Our Vision: An Excellent School Where Students Achieve Their Potential
The BRASSALL BUZZ

ISSUE 8
21 May 2015

Rule of the Term:
Be Respectful

Thought for the Week:
The best advice we ever had was given us as toddlers: take one step at a time.
- P.K. SHAW

Across the Principal’s Desk ...

Buzz Needs You Here - On Time!
I am very concerned about the number of children who are late to school on a regular basis. For Term 2 the number of late arrivals is staggering - over 900 in just under 5 weeks of school! Our regular late arriving students can expect a phone call from our Engagement Officer over the next week. Continually being late is setting up children for a poor start to the day. They miss the “what is happening” talk from their teacher and often miss the start of the first important lesson. Students arriving late are also often embarrassed to walk into a full classroom where everyone is working.

Did you know that missing the first 10 minutes of every school day equals approximately 1.5 weeks of schooling over the course of a school year?

Pitch Perfect Performers!
Brassall’s Performing Arts program continues to shine with our Choirs well represented this week at the Ipswich Eisteddfod. Our students performed exceptionally well within their respective sectors and achieved some tremendous results:

- Senior Singing Choir - 2nd
- Glee A - 3rd
- Glee B - Highly Commended

I would like to make a special acknowledgement of Music Specialist Mrs Natasha Raddie who goes the extra mile for our students with great enthusiasm and high quality instruction. A big thanks also to our Performing Arts parents who assist throughout a very busy Eisteddfod period, making sure our students look ‘smart and professional’ on the day!

NAPLAN Bites the Dust at Brassall
The media has devoted considerable space to NAPLAN related stories across Queensland last week. While NAPLAN is simply a “point-in-time” test and in no way measures the totality of a well-rounded education, it does provide us with a very useful “snapshot” of student performance in aspects and Literacy and Numeracy.

It is with great appreciation that I commend the teachers and support staff of Brassall for preparing our students for last week’s National Testing for Years 3 and 5 students. Our teachers worked diligently from the beginning of 2015, focused on Reading and Reading Comprehension, and our students certainly worked hard to ‘be the best that they can be’ throughout this period also. Well done to everyone involved!

Mothers’ Day Thanks to our Brassall’s Volunteer Mums!
On behalf of our students and Brassall community my sincere thanks to those dedicated Brassall mums who organised the fantastic Mothers’ Day Stall recently. The stall was a great hit with the children and went a long way to relieving a ‘Stressful Saturday’ for many Dad’s out there! A massive thanks to Jo Baker, Kylie Grainger, Fiona Bentley, Terri Thompson, Sandra Eaton, and Amanda & Ashley Neuendorf.

School Uniform Notice
With the arrival of cooler weather recently, I have noticed a small number of our students are not wearing the appropriate school uniform, especially in relation to ‘jumpers’. Our school jumper is reasonably priced and costs much less than the type of jumpers I have noticed some students wearing (e.g. ‘Surf’ or ‘Skate’ apparel). Our school colours are Royal Blue and Maroon, therefore the clothing children wear to school needs to reflect this. Brassall State School is a ‘uniform school’ and it is expected that all students will wear the correct school uniform. I take this matter seriously because we wish the school to reflect the high standards that you have set and rightly expect of us.

Late Office Notifications
Our office frequently receives many last minute requests from parents regarding changes to pickup places, people and times for students across our campus of 795 students. Whilst we appreciate many of these changes are unavoidable, we do ask that firm arrangements are made with your child before they leave in the morning. If you need to contact us, please do so prior to 2.15pm as we cannot guarantee messages will reach students after this time - especially on a Friday with activities such as Interschool Sport. You support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Opportunity for Students to Experience another Culture and Make New Friends
From mid-July to late August, Ipswich State High School (ISSH) will be receiving exchange students from China. The new arrivals will live with a host family and attend ISSH for seven (7) weeks.

Term 2 Planner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>Beginner Strings Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>Ipswich Eisteddfod Choral Speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>Student of the North Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Jun</td>
<td>Queens’ Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Jun</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Jun</td>
<td>Year 8 Camp - Enki Golly</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Jun</td>
<td>Advanced Strings Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Jul</td>
<td>Silkstone Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Jul</td>
<td>Year 11 Fire Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Jun</td>
<td>Performing Arts Tour - Retirement Homes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Jun</td>
<td>Parents x Teachers Netball Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-23 Jul</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>24,25 Jul</td>
<td>P &amp; P Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>25 Jun</td>
<td>Brassall’s Got Talent – 7.00pm</td>
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<td>26 Jun</td>
<td>P &amp; P Behaviour Level A &amp; B Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Jun</td>
<td>Year 3-6 Behaviour Level A &amp; B Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Jun</td>
<td>TERM 2 ENDS</td>
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Term 3 Planner

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Jul</td>
<td>Term 3 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>13, 16, 20 Jul</td>
<td>Ipswich District Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Jul</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>20 Jul</td>
<td>Year 2 Ocean Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Jul</td>
<td>Student of the Month Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Jul</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Aug</td>
<td>Silkstone Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Aug</td>
<td>Instrumental Strings</td>
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<td>20 Aug</td>
<td>Singfest</td>
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<td>25 Aug</td>
<td>Prep Fun with Maths</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Aug</td>
<td>Year 1 Fun with Maths</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Aug</td>
<td>Student of the Month Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>PE Fun Day (Ball Games)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>Student of the Month Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>TERM 3 ENDS</td>
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N.B. Dates are correct at time of printing, and may change if deemed necessary.

Payment - Closing Dates
No money will be accepted after these dates

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<td>22 May</td>
<td>Ipswich Eisteddfod - Choral / Speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>Ipswich Advanced Strings Workshop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Jun</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<td>4 Sep</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
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Finance Hours
8 am to 10am Daily
As they plan for their arrival, ISHS are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student or the teachers who will accompany the group.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend ISHS and live the life of a local. There will be 15 students in total and two teachers arriving who will require homestays. The student group includes:
- 3 females: 12-13 year old
- 4 males: 15-16 year old
- 8 males: 12-14 year old.

Other key information:
- Duration of stay: 12th July 2015 - 28th August 2015
- Each student must have their own bed
- 3 meals a day to be provided
- Host family to arrange transport to and from school (eg. ‘gocard’ for the bus).

If you are interested in hosting one or maybe even two of these students, please contact Susan Sherlock either via email: ssher57@eq.edu.au or via phone 3813 4468 for more information by Friday 29 May.

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

Focus lessons for the next fortnight are:
Week 6: Be Responsible at the Buzz On In Café - Wait your turn, talk quietly, line up appropriately.
Week 7: Be Responsible and hand personal electronic devices to the office.

The implementation of SWPBS in 2013 has resulted in significant positive changes throughout our great school. These days we can see, hear and feel our students working hard - being the Best That They Can Be - giving our teachers the ability to spend their classroom time teaching the curriculum.

A big celebration is in order when we look at the behaviour within our school. When we look at our data and see the happy and excited faces of our students and staff, we know it is working. Our Assistant Regional Director – Mrs Helen Kenworthy - visited our school a few weeks ago and commented on the improvements she observed when walking the school grounds and visiting class rooms. When I visit classrooms to deliver SWPBS rewards - Pollen Points - Be Respectful, Be Responsible and hand personal electronic devices to the office.

Congratulations to EVERYONE and LET’S KEEP BUZZING!!!
Rayne (Buzz Man) Penny.

Unexplained Absences

Today your child will be given a print out from our system that lists all of their unexplained absences. We would like to be able to update our information to ensure our records are accurate. Could you please have a look at the listed dates and fill in the missing information and return it to the office ASAP. We would like to have this information updated before report cards are printed. If you have any questions about this please contact the office and ask to speak with Mrs Todd or Mrs Lovey.
Term 2 Attendance
We have seen recent improvement in our overall attendance rate, however we still see lots of room for improvement on Mondays and Fridays.

On Friday 8 May our highest Friday attendance this year was recorded at 92.2%. This week we would like to be able to smash that number and get the daily rate over 93%. Please talk to your children about this and let’s see if we can reach it.

Rayne Penny and Summa Todd
Deputy Principals

From the Literacy Coach

CAFÉ Strategy - ‘Check for Understanding’
Even as adult readers, there are times when we get lost and are not sure what has happened in the story. Fortunately, when this happens we have strategies to help us understand. However, children often keep reading, not realising they have lost comprehension. They are too concerned with reading accurately and forget to take the time to think about what they are reading.

How can we help them gain comprehension? One strategy we teach is Check for Understanding because good readers stop frequently to ask who and what.

How can you help your child with Check for Understanding?
1. When reading to your child, stop periodically and say, “Let’s see what has happened.” Do this 3 or 4 times throughout the story.
2. When reading to your child, stop and have them practise checking for understanding by saying, “I heard you say.....”
3. Ask your child the following questions:
   • Who did you just read about?
   • What just happened?
   • Was your brain talking to you while you read?
   • Do you understand what you just read?
   • What do you do if you don’t remember?

Thanks for your continued support at home!

Colleen Brown
Literacy Coach

School News

Buzz On In Pizza Pack
Look out for the bright yellow flyer, which has been sent home today, for a special order Buzz On In Pizza Pack which will be available on Thursday 18 June. This is a fundraising venture for the Year 6 students to raise money for the Yearbook. Order forms are due back to school by 12 June. If you misplace the order form a new one can be collected from the tuckshop.

Call to parents for Thursday 18 June! We are after some parents to help out in the tuckshop on this fundraising day. Please let the ladies know if you are available. Your time will be greatly appreciated.

Parents vs Teachers Netball
Want to put your Netball skills to the test? Nominate to play in the Parents team vs the Teachers on Thursday 18 June. Contact Mrs Kemp, to secure a position to take on Mr Brand and his talented squad.

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Term 2 Attendance

Sport News

InterSchool Sport
Please send in the most recent match information below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jnr Girls v Mt Crosby SS at 10:40pm</td>
<td>Snr B v St Mary’s SS at 12:30pm</td>
<td>Snr A v Karalee SS at 12:30pm</td>
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IMPORTANT MESSAGE – RECALL NOTICE

One of our suppliers has sent us a recall notice for the Wax Melt burners (pictured) – if you received one of these as a gift, can you please return it to the school with your child’s name and class noted, so we can refund you for the item.

We apologise for the inconvenience, but better to play it safe.

Jo Baker
Fundraising Coordinator

CELEBRATE MAY WITH SOME “MEXICAN MADNESS”

MEAL DEALS: available daily for first break.

1. **Torta** (Mexican toasted sandwich) – Baked beans with grated cheese. $6.00
2. **Nachos** - corn chips, cheese with a delicious bolognese dipping sauce. $6.00
3. **Chicken & Corn Rolls** - crunchy chicken & corn patty in a long roll with mayo & lettuce. $6.00

ALL MEAL DEALS INCLUDE A MEXICAN MADNESS

PLUS a free springwater.

Defence Kids Craft Club at the library

Every Wednesday at 2nd break, Defence Kids Craft Club is operating in the library verandah.

Each week we will be creating "works of art". Come along for a fun lunchbreak and an opportunity to discover new friends as well as your creative flair.

Mrs Dawes, DSTA

From the Kids Cafe

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School News

Coach

P and C News

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