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Principal's Chat

Welcome



Term One is coming to a close.

Most classes have finished their assessments for Term One and teachers have started collating their results.

Next week, senior students can attend a Senior Leadership Day in Ipswich where they will practice their team skills.

A reminder of our school's Improvement Priorities for 2017:

1. Every student will achieve their reading or literacy learning expectations.
2. Students will engage in age equivalent math contexts through specialised and explicit pedagogies.

In 2016 a group of teachers and leaders looked closely at the assessments Clifford Park uses to assess students, in an attempt to refine where students' learning is more accurately. The group then discussed how we can show learning in much smaller teaching cycles. Our conversations have led us to 'Data Walls' where every student has an explicit learning expectation. Teachers will have ongoing conversations with their Peer Feedback Coach on how to write precise learning expectations that students can reach within a short time frame. Teachers will then share their conversations with you as part of the Student Plan meetings at the end of Term Two.

Last Friday some teachers attended a professional learning day in Brisbane, listening to a maths specialist from Queensland University of Technology. This was to enhance their knowledge around our second school priority- learning about specialized math pedagogies.

Memorial Service

You are respectfully invited to attend the Memorial Service for our past student, Liam, who passed away on the 22nd February 2017.

Date: Friday 31st March

Time: 9:30am

Where: Clifford Park Special School Gymnasium

Time for Grandparents Program

If you are a Grandparent raising your grandchildren, there are services, including funding, that you can apply for. This includes receiving funds to assist with sending children to camp. I have copied this excerpt from the website <http://www.grandparentsqld.com.au/program>.

In recognition of the importance of supporting families where children are being raised by their grandparents, Seniors Enquiry Line in partnership with the Queensland Government operates the "Time For Grandparents Program".

This program funded by the Department of Communities is designed to provide the children of these families with fun and interesting activities and give grandparents the opportunity to have some well earned time out. Alternatively, grandparents may also enjoy attending these activities with their children. Combined grandparent and grandchildren camps are also available.

Grandparents who are the primary carers of grandchildren and who are not receiving the fostering allowance and not approved relative/kinship carers with the Department of Child Safety are eligible for the program.

For all bookings and enquiries please contact Seniors Enquiry Line **1300 135 500** from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. All enquires are welcome and confidential. If grandparents are unsure about their eligibility they are encouraged to contact **Seniors Enquiry Line**.

Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Trivia Night put on for Clifford Park by the Business Referral Group is happening on Saturday night. There are still entry tickets available. If you are not able to attend, you may be interested in buying raffle tickets. There are many prizes including \$500 Gold Coast escape for two people; Tosco luggage valued at \$750; \$200 jewelry gift voucher; and many more prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. Come to the school office to buy your tickets, or send in your money in a clearly marked envelope stating Trivia Night.

WEETWOOD - Saturday 8th April

The Clifford Park Turf Club has asked us once again to open our back oval for race goers to use for parking for the upcoming Weetwood event. The P and C would like some assistance in manning the parking area. This event is a good fundraiser for our P and C, with the funds being used to subsidize school camp for each parent.

Car parking will begin at 10:00am and probably finish by 6:30pm on Saturday 8th April. Even if you were able to give two hours during this time the P and C would appreciate your time. Please ring the school office on 46145333 to register your help.

Layby Camp Reminder

Camps 2017

Camp dates have already been organised for each student cohort. At Clifford Park each student has the opportunity to attend camp each year. Although this is a large cost to the family, we feel that the experience is worthwhile for each student. To help reduce costs, we welcome families paying a small amount off each week or fortnight, to reduce the final cost.

The camp dates are:

Junior Secondary Camp: November 29th, 30th, and Dec 1st - Currimundi North Coast

Senior Secondary Camp: May 8th, 9th, 10th - Burleigh Gold Coast

Interactions Camp: October 11th, 12th, 13th - Tallebudgerra Gold Coast

Any amount can be paid ahead, and with regular payments your child's camp can be paid off well ahead of the camp date. We request that an initial deposit of \$20 be made so that we can secure your camp bookings for this year. \$20 a fortnight can then be made each fortnight until the camp is paid off fully.

Please send in your layby amount in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked, or ring the school office for bank details.

Voluntary Transport Levy

The school runs two buses and a car. To offset the substantial costs to transport students to community programs, we appreciate a voluntary donation to run these vehicles.

Once students receive a Disability Pension, they should be paying the school transport levy as this is part of their Mobility Allowance requirements.

The levy is \$25 a term or \$100 a year. Please pay by cash or cheque, or ring the office for bank details. Ring Deanna Whyte for more information (46145333).

From The Deputy Principal

Ideas for Supporting Learning at Home

At the Parent Information Evening earlier this year we asked for feedback on information that parents would like to know more about. A number of parents indicated that NDIS was an area of interest so we have an NDIS event planned in Term Two. Watch out for further details in the school newsletter. Parents also asked for information on how to support learning at home. We will provide a regular article in each school newsletter with simple ideas to support your son or daughter's learning.

Reading

At Clifford Park our reading goal is that "Every child (with reading as a focus) will independently read an instructional (at their learning level) text, to a reading tutor (teacher or aide) for 15/20 minutes every day." Research indicates that this practice will have the strongest effect on a child's reading development. If you would like to support reading at home please contact the classroom teacher. They will provide you with appropriate texts that can be read at home each week. Attached to this newsletter is an article – Guided Reading at Clifford Park. This article describes the way that we support students in their daily reading.

Homework

We do not routinely send homework home, however, if you would like your son or daughter to have weekly homework and you are able to support this at home then please contact the classroom teacher. They will be more than happy to send home weekly work that relates to your son or daughter's learning.

Calendar

Date	Event	Time
25.03.17	Trivia Night (put on by Toowoomba Networking Group)	4.00pm at The Cube
28.03.17	Senior Leadership Day	All day
30.03.17	Toowoomba Show Holiday	
31.03.17	Memorial Service for Liam Broderick	9.30am
31.03.17	Last day of Term One	
03.04.17-16.04.17	Autumn Holidays	
08.04.17	Weetwood Day	
17.04.17	Easter Monday Holiday	
18.04.17	First day of Term Two	
20.04.17	P and C meeting	5.30pm
22.04.17	Car Show Day	8.30 to 12.00
24.04.17	Anzac Day Service	9.30am
25.04.17	Anzac Day Holiday	
05.05.17	Mother' Day stall	9am- 12pm

Razzamatazz

Razzamatazz - the free live production Variety Show will be held at the Empire Theatre on

Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 6pm

This madcap cavalcade of comedy, featuring - Marty Putz - one of the original and inventive minds in the world of visual and prop comedy. Along with award-winning Magician - Jonas Jost & internationally renowned Clown - Justin McGinley.

If you would like tickets please contact the school office, or let your class teacher know how many tickets required. Tickets are limited. Tickets will be given out during last week of term.

Mayoral Morning Tea



Urgent Recall of Epi-Pens

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised there has been a [recall of EpiPen® 300µg](#) with four specific batch numbers with expiry dates of April 2017.

These devices may fail to activate or require increased force to activate, which may be life threatening in an emergency event.

Any devices with affected batch numbers and expiry dates can be returned to a pharmacy or to your First Aid Kit Stockist where appropriate, to be replaced **free of charge**.

For information on the batch numbers, refer to the [Department of Health's Therapeutic Goods Administration website](#).

Clifford Park Car Show & Swap

The annual Clifford Park Special School Car Show and Swap is happening on Saturday 22nd April 2017. Hope you can come and see the many cars that will be displayed. Entry is only \$2. If you would like to show your car, or have a stall at our Car Show, please ring the school office on 46145333. The cost of having a site is only \$10. Hope to see you there.



Saturday 22nd April 2017



Display car entry: \$10
Swap meet sites: \$10
General admission: \$2
Under 16 years free!

Site set up 7:00am
Public entry 8:30am
Car show registration by 10:00am
Presentation 12:00pm

Fully catered on site
Entry via Hursley Road Toowoomba - opposite Clifford Park race course
For more information call 0746 145 333 or 0432 176 422

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