It is easier to go down a hill than up, but the ISSUE 4 Brassall Newsletter provides a good foundation for successful next year! In 2015, all class based teaching staff comes under the strategy of “Accuracy”.

Reading isn’t like learning to talk or walk. It doesn’t happen naturally and is not automatic! Teachers plan specific tasks of a reading program to build five important components that students need to become good readers. Parents can also work on these components to support their child’s development.

The five components are:
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics
- Sight Words
- Fluency
- Comprehension

Phonological Awareness is hearing and manipulating the sounds of language. Children need to know that sounds can be broken apart. This begins with hearing separate words within sentences, syllables in words (“can – die”) and sounds that make up “w-o-r-d-s”. It is also being able to rhyme (“pig, wig, dig”). Learning how to read begins in children’s ears and reading to them, singing nursery rhymes and playing auditory games provides a foundation for successful reading.

Phonics is attaching sounds to letters. (The letter “a” says “aah,” as in apple). Most children who don’t read well don’t know the short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) because they sound similar and are hard to remember. You can assist by helping your child not only to know the letter name, but also the sound attached to it. Reading with your son or daughter each night is a great start. At Brassall we use the Jolly Phonics program to support the teaching of Phonics in the early years.

Sight words basically refer to memorising words that don’t follow easy phonics rules. The best way to learn sight words is by reading lots of stories and information in books and magazines, rather than doing lots of worksheets or just using flash cards. Children need to see the words in print to make the “connection” during reading practice. In classrooms we often focus on this in literacy group times and refer to this as “Word Work”. When students can know both their sounds and sight words to automaticity, they spend less time trying to decode and can focus more on fluency and comprehension. The teaching of these strategies comes under the strategy of “Accuracy”.

Fluency refers to reading smoothly, with expression at the speed a person talks. Non-fluent readers “decode” words as they read, use a monotone voice or say the words they recognise too quickly.

Reading in this way blocks the reader comprehending what is being read. To help with fluency choose texts that aren’t too hard for the child to read, and have them re-read each page until they are reading it fluently. Having them re-read favourite story books (known texts) you have read to them in the past is a good way to build success in reading fluently. The fluency develops because they know the text, and have heard it read many times before!

Comprehension is our understanding of what was read, our whole purpose for reading. Parents can help by reading to their children poetry, stories, signs, cartoons, packets, recipes etc. This will put new words and ideas “into their ears”. One of the CAFE strategies to aid in comprehension is “Check for Understanding”. When reading, if we stop and ask ourselves two questions, that can help us check that we understand what we are reading.

Ask: “Who is this about?” and “What is happening?”. Expanding Vocabulary also assists with comprehension. When reading with your child, take the opportunity to talk about new and interesting words and what they mean.

All five of the components I’ve outlined are important. It is not enough to “know phonics”. Knowing Phonics and a list of Sight Words does not guarantee Fluency. Being able to read out loud does not always lead to Comprehension. All components work together to develop good readers. Please don’t forget the role you play as parents ensuring the future of your child is a Good Reader. Time spent and encouragement given at home will prove worthwhile throughout your child’s schooling.

Reading and Comprehension - Our No.1 Priority!

Updating Your Details
It is important to keep us informed of any change to your personal details. Changes to information such as telephone numbers, emergency contacts, postal address, Court Orders, Family plans and/or Parent Agreements are all vital pieces of information to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child (our student). Either contact us at the school on 3813 4333 or visit the office (8am to 3:45pm) to update any information if necessary.

P & C Facebook Page
In addition to the recently launched QSchools App which links to the school website, the P & C have developed a School Facebook Page to help keep parents/carers informed. Please like our page!

Brassall State School P&C

Payment Cut-Off Dates
Not all dates these dates these dates these dates

Shave for a Cure
Wow, awesome job Brassall, with well over $10,000 dollars raised! We had some very brave shavers lose their hair - plus Mr Pennie who sported a ‘rainbow’ look!
On behalf of our school community thank you to Mrs Nicole Lovey (HOC - Student Services) and Mr Jonathan Lilley ( Chaplain) for coordinating this event!

Warm Regards and Best Wishes,

Mr Greg Brand
Principal

From the Deputies

SWPBS - School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be A Learner

Matrix Lesson Plans:
Each week, as part of our SWPBS program, the students are explicitly taught one, two or three particular lessons that we focus on. These are the focus lessons that are placed in the Buzz Newsletter each fortnight. After these lessons are taught, students can earn extra pollen points for following the particular Brassall B lessons for the week.

Focus lessons for the next fortnight are:
Week 8: Be Safe - Walk on hard surfaces and stay on paths; Be Respectful - Help keep the school clean and tidy.
Week 9: Be Respectful - Look after belongings and school property; Be Respectful, Responsible and Safe when using the toilets.

Congratulations to the children whose names appear below:

10 Buzz Cards Sausage Sizzle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Hannah S, Tarni T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6Y</td>
<td>Kyra-Lee C, Breanna M, Kyeesha T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Vision: An Excellent School Where Students Achieve Their Potential

School Photo Day is fast approaching - 31 March & 1 April
Remember these fast approaching points:
- Read all relevant instructions for your preferred payment method. All payments are due on photo day.
- You may pay by cash, or place your order online using your child’s individual 'shookey' listed on their envelope and pay with your credit card.
- Please enclose correct money as no change will be given.
- Sibling photo envelopes are available at the school office upon request. THESE PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE SCHOOL, ON PHOTO DAY, USUALLY FROM 8AM
- Please instruct siblings to attend the photo studio during this time. Photographers are unable to search for students who do not attend.
- Do not seal envelopes inside each other. You may include payment for all children in one envelope, however please indicate on this envelope the names of all the children you are paying for.
- All students should wear their correct school uniform on both days as they could be photographed on either day.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact MSP Photography on 07 3848 3946 or email admin.seo@msp.com.au

School Attendance - EVERY DAY COUNTS
Our current attendance rate is 93.1%. Buzz would love to see this percentage increase in our next newsletter. If you would like to discuss any problems or issues about your child’s attendance please contact the office and make an appointment.

Congratulations to the following classes for reaching their 100% Attendance Weekly Targets:
Week 6: 5/6Y & 2/3/4/5M
Week 7: Prep E
Prep E are our first class to reach their 100% Attendance Target for the second time and are hoping to reach this target again this term.

Friday Sport
Our first round of Interschool Sport was a success and our students are looking forward to matches this Friday. Please find the most recent match information below:

**Brassall School DISCO**
When: Thursday, 26th March
Where: Brassall School Hall
Time: Prep to 2: 6:00pm -7:15pm
Years 3-6: 7:30pm -9:00pm
Cost: $2.00

- Popcorn $1.00
- Drinks: soft drinks $2.00, water $1.50 and poppers $1.00
- Chocolates $2.00
- Glow Sticks $1.00
- Sausage Sizzle $2.00

Come along and celebrate the end of term with your friends. Listen to great music and win prizes!!!!

HELP WANTED
The Canteen (Buzz On In Café) need your help. If you have a couple of hours you could spare to join the happy team of volunteers, it would be very much appreciated. No experience necessary. On the job training provided. Just come along and have a good time. For more information, contact Di at the Canteen in person or call 3813 4359.