

## Dear Parents

After weeks of talking about it, 'Walking, Wheeling Wednesday' finally arrived last week. It was an excellent morning with many, many students and parents finding alternate ways to get to school apart from car travel. Our breakfast was also very well attended and I was happy to see plenty of parents taking the opportunity to join us. Our teacher cooking workforce was pushed to the limit to fill all the orders and I think our last students ate at about 8:50 am. Unfortunately about 5 students missed out on bacon which was the only real glitch in the process. Now to the numbers. Last December we surveyed all our students and on the two particular days we checked, we found that around 48% came to school walking, riding or car pooling. On Wednesday we had 74% which is a huge increase and one to be very proud of. That means that 3 out of every 4 of our children were able to active travel to school. Stacey Hall, our BCC Travel Officer, said that performance was 'brilliant'. The great test for us all though, is this Wednesday coming. I hope that everyone who tried hard last week will apply the same effort this week. We don't have a breakfast this Wednesday so I will get out around the school to see how many are walking and riding for myself. I rode my bike to school and so did Mr Carter. However, the teacher active travel champion was Mrs Murphy who walked all the way from Boondall. It took her 45 minutes and she is a great inspiration to all. I heard some great stories about student active travellers too and I believe some of them will be our 'Students of the Week' come tomorrow. Below is a table of how all the classes went. Our Prep B students are our class champions and Year 6 are the ones who need some extra motivation and we'll look for an improvement from them next time. Congratulations to all who took part and let's keep it up.

| Class  | Active Travellers | Number Present | %     | Class         | Active Travellers | Number Present | %            |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Prep A | 11                | 19             | 57.89 | 4             | 15                | 23             | 65.22        |
| Prep B | 17                | 20             | 85.00 | 4~5           | 18                | 22             | 81.82        |
| 1      | 15                | 23             | 65.22 | 5             | 22                | 27             | 81.48        |
| 1~2    | 18                | 23             | 78.26 | 5~6           | 17                | 21             | 80.95        |
| 2      | 22                | 29             | 75.86 | 6             | 18                | 30             | 60.00        |
| 3A     | 19                | 24             | 79.17 | 7A            | 17                | 23             | 73.91        |
| 3B     | 17                | 24             | 70.83 | 7B            | 22                | 25             | 88.00        |
|        |                   |                |       | <b>Totals</b> | <b>248</b>        | <b>333</b>     | <b>74.47</b> |

More about safe travel. Mr Tompkins has filled the edges of the parent car park and erected a temporary fence along our southern boundary and across the car park to Jabiru. From Tuesday afternoon, (after discussion on assembly on Tuesday morning) we are going to have this path as the main route for all students walking or riding south (in the Zillmere direction) They will thus avoid the carpark entrance and exit lanes and make that area much less crowded and much safer. The dirt area of the parent car park is still accessible for parking and I encourage parents to use it and park perpendicular (nose in) to both fences so the space can be best used. At some time in the near future, we expect to make the path concrete and the fence permanent.

Last Tuesday was the P&C Annual General Meeting. I am very pleased to report that we had a good attendance and many new faces came and three of them took on positions on the executive. Our 2008 President is Lynn Austin, our Vice President is Justeen Newton, our secretary is Mara Salotto and our new treasure is Amanda Miller. All four have generously volunteered their time and effort and I'm sure they'll do a wonderful job for all the school this year. Of course I must also thank the outgoing committee of Bambi Silvertand, Janine Allman and Jo Stevenson for the great work they did last year. Bambi and Janine will continue volunteering in other roles this year, Bambi in the Tuckshop and Janine with Active Travel. I hope that all parents lend their support to our new office bearers and to the P&C so they can be an active and effective body who help to make our school better for all.

Wednesday, apart from being an active travel day, is also a FREE DRESS DAY. I purposely wrote that in capitals so that all parents can easily see it. Some mums asked me to publicise it in the newsletter so I making it very obvious so we have as many of our students supporting it as possible. The money raised will go to support our oversees student Godfrey whom we sponsor as a school. The rules for free dress are clothing has to be sun safe, neat and tidy and appropriate to school (no crop tops, no offensive logos, words, etc on T-Shirts). Please remember if your child is swimming on Wednesday that they will still need to be wearing a sunshirt in the pool.

My last reminder is that this is a short week as Friday is the beginning of Easter. Please note that we are all back at school next Tuesday for two more weeks until the first term's end on Friday April 4.

Mark Fisher  
Principal

## P&C News



Thanks to all the people who supported our Easter Raffle it will be drawn on parade this Tuesday, good luck to everyone who purchased a ticket.

As you all know last Tuesday night was our AGM and I would like to introduce you to our new P&C Committee  
President:- Lynne Austin Secretary:- Mara Salotto Treasurer:- Amanda Miller Vice President:- Justeen Newton

From the out-going committee, I would like to thank everyone for their support that you gave us over the last year and we wish the new incoming committee all the very best.

And finally the last joke from me.....

An elephant was drinking out of a river one day, when he spotted a turtle asleep on a log. So, he wandered on over and kicked it clear across the river.

"What did you do that for?" asked a passing giraffe.

"Because I recognized it as the same turtle that took a nip out of my trunk 53 years ago."

"Wow, what a memory" commented the giraffe.

"Yes," said the elephant, "Turtle recall".

Have a great week and thanks once again from the outgoing committee.

## Lost Property

Last Wednesday Nicholas Menesi in Year 4 misplaced his school uniform and swimming gear from the pool change rooms if anybody has found it could it please be returned to him or to the school office.



# Trip Tips

The great urban sprawl that most of us are experiencing these days has meant more cars, longer journey times, more accidents, and more congestion.

Drivers become impatient, road rage incidents are increasing - no doubt along with blood pressure counts.

Here are a couple of tips to make your trip more enjoyable:

1. **Leave home earlier.** It's a fact of life, particularly in the cities, that if a trip used to take 30 minutes 10 years ago it will now take about 50 minutes.
2. Put some **"pleasing" music** on the radio or CD. Whatever makes you feel calmer and happier.
3. **Turn off your mobile.** Activate your message bank until it's safe to pick up your calls.
4. **Check your brake lights.** It's amazing how many cars are on the road with only one or no brake lights working. It only takes a minute to have someone check the lights, and the bulbs are easy and cheap to replace.

I didn't understand this somewhat cryptic saying when I was younger but now I'm older I realise it's merit: **"Better late than dead on time!!"**

So please take it easy on the road and try to be considerate - it's one of the few things these days that costs nothing and can mean so much.

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.

## UQKids Holiday Clinics – April 7th – 11th 2008

These holidays your child has more choice than ever to find an activity suited to their personalities. UQKids offers a variety of options to harness the soaring energy of children, channeling it into developing their physical, emotional, social and cognitive abilities in an environment that is safe, secure, challenging and most of all fun. The clinics on offer include Soccer, Rugby Union, Athletics, Cross Country, Aquatics, Triathlon, Tennis and MultiSport. Each participant will receive coaching from our experienced instructors, a FREE gift, plus other goodies. For more information and to enrol, visit [www.uqsport.uq.edu.au/uqkids](http://www.uqsport.uq.edu.au/uqkids) or contact UQ SPORT on (07) 3365 6612.