FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On Friday we had a very small school of 6 students as Kati, George and Jacque went to District Athletics for the Country Schools Team at Jandowae. Well done to these people for participating in this.

Miss Robinson arrived on Monday and has been busy helping and observing in the classroom. She will be teaching some lessons and will progress to teaching a full day over the next few weeks.

In the classroom, the elements of Explicit Instruction, as mentioned in last week’s newsletter, continue to be implemented. In this, there is ‘I do’, ‘You do’. While this has always been part of teaching, following these elements is making this more clear to the students.

Unfortunately, my husband seriously hurt his knee on the weekend and I am taking 3 days leave to help him while he recovers. I will be absent Friday (17th), Monday and Tuesday (20th, 21st August). Ms Siddins will be here in my place and she will be teaching the units which have been put in place for Maths, English and Science.

Judy Angel

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Student of the Week has been awarded to Hamish Cox.

Our school rule awards are:
- Respect for Yourself – Hayden Taylor
- Respect for Other Students and Staff – Alex Schwerin

Congratulations to Hamish, Hayden and Alex on receiving their awards.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS

The School Opinion Surveys (Parent/Caregiver, Staff and Principal Surveys) have been given out. We ask that you return the surveys either by the 17 August or the 20 August. Student surveys were completed online today.

Each year, Education Queensland undertakes a survey of parents/caregivers, students and staff to gauge their satisfaction with important aspects of schooling. You have been selected to participate in this survey, and I hope you will take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire either online or using the paper form provided.

Later in the year, the school will receive a report outlining the results of the survey for our school. The results will help the school to evaluate and to reflect on how well the school is going, and to identify areas for future development. The survey results are also an important part of the school’s annual report.

For these reasons, I hope you will complete the questionnaire and help make the school a better place for your child(ren). Your response is completely confidential. When you complete the paper form, the confidentiality envelope will remain sealed and forwarded to an external contractor where your responses will be scanned and the school’s data forwarded to the central office of the Department of Education, Training and Employment for analysis. The information that you provide will not be reported in ways that would allow you to be identified.

The barcode on your survey or the online access details have not been assigned to you individually. The barcode or online access details are only used to ensure that forms are distributed to the correct school and to allow the information to be analysed for the school.

Please complete the online survey or seal your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided and return it to the school by 17/20 August. Alternatively the survey can be sent directly to the external scanning contractor using the below reply paid address:

Salmat
C/- Manager
REPLY PAID 85396
62 Sandstone Place
PARKINSON QLD 4115

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please contact Judy Angel, Principal. Thank you in advance for your participation in the survey.

BER (LIBRARY OPENING)

We have yet to receive confirmation of a date for the opening.

BOOK CLUB

Please return orders by next Monday 20 August.

P&C

The P&C is holding a family film night at the Warra Memorial Hall on Saturday 1 September. All families and members of the community are invited to join us.

Thank you for your support in selling tickets in the framed Broncos jersey. Further books of tickets are available from the office.

Orders for the Soap Drive are due Wednesday 22 August.

The next general meeting will be held on Monday 27th August.
SCHOOL CAMP
As discussed at the last P&C meeting our proposed camp for this year has been postponed. However, we are looking into holding an overnight activity at the school. Further details will be advised.

REPEATING STUDENTS
Children who are forced to repeat a year at school are likely to suffer both academically and socially, new research suggests.

OECD figures released this year found about 8 per cent of Australian students were repeating grades at school, often with the intention of helping them catch up and get better educational outcomes.

But a University of Sydney study of more than 3,000 students in eight different New South Wales schools has found repeating a child could have the opposite effect.

Professor Andrew Martin says the research found the students who repeated did not only suffer academically, but they also struggled in other ways.

"We found that students who repeated a grade tended to be less likely to do their homework, they had more days absent from school, they tended to be a bit lower on the academic engagement and motivation scale, they were lower in academic confidence and they were lower in their general self-esteem," he told ABC News Online.

"In many cases, it seems what educators and parents were hoping for does not quite happen. It seems that simply pressing the pause button does not get at the issues that might have led to the decision to repeat a child." Professor Martin says while keeping students back a grade does work sometimes, especially for children in the very early years of schooling, the research shows it should not be the automatic response for students having difficulties.

"Rather than seeing grade repetition as the default option for under achievement and so on, it just tells us to pause for thought and really carefully consider what options can be rolled out to keep a child with their aged peers before there's a decision to repeat a child," he said. "Think once, think twice, think three times, and really look at what options are available to keep a child with peers their same age."

Professor Martin says the study, published in the British Educational Research Journal, found there were more effective ways to help students than repeating. "We should be providing an educational response to these students," he said.

QCATs – reporting and data collection
As QCATs are optional in 2012, except for English in Small schools there is no requirement to provide QCAT data for statewide purposes. The 2012 QCATs are included in C2C materials as suggested summative assessments — in Unit 5 of Years 4, 6 and 9 Mathematics and English; and in Unit 3 Year 4 Science. When used in this way, the QCATs will inform schools’ end-of-semester reporting.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week coming soon
National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) will be held this year from 27 August to 2 September.

The NLNW is a collaborative project involving all governments and school communities to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all children and young people, with a focus on school-aged children. NLNW gives schools the opportunity to get involved in a range of literacy and numeracy activities. The week aims to recognise locally the achievements of students and the work of teachers, parents and members of the community who support young people to develop stronger literacy and numeracy skills.

More information is available from the website: www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au

WOOLWORTH’S EARN AND LEARN
Woolworth’s Earn and Learn program has now finished, but if you still have some cards at home, please send them in as soon as possible. We should be receiving a kit from Woolies in the mail by Monday to return these certificates.

As well as the Woolworth’s Earn and Learn program, we are participating in the Coles Sports for Schools. This concluded on Tuesday, but if you still have some lying around, please send them in as well.

Thanks to the members of our school community who have been giving us Woolworths stickers or Coles vouchers. We have also had some posted to us from people travelling through!

TENNIS FEES
Just a reminder that some fees are still outstanding.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Canada and the U.S.A. will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Warra markets will be held on Saturday 8 September.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: I don't know what the key to success is, but the key to failure is trying to please everyone. Bill Cosby

DATES TO REMEMBER
Thur 16 Aug  Principal Cluster meeting
Fri 17/Mon20 Aug School Opinion Survey due
Mon 20 Aug  Book Club due
Wed 22 Aug  Soap Drive due
Mon 27 Aug  P&C meeting 8.45am
Sat 1 Sept  P&C Family Film Night 5.30pm
Tue 11 Sept  Roadcraft (Kogan)
Fri 14 Sept  Arts Council – Warra SS