one like this
Find one the same as this.
What’s this?
What colour is this?
What did the … say?
What can you see?
Show me the …

**LEVEL TWO**
**Talk about it!**

**THESE QUESTIONS ARE STILL RELATED TO WHAT THE CHILD CAN SEE IN FRONT OF THEM BUT THE CHILD IS EXPECTED TO LOOK MORE CAREFULLY (E.G. SIZE, COLOUR, SHAPE, WHAT IS IT USED FOR).**
What’s happening?
Who is …? When did …?
Where’s the …?
Finish this sentence…?
What is this for?

**Under 8’s Day!**

Under 8’s Day will be held this Friday, for students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2. The theme is ‘Everyone can play’.

Please return your yellow permission slip and your gold coin donation by Friday.

We still need parent volunteers to assist with taking small groups around to the different activities. If you can assist please let your classroom teacher know.
Online Ordering
If you are ordering tuckshop on line can you make sure your student/s class are correct.

If you can assist at tuckshop please give us a call as we would really appreciate your help.

Should you have a problem or cannot make your rostered day, please give the tuckshop a call with as much notice as possible.

Dianne: (07) 3818 0687
Mobile: 0403 945 014
Tuckshop: (07) 3381 4335

Rasberry and Peach Iced Tea is now available - 250ml for $1.50.
Organic Yoghurt is now available—$1.50

Music News
Extension Music Programme Choir and Band Rehearsals
Due to Mrs Ping's absence through illness there will be no choir rehearsals until further notice.

Piccolo Choir
What a fantastic performance last week! Well done Piccolo Choir. We will perform again on Friday 6th June at 12:00pm in the Hall for Under 8s Day.

Anna Polomska Scott Bignell
Instrumental Music Teacher

Rehearsal Times

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<th>Monday 2 June</th>
<th>Tuesday 3 June</th>
<th>Wednesday 4 June</th>
<th>Thursday 5 June</th>
<th>Friday 6 June</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
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<td>Junior Band</td>
<td>Senior Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am - 8:45am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Piccolo Choir</td>
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<td>1:10pm - 2:00pm</td>
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Tuckshop News.

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TERM 2

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<tr>
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<th>Monday 9/6/14</th>
<th>Tuesday 10/6/14</th>
<th>Wednesday 11/6/14</th>
<th>Thursday 12/6/14</th>
<th>Friday 13/6/14</th>
<th>Monday 16/6/14</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>Doreen Clement</td>
<td>Courtney Witts</td>
<td>Doreen Clement / Margaret Llewellyn</td>
<td>Monica Webb</td>
<td>Margaret McGrath</td>
<td>Michelle Handyside</td>
<td>Doreen Clement / HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>Monica Webb</td>
<td>Desiree Sunley</td>
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School Uniforms Wanted
Our school sick bay is running low on spare uniforms (particularly smaller sizes). If you have any old CPSS uniforms at home and are wondering what to do with them... Please consider donating these to the school sick bay. You donation will be greatly appreciated.
Playgroup and Movement and Music!

Our school hosts a playgroup on **Wednesday mornings** and movement and music activities on **Thursday mornings**.

**Who:** Children aged under 5.

**Where:** Our school hall.

**When:** Playgroup is held on Wednesday mornings from 9am and is the perfect opportunity for your little one to make some new friends while having fun.

Movement and Music is held each Thursday morning from 9am—10:30am. Children will enjoy singing, dancing, instruments and other musical activities.

Your little people will learn a song or rhyme, hear about and experience musical instruments, and get to move their bodies in theme related activities.

**Please bring along a gold coin donation and a piece of fruit to share for morning tea.**
Open Day
Wednesday 23rd July
3:30pm - 6:00pm
Save the date! More information to come!

2015 Enrolment dates & times
Year 7 & 8

All students commencing Year 7 or 8 in 2015 must attend an enrolment session with their parent/carer. Students who are enrolled during Term 2 & 3 2014 will receive a $10.00 discount on the Resource Hire Scheme fee.

Term 2, 3 & 4 dates and times are as follows, please phone school office on 3432 1222 to book your session:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd July</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOL OPEN DAY</td>
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<td>Every Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
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Please ensure you have completed ALL PAPERWORK included in the enrolment pack prior to attending your appointment. COPIES of student birth certificate and parent/carer drivers licence and Medicare card must also be provided. Please bring originals of these documents for sighting.

Please ensure you arrive to your appointment 10—15 minutes early. Late arrivals will not be able to commence an enrolment session once it has started.
Online Parenting: understand your child’s digital world.

Ever wonder what your kids are really doing on the Internet? Do you know what apps they use? Stay ahead of what your kids are doing and learn how you can keep them safe online. Join us for our

FREE eSmart Parenting Information Sessions which would ideally suit parents, carers or grandparents of children Grade 4 or older.

GUEST SPEAKER: Skye McPhee - Pathways to Protection

Cyber bullying
Find out how kids connect online using apps and social media
Risks to kids’ personal safety
Teaching kids how to stay safe online
and more...

This session will include time for attendees to raise any concerns they may have and will include the opportunity for questions at the conclusion of Skye’s presentation.

Bookings essential - Phone 3810 6177

When: Thursday, 12th June, 2014
9:30am to 11:00am

Where: Redbank Plaza Library

Cost: FREE

We’re on the Web........
www.collparkss.eq.edu.au