FROM THE PRINCIPAL
It is now Week 3 of the 9 week term and has gone very quickly. This reminds me of what we seem to say a lot - how the time does fly!

As research suggests, the trouble with the saying "time flies when you're having fun" is that time often seems to pass quickly when you're definitely not having fun. For example, time may fly when you're scrambling to finish an essay test, working at a hectic job, or trying to clean a messy room. The goal of this study was to examine the real psychology behind the old saying.

"Fun" is a hard thing to study anyway, since everyone has a different idea of what "fun" is, and it can't be measured objectively. So the researchers decided to focus on the question of attention. But even that presented challenges. In most real-life situations – working at an ice cream shop on a hot day, for example – your attention is engaged in many different ways: you're trying to scoop the ice cream efficiently but carefully, watching what you're doing; listening to customers, bosses, co-workers, and maybe the radio too; remembering how to make different sundaes; moving around in the shop; calculating prices; keeping an eye on empty cartons; cleaning up accidents, and so on.

So Chaston and Kingstone narrowed their study even further to visual attention: in other words, looking for something. Giving their subjects a single, specific activity in a controlled environment made it possible to change the difficulty of the activity (and therefore, how much attention it required) without changing much else about the situation.

The complications don't stop there. Chaston points out that psychologists actually recognize two different ways of estimating time. The first is called prospective estimation. That's when you're told in advance to keep track of the time while you're doing an activity. The other is called retrospective estimation. In this situation, you're not told that you're going to be asked how long the activity took, but the question is sprung on you after it's all over. Chaston and Kingstone studied prospective estimates, partly because this had been studied more widely before, and partly because they felt that modern people are always at least somewhat attuned to keeping track of the time.

Their result suggests that doing a task competes for attention with keeping track of the time. People who were more engaged in their task, because it was harder, tended to underestimate the amount of time that had actually passed. To take this back to real life, remember how quickly time passes when you're taking a long or difficult test. Now compare that to taking an easy, no-brainer test where you aren't allowed to leave class when you're done. After you finish, you might doodle, fidget, or think about what you're going to do over the weekend, but the time seems to drag by.

I hope that when the students ask, "Is it time to go home already?" that they have been engaged with challenging tasks throughout their day.

QBuild are at the school on Friday to complete cleaning up around the fence line and replacing the sand. The removed sand will be used to fill holes in on the oval and in the school grounds.

Judy Angel

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Congratulations go to Michael Wright, who has been awarded Student of the Week. Congratulations also to the following children who have received awards.

School Rule awards:
- Respect for Yourself – Annabelle Taylor
- Respect for Each Other – George Hayward

George, Michael and Annabelle

Hayden and Annabelle with their show and share
P&C MEETING
There is a general P&C meeting next week – Monday 18th February. Tuckshop dates will be discussed then.

NEW NAME FOR QCPCA
Our state parent body, formerly QCPCA, has changed its organisational structure and is now called P&Cs Qld. The change does not affect how our school P&C operates but will provide more focussed support for all state school P&C associations. Our dedicated P&C makes a vital contribution to the school community and always welcomes new members or support from volunteers.

APPEAL ESTABLISHED TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS
The recent damage resulting from the winds and flooding arising from ex-Cyclone Oswald has had a severe financial and emotional impact on many Queenslanders. Thousands of people have lost their homes, their possessions and their livelihoods and it will be a long road back to normality for them and their communities.
To help those Queenslanders most at risk the Queensland Government has established the Queensland Flood Appeal 2013. If you would like to donate to the appeal please do so at the Australian Red Cross website. www.redcross.org.au/qld-floods-2013.aspx

BOOK CLUB
Please have orders and payment returned by Friday 15 February.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Mon 18 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Thurs 21 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Thurs 28 Feb</td>
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<td>Thurs 28, Fri 1 Mar</td>
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