Parke State School
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Welcome back everyone! What a fantastic start to 2015! As I mentioned on parade earlier on in the week, student behaviour has been exemplary! Keep up the great work! Our attendance rate is currently at 99.3% which is outstanding! Please take the time to have a look at the tables I have included in the newsletter which show the effect that absences and late arrivals have on your child’s learning outcomes. It’s very interesting to see what a dramatic effect even just missing 10 minutes a day can have!

School Camp: This year we will be going to the North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre on the Capricorn Coast. An Expression Of Interest note went home in students in years 3-6 yesterday regarding this and we have already had so much positive feedback! Please return these as soon as you can. We would like to be able to confirm dates / details for the next couple of weeks.

Senior Shirts: The Year 6 students are in the process of deciding on the design and features of their senior shirts. We are expecting these to be about $36.00 each. Once the design and costs are confirmed we will send home an order form.

Success Schools: Parke State School has been selected to participate in Phase C of the Success Schools program. We will be focusing on Reading. In preparation for NAPLAN every student in years three and five will read one on one with a teacher aide for fifteen minutes four times a week. During this time the teacher aide will have discussions with the students about reading strategies that they are using. Students have already been levelled and will be starting the program immediately. After a period of time, the years 1, 2, 4 and 6 will also be included. Included in the $60,000 project are three coaches/mentors who will be working with staff every Friday to implement and develop our reading program. You will see them floating around the place working with us. This is an amazing opportunity for the school and we have invested school funds to get the program up and running. We will be purchasing extra teacher aide time in the mornings, purchasing new readers and allocating time for staff professional development. There is a reading roster that I have put together for every individual student in years three and five. If you would like a copy, please contact the office.

I would like to reiterate the importance of your child being at school every day. If they are absent, then they are missing vital reading time. If you have any questions, then please don’t hesitate to contact me. I will be putting each reading strategy that we use at the school in the newsletter for you to follow up on during your home reading time.

1. Activating Prior Knowledge – or what do you know about the topic? This is the language you will hear across the school, at the beginning of a lesson when a new book or topic is being introduced. In an effort to improve reading comprehension at Parke State School, we are focusing on the strategies that research has identified as being used by good readers as a whole school. Proficient readers build on and activate their background knowledge before reading, writing, speaking or listening; their learners begin without thinking. (Irwin et al. 1996)

Prior knowledge is what each student brings to the reading experience – a combination of student’s attitudes, experience and knowledge. By thinking about the topic students are able to connect with what they already know, giving them a base on which to build new knowledge and give them a head start to comprehending the text.

How can you help? Here are some questions you can ask your child when reading with them:

• What do you already know about this topic?
• Have you read something similar?
• What type of text is this – narrative, letter, poem, information report?

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
All new and existing parents are invited to attend the P&C AGM. Nominations welcome! Come and be a part of our 2015 P&C Committee.
Monday, 16 February
6:30pm
Parke State School Staffroom
ALL WELCOME!

**LEVIES**
Details of the 2015 Levies will not be confirmed until the AGM on 16 Feb.
We will keep you posted.

**BOOKCLUB**
Issue 1
Due Friday 13/2/2015

Parent / Teacher Communication
Parent/Teacher Interviews are held periodically throughout the year and they usually occur towards the end of Term 1 and Term 3. Should you wish to meet with your child’s teacher in addition to these scheduled interviews please contact the office in person or by phone to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Report cards are issued at the end of each semester.

**Student Absences**
Student absences must be explained. This can be done by either phoning the office or sending a note with your child the following day.

**Medication At School:**
Should your child require ANY medication to be administered at school, you need to complete and sign a “Medication Administration Form”. These are to be collected from the office.

All medication MUST have a pharmacy label attached.
School staff keep a register of when medication has been administered to your child and this is kept on file at the school.

**Student Sign In / Sign Out:**
To ensure accurate records of student movements are kept please make sure you sign your child in or out if they are late, attending an appointment inside school hours, or have to leave early.

The student sign in book is located in the office.

**ATTENTION**
Prep Student Families
Every year, The Chronicle do a special feature celebrating our Prep Students. A photographer will be visiting our school on:
Friday, 13 February 2015 @ 10:00am
So make sure you take time to clean those teeth, brush that hair, tie those laces and bring your biggest smile to school!

**PETPEP**
Monday, 16 February 2015
9:00am to 10:30am
(Gold Coin Donation Appreciated)

Representatives from the RSPCA are visiting our school and bringing some very special pets with them. This is a very informative session about the roles and responsibilities of a pet owner and how to be safe around animals.

Please bring a Gold Coin Donation to help continue the great work by the RSPCA and PETPEP.

**STUDENT DETAILS**
With the start of a new year some of your personal details may have changed.
Student cards will be coming home to each family. Please check these carefully and make sure that all details are correct.

Should any changes need to be made, please mark them clearly and return to the office.

**School Payment Info**
Payment Methods Accepted:
Cash, Cheque, Direct Deposit
Please place ALL cash & cheque payments in the blue lock box in the office.

Invoices will be sent out from time to time from the School and the P & C.
If paying by cheque or direct deposit, please check your invoice carefully to make sure you are paying into the correct account.

Parke State School:
BSB: 064 - 421 / ACC: 00 - 900 - 486
Cheque Payable To: Parke State School

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