Our Vision: An Excellent School Where Students Achieve Their Potential

The BRASSALL BUZZ

Be a Learner
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe

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Parents & Citizens’ Association meets 3rd Monday of the month at 7.00pm.

Our Vision: A learning place where children do their best

Great state. Great opportunity.
It has been fantastic to see so many of our parents and carers making time to attend this week’s Parent and Teacher interviews across the school. We certainly encourage all parents to have regular communication with their child’s teachers.

Where will you be in 2016?
A letter to all parents in relation to notification of students not returning to Brassall in 2016 has been sent home with each child today. To assist our planning for 2016, could you please ensure that this information is completed and returned to the office by Friday, 16 October. Thank you for your support.

Early and delayed entry to Prep
All Queensland children are eligible to attend full-time Prep from the beginning of the school year in which they will reach the age of 5 years by 30 June. Children whose birthday is in July through to December commence Prep at the beginning of the school year after their 5th birthday.

Early or delayed entry to Prep are options which may be considered in specific circumstances and where it is in a child’s best educational interests.

Early entry to Prep
Children who are younger than the prescribed age for Prep may be enrolled in Prep if:
- They turn 5 years by 31 July in the year of proposed attendance; and
- The Principal is satisfied the child is ready for education in Prep, having regard to their attributes (including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development, and level of knowledge and understanding).

The Principal may also enrol a child in Prep who is younger than the prescribed age if the child:
- Has previously started education that is equivalent to Prep in another state or country; and
- Is considered ready for education in Prep, having regard to their attributes (including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development, and level of knowledge and understanding).

A program is considered to be equivalent to Prep if it is full-time, school based, and has a defined curriculum delivered in the year prior to Year 1. Not all children who turn 5 years of age in July will be eligible for early entry to Prep. The child must also be considered by the principal to be ready for education. Parents seeking early entry to Prep for their child should contact the school and request an application form for consideration

In making a decision about a child’s early entry to Prep, you should consider what is in your child’s best interests for achieving success at school.

All Queensland children are encouraged to take part in a government-approved kindergarten program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher in the year before Prep. While a child may be extremely capable in certain areas of knowledge or have high levels of skill, they might not have developed the social or emotional maturity required for early entry to Prep and success at school. If you are considering applying for early entry to Prep, please consider if your child can:
- confidently make choices/decisions and follow through
- make several attempts to complete a new or challenging experience before seeking help
- actively seek and accept help from familiar and unfamiliar adults
- recall past experiences, events, or discussions
- talk confidently, including expressing feelings and ideas, to familiar and unfamiliar people
- demonstrate coping skills and resilience when things don’t go to plan
- interact appropriately with other children and adults cope well with separation from parents or carers for the duration of a school day
- confidently use fine and gross motor skills to complete tasks
- sustain active involvement in challenging experiences
- monitor and manage their own physical needs (e.g. toileting)
- sustain energy and display endurance across the learning and routine expectations of a school day
- apply knowledge from past learning to a new learning situation
- use a variety of vocabulary when classifying, sorting, sequencing and comparing everyday materials and objects
- use language associated with, and show understanding of, spatial positions and directions
- handle a book and recognise some letters, numbers and symbols (i.e. is familiar with printed material).

Delayed entry to Prep for children who have not previously been enrolled in Prep
Parents may delay their child’s entry to Prep (and subsequently Year 1) if they feel that the child is not ready to start school. For example, the child is not ready to cope with the social and emotional demands of schooling, or has delayed development. No formal documentation, assessment or approval is required for delayed entry to Prep. Principals do not make decisions on delaying a child’s entry to Prep. While some parents may choose to discuss their decision to delay entry with the Principal, it is not necessary for them to do so.

2016 Class Placement Requests
During Term 4 I normally receive many requests from parents seeking specific class placement for their child in the coming year.
Sometimes requests are for a specific teacher, sometimes a specific class, sometimes for placement with or away from other children. As a parent myself, I understand and in fact also harbour your same concerns and best intentions.

I’m sure though, that you will understand that it is impossible to structure a school based upon such a process of requests, where guarantees can never be given. In fact it often complicates matters and sometimes causes distress when requests cannot be met. It’s important to remember that teachers will not necessarily be allocated again to the same year level/s, in fact all teachers have the opportunity to request a change to their status from year to year.

Ultimately class structures are determined by enrolments. Whether straight grades, composite or multi-age grouping, classes are always formed with the intention to reduce teacher-student ratios. Friendship groups are maintained in the playground as much and more than in the classroom environment. Similarly, separating some students in classes often still does not prevent them influencing each other in the playground.

If your child is diagnosed with a disability, then planning for the coming year, including programming and placement will be coordinated by Mrs Donna Bracker (Head of Special Education Services). Please feel free to contact Mrs Bracker to discuss any questions you may have.

In all other instances, a very careful and lengthy process of class construction and placement is undertaken. This involves all current Class Teachers, our Learning Support Specialists, the Deputy Principals, Head of Special Education Services and myself. By the time class placements are determined and class lists released you can be assured that considerable thought and professional judgements have been put into each child’s placement.

As always every State School staffing and therefore class structure is dependent upon the Day 8 Enrolment Census at the start of each new school year. Class composition, teacher year level allocations and class placements are all subject to adjustment or change in the days following the Day 8 Census as Education Queensland adjusts each school’s entitlement.

Warm Regards and Best Wishes

Mr Greg Brand
Principal

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**From the Deputies**

**SWPBS - School Wide Positive Behaviour Support**

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be A Learner

**Focus lessons for the next two weeks are:**

- **Week 2:** Be Respectful, Responsible and Safe at sport and on excursions.
- **Week 3:** Be Responsible - Use all equipment for its intended purposes.

**Chantel Collie**
A/Deputy Principal

**Interschool Sport**

This Friday Interschool sport will recommence with some great match-ups. We look forward to hearing the game reports during Monday’s Assembly.

**Friday 9 October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Opposition</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Girls</td>
<td>Mt Crosby SS - B</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Jacaranda St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys A</td>
<td>Raceview SS - B</td>
<td>12:40pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys B</td>
<td>Raceview SS - A</td>
<td>12:40pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Boys</td>
<td>Raceview SS - B</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Len Johnson Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys A</td>
<td>Karalee SS - A</td>
<td>12:40pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Girls A</td>
<td>Raceview SS - A</td>
<td>12:40pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>Raceview SS - A</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Limestone Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>Mt Crosby SS</td>
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**Summa Todd**
Deputy Principal

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**Brassall School DISCO**

**When:** Friday 16th October 2015

**Where:** Brassall School Hall

**Time:** Prep to 3: 6:00pm - 7:15pm
Years 4-6: 7:30pm - 9:00pm

**Entry:** $2.00

### School Swimming Term 4 Year 3 & 5

Payments are due TOMORROW, Friday 9th October for swimming starting in week 2 term 4. This program will run for the next 7 weeks during PE lessons. Please remember to bring togs, towels and all necessary equipment. I’m super excited and hope you are too!

**Met West Cricket**

Congratulations to Caleb D who has been selected on the Met West Cricket 12 years boys team. We wish him luck in his trials for Qld State team in October.

**T20 Cricket**

Congratulations to Braith G, Mitch G, Jordan A, Jack L, Clay K, Caleb D, Jakob S and Lucas S who went away with Miss Woods last term to represent Brassall at the T20 Milo Cricket Gala Day. This was a great day of cricket with the boys winning 2 out of 4 games and drawing in 1. We came second place at the end of the comp and had a great day. We are hoping to have a Cricket team for the Interschool Sport Summer Season in 2016 and this is a great way to get to know the game. If you would like to play T20 cricket please contact John Butterworth at johnb@qldcricket.com.au. I would also like to thank Mrs Doyle for her help transporting and her spectacular photography throughout the day.
PCYC Indigenous Drumbeat Program

The happy drummers pictured above were all involved in DRUMBEAT, which is a building resilience through rhythm program, run last term by The Ipswich PCYC. The program utilises both social learning theory and cognitive behavioural therapy to deliver a range of therapeutic and social learning outcomes, including improved emotional regulation, increased self-esteem, and improved social skills, that lead to better relationships and an increased sense of belonging. The program was developed so that young people can transfer the lessons from the drum circle to their everyday lives. The students addressed social issues such as peer pressure, bullying, dealing with emotions, tolerating diversity, identity and social responsibility in a very fun, positive and supportive environment.

Get Red, Red, Ready for Day for Daniel

On Friday, 30 October, Brassall State School will celebrate ‘Day for Daniel’. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation was established in 2005 and is committed to Keeping Kids Safe! The foundation has two main aims; to educate children on how to stay safe in a physical and online environment and to support young victims of crime.

The message for students to achieve these aims is to: RECOGNISE, REACT & REPORT.

RECOGNISE that there are dangers out there, but you can help to keep yourself safe. Be alert for the clues that warn us when something is unsafe.

If you feel scared, sad, confused, or upset, you need to REACT by getting away from the danger. Remember to run to a safe location if you feel unsafe.

REPORT any problem to an adult in your life who cares about your safety. They can keep you safe from harm and make a situation safe again for you.

I encourage all students to wear something RED on the day, in remembrance of Daniel. I also encourage you to discuss these very important safety issues with your children. Please visit the website DanielMorcombe.com.au for more information. You can also find a FREE SAFETY APP to download. The ‘Help Me’ button sends an emergency text with GPS location details to two nominated mobile numbers.

Children are our future and must be protected. With your help we can make a difference, so wear red on Friday, 30 October and spread the word about Keeping Kids Safe!

Nicole Lovey
HOC Student Services
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