

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

I have talked today with all students on parade about walking home safely. We have gone to great expense to make our school driveways safer and educate our students on how to cross them. This has made the school zone a pretty well organised and secure place for pedestrians. Unfortunately, some of our students are not following rules and using their common sense crossing other driveways on the way home. I have had reports from our neighbours in unit complexes along Handford Road that some of our students have been loitering in these driveways, playing chicken with cars and generally being careless. If your child does walk this way to and from school, please remind them of the safety and courtesy rules that apply.

School Photos

Our school photos are set for tomorrow, Wednesday 11 March. Weather permitting, they will be taken on the grass at the front of the school. If the conditions turn bad, they will be taken under cover. No matter the venue, we would like all students in full uniform, hair brushed and looking their best.

3, 5, 7 Tests

Our Year 3, 5 and 7 students are all practising doing last year's numeracy and literacy tests today. We are doing this as a group to mirror the actual conditions that will occur in May when they do the 2009 tests for real.

P&C AGM

Our P&C AGM is scheduled for 7:00pm tonight in the staffroom adjacent to the staff car park. The P&C plays a crucial role in the running of our school and the more parents we have to share opinions with, the more representative our P&C becomes. I invite all interested parties to attend, whether or not you wish to seek a position on the executive for 2009.

WWW Big Breakfast

On Wednesday next week (18 March) we will be holding our Big Breakfast for Walking Wheeling Wednesday for Term 1. I encourage everyone to walk, ride or car pool to school and then join us for breakfast from 8:00am onwards. Bacon and eggs will be on the menu for all students, parents and friends for \$2 per person. I hope to see as many as possible on the day.

St Joseph's Swimming Carnival

St Joseph's Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday this week. As we expect several hundred students and parents to attend, our parent car park

will be extremely busy. We will open up the area in front of Jabiru for cars but there will still be some congestion at peak times. I encourage all our students to use this opportunity to walk or ride and thus cut down the need for parents to drive.

12 Week challenge

Week 5 – 2D and 3D Shapes

When most people think of maths, they think of numbers and sums. This is one strand of maths but there are also several others. The strand that I am discussing today is space, not outer space, but the idea of points, lines, angles, shapes, areas, perimeters and volume, to name a few of the key elements.

Our students' understanding of space begins with shapes. Early on we expect them to be able to name the common 2 dimensional (flat) shapes like squares, triangles, rectangles, and circles. Shortly thereafter, they should also be able to recognise common 3 dimensional (solid) shapes such as cubes, spheres, cones and pyramids. At Year 3 level, questions like naming 3D shapes appear on the test papers. As far as 2D shapes go, questions revolve around what flat shapes might look like if they are rotated or flipped.

As students move into Year 5, they need to know more than just shape names but more of the attributes of each shape. For example they might need to know how many degrees there are in a triangle (180); that each angle in a square is 90 degrees; that a square based pyramid has 5 faces, 4 of which are triangles, and so on. Students in Year 5 also learn about perimeter and area of shapes as well as symmetry. Questions on any of these could be on a test.

In Year 7, much of the work is an extension of that done in Year 5 and 6, though with a bit more depth. Year 7s for instance, should be able to use a protractor to measure angles; use a formula to find an area of a 2D shape; and be able to use the net of a 3D shape. Questions like this have appeared on the Year 7 test every year.



Mark Fisher
Principal

Helping your child learn about shapes and objects

Your home is the perfect place for your child to practise the maths they learn in the classroom. It is important that your child develops strong images in their mind of shapes and objects and how best to describe them.

At a young age, children will learn the names of regular shapes such as 'triangle' and 'square'. The

next step is making and drawing shapes – this will help them develop ideas about shapes and objects.

Here are a few ideas for activities you and your child can try:

- read to your child and talk about the shapes you see in the pictures, such as the roof, which could look like a triangle
- involve your child in craft activities, such as making your own gift wrapping and using different objects like corks or sponges to stamp colours and patterns onto the paper
- make shadows on the wall with your hands and objects and discuss the shapes you can make
- create your own jigsaw puzzle by cutting up a page from a magazine into four or five pieces and joining it together again. This will get your child thinking about the shapes of objects and how they fit together
- play *I Spy* games with your child and give clues such as 'I see something that looks like a big square'.

If you would like more information about how you can help your child with shapes and objects, ask his/her classroom teacher or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Tuckshop so far this term. Tuckshop is open on Thursdays & Fridays during first break only. We encourage everyone to make use of this great school facility.

As we are only open for 2 days each week, we need lots of regular support to enable us to remain in operation next term. More volunteers are urgently needed. To discuss how you can help, please call Louise on 0417 830 040.

Thanks to our two amazing teams who make Tuckshop possible.

Enjoy your lunch.

Louise Moriarti
Tuckshop Convenor

FOR SALE

All for Strings Violin Book 1 and Book 2, in excellent condition. \$16 for both or \$10 each (\$40 new). Please phone Mara on 3863 0080 all hours.

YOGA FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!

Help your child develop confidence, strength, flexibility and coordination. Kids yoga is a specially designed program for children which makes yoga fun! Check out our website or phone now for times and prices. After-school and weekend time slots available now. Bookings limited.

Alison at Wavell Heights Community Yoga
147 Rode Road. - Web - www.whcyoga.com
Ph: 0423 104 989

SOCCER

Sandgate PCYC Saints Soccer Club are seeking new-to-soccer boy and girl players especially for their U10, U11, and U12 lower grade Junior teams. If you want to participate and learn the WORLD game in a friendly, fun-filled environment, please just turn-up with your sandshoes, waterbottle and smile to Wednesday's training from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Try before you buy for FREE!

Head Junior Coach - John Hanley - 0458 973 818.



TAP DANCE CLASSES

Brand new tap dance classes
with RED HOT RHYTHM!

Classes for boys, girls, mums and dads of all ages

FIRST CLASS JUST \$1

Phone Bill on: 0416757329

Or check out: www.redhotrhythm.com.au

Challenged by your child's asthma?

'Triple P for Children with Asthma'

The University of Queensland is conducting research evaluating a parenting program which aims to reduce behavioural problems associated with asthma and to improve the general usage of asthma medication in children.

Parents taking part in the program will attend five group sessions and participate in four phone consultations. The program will be offered free of charge, and is available to parents of children aged between three and six years with asthma and behaviour problems.

To register your interest, or for more information, please contact Caroline Gregory (ph: 07 3365 9186, email: cgregory@psy.uq.edu.au.)