

Dear Parents

This is a very big week ahead, especially if you are a parent who drives to school. Work has finally started on the parent carpark. Today preliminary grading is taking place which will be followed by kerbing, laying road base and then sealing with asphalt. The workmen are attempting to organise this process so that there is minimum interruption to parking. They will start work around 9:15 am after the morning rush and try to be out by 2:30pm to avoid the afternoon pickups. However, one day this week or early next, the whole carpark will have to be closed when the bitumen is laid. This will be a major inconvenience but is unavoidable. I hope to be able to tell all parents exactly when this will be happening when the contractors tell me. Until then, the carpark will work reasonably normally.

This week will also see the installation of our first water tank at school. One of our parents, Mr Simon Salloum, has very kindly donated a 3000 litre tank which will be placed next to the SEC. Simon will hook it up to a pump and it will be used to irrigate their small vegetable garden. We look like having more rain shortly so we will be up and running with a sustainable system soon. Let's hope that this will be the first of many tanks in our school grounds.

Friday is 'Clean Up Australia Day for Schools'. Once again we will be involved in this very worthwhile activity. Each class will be given an area to clean and they will spend around 30 minutes picking up papers, plastic, small rocks, sticks and so on that will improve the look and the usefulness of the area. Each student will be issued with disposable gloves and teachers will ensure that they only pick up safe, clean waste.

Also this week our Staffroom is being cabled for computers. Up until now, we have only been able to run stand alone machines (not networked). Whilst this will mean very little to students or parents, it is a great improvement in convenience for teachers. A wireless access point will be installed so teachers will be able to connect to email and internet on their laptops while on non-contact time. Productivity and flexibility of ICT integration, especially for planning purposes, will be much easier and simpler. It is another example of good infrastructure creating an environment in which good work can be done. We expect it

to be up and running by the middle of next week.

We were all set for interschool sport to begin last Friday after the rain had gone but it had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of the Nudgee College Football grounds. Bramble Bay Sport had everything in readiness two weeks ago but this unavoidable problem occurred. It has now been rectified and we look forward to sport this Friday, weather permitting.

Last week we finally were able to run our first assembly of the year. It was a great one too. Our special guest Councillor Victoria Newton presented our School Captains – Alexandra and Jayden and our Vice Captains - Jessica and Keith with their badges. We had proud parents taking their photos. We had two sets of Students of the Week – always a highlight for me. We had our Wii Class of the Week announced. Congratulations to Mrs Barlow's Year 2. But the overwhelming favourite was 'Roadstar' who participated in the official launch of our Active School Travel Programme, completely upstaging everyone else with his very physical performance on parade. Stacey Hall our BCC Active Travel Officer explained the process to all our students, teachers and parents and we feel very optimistic about making a permanent change to the travel habits of our children. Active School Travel's first formal activity – Walking Wheeling Wednesday – kicks off on March 12 and already I can sense that it will be very well received by our community. I look forward to it.

Mark Fisher
Principal

P&C News



The Easter Raffle is coming up and we are calling on anyone who would like to make a small donation towards this fundraiser. A small Easter egg or a fluffy toy, or something that you see as a nice idea towards an Easter prize, your donation would be greatly appreciated; and you can drop it off at the Tuckshop, the Uniform Shop or at the office.

~Uniform shop information~

We now have back in stock our school bags, these are very good value at \$35.00 each – available in Maroon or Royal Blue, they come with a swim bag, cooler bag and also a wallet.

- As a new addition to the uniform shop we are now stocking school colour football socks they are priced at \$8-00 a pair. So come along to room 8 and pick up a pair ready for the interschool sports season.



Just a reminder the AGM is coming up next month – this will be held in the staffroom at 7pm on Tuesday 11th March. All new faces are welcomed.

Knock, Knock, Whose there? Dismay - Dismay who?
Dismay be a joke, but it doesn't make me laugh.

Have a great week.

Many thanks - P&C Committee

Learn to Swim and Swimming Fitness Programs (Not squads) for both Children and Adults. Personal Training only...Maximum 4 children per class (30 minutes)... Adults, Learn to Swim 1:1 at Taigum State School Pool.

Contact : Errol Dyer . Aquatic Safety Training Services. Phone: 3263 9970 Mob. 0408 193 489.

Student Exchange

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is URGENTLY seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2008 from Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Holland, Ireland, Brazil, the USA and Canada. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today's world. We organise all the flights, schools, transportation, insurances and support systems. Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll

free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au

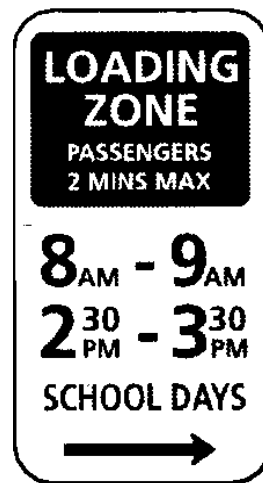
or email scceaust@scce.com.au

Robert Lindsay

National Business Development Manager

Road Safety – 2 Minute Zones

Parking around schools is limited and drivers have been parking in Two Minute zones, and No Stopping/Standing/Parking zones and bus stops. These actions are dangerous for children travelling to and from school. Some parents often park in driveways which results in calls from irate home-owners unable to get their cars in or out of their own driveways.



Police and councils have advised they will visit schools periodically during the year to issue traffic offence notices to offending drivers.

The success of the two minute zones requires cooperation from all parents to ensure quick movement of vehicles through the area.

Please observe the time frames (see above example) and only stay in the area for as long as it takes to get the children in to or out of the

car. The driver must not park the car in these signed areas and go into the school with the children.

In some instances parents stop their car and stay in it waiting for somebody to take their children to class and then come back. **PLEASE NOTE!** This area is designed to **keep the vehicles moving**. It is not to be used in this manner.

Please do

- Plan your trip to avoid arrival at peak times
- Pick-up or drop-off children via the car's kerb doors
- Drive out safely
- If your children are not at your arranged spot, go around the block and try again

Do not

- Get out of your vehicle
- Double park
- Stay more than 2 minutes
- Arrive early in the afternoon and sit in the zone
- Use staff parking areas

If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/bike safety or other transport issue, please phone Queensland Transport on 1300 360 135.

