Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Last week Principals from all over CQ Region gathered for our bi-annual Regional Principals’ conference this time held in Gladstone. It was wonderful to experience the magnificent facilities of the new Gladstone Entertainment and Conference Centre and all the eateries and cafes in the Gladstone CBD. Our region covers a great variance of geographical areas from the coast to the border east-west, and from Bloomsbury in the north to Gayndah in the south. Over 200 principals gathered to collaboratively engage in discussing the conference focus—Journeying to Excellence. DETE’s focus is clearly set out in the department’s documents DETE Renewal Better Services, Better Outcomes; DETE Strategic Plan 2014—2018 and United in the Pursuit of Excellence. Parents can access these documents on the Education Queensland website.

CQ principals have now been charged to fully engage in the principles of Instructional Leadership to lead their schools so that high quality teaching and learning is very evident in each and every school. At Byfield State School I shall be working with teachers to improve our students’ vocabulary skills and our teaching staff in delivering effective programs for this to occur. I aim to see a huge improvement in each student’s writing and spelling data over the rest of this year.

Under the Great Results Guarantee plan we have employed Ms Jodie Stickley as a Teacher Aide. Jodie will be working with identified students in improving a student’s enunciation, speech and oral literacy skills, so that these students can decode words with a greater success. We are hoping to see great improvement in these students reading levels and a huge improvement in their spelling when writing.

Many thanks to our wonderful teaching staff for ensuring that things ran smoothly whilst I was away. Also thanks to our talented relief staff!

Yours in educational improvement

Jo –Anne Shephard

Principal
Students must attend for their timeslot ONLY. Please check the timetable. There are some children who have not attended for weeks!!!

Focus:
- Fluency
- Accuracy
- Sight Words
- Reading to punctuation
- Vocabulary

From the Junior Classroom

In our classroom we aim high!!!!

Thank you to Mrs Palmer, Miss Lee, Mrs Milne and Mrs Fotopolous for making sure that quality learning continued in our classroom whilst I was away. Last week the students created their first story retell, edited their text with support and then.......... read it aloud to record it using the Audacity tool. Audacity is an audio tool on Windows that one can use to record items. We are hoping to have the students audios and their illustration scanned to present to parents some time later this term.

We are well on the way to achieve the Premier Reading Challenge target. Library books can be returned Wednesdays for an extra weekly exchange. Prep—Year 2 students are to read or experience 20 books. Let’s beat the seniors to reach our target!

We have been having a campaign on cold and flu hygiene. The staff are Very wise Owls!

From the Senior Classroom

We are just finishing off assessment for the Unit 3 of English and Math. The Year 5s & 6s have had a great time creating an animated movie based on a moral dilemma. Some of them were very interesting and funny. Ask your child what their moral dilemma was....

Just a reminder that homework is due on Fridays. The students are tracking their homework and those 100% ers will get an award at the end of term. Please remember that homework is helping students to become independent, time management savvy and it helps to put what they have learned into their long-term memory.

Mrs Issaakidis
WEEKS 5 & 6
Junior Classroom
Hayley, Sophie
Mason, Dylan

Hats off Award
Joe, Mason, Sophie

Senior Classroom
Lochy, Eden, Amelia,
Brendan

Music, PE & LOTE Awards
Dellie (LOTE), Mia (PE),
Paige

P&C NEWS
Thank you to everyone for your support for a GREAT P&C Market Day. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this day the huge success it was. Thank you to the parents who donated cake items for sale or plants to sell.

A very special Thank You to all the parents who helped serve or cook in the BBQ stall. All your efforts and time is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the organising committee for all the pre-planning, those who helped with the setting up and dismantling and to those who did all those behind the scene jobs on the day. A great team effort!

Byfield Buzz! ....Know what your child is trying to achieve!

- From 9:00—9:20 in each classroom teaching staff commence the day with Drills. Drills help our students to move ‘the learning’ to ‘the automatic’, that is to the permanent part of the brain. Think how long this takes you—‘What’s 3 lots of 4?’ Milliseconds! That is because you know it!

Think how easy it would be for your child to ‘know’ than have to think about the ‘easy stuff’. You can help by having your child at school by 8:55 so they are ready for their learning.

The staff are finding that those children who are continually late are still thinking about how to do the ‘easy stuff’ in their learning.

Sick Children or Leaving Early
If you are picking up your child for any reason, (sick, dentist, sports etc.) it would appreciated if you knock at the classroom door before entering so as not to disrupt the session.

Thank you
The Teachers.

The South Passage
On Monday the Year Sixes went on a sailing ship called the ‘South Passage’, with kids from Park Avenue State School. It was fun! We got to do lots of different things like hoist the main sail, go on the boom net and drive the boat. It was really hard pulling up the main sail and we all got quite tired very quickly. We also went to Middle Island and had a swim.

We made lots of new friends.

Thank you to Park Avenue for the invitation to join them.

By Rhys, Seth and Madison Year 6
Magnets a deadly risk to children
The Office of Fair Trading is renewing its warning about the dangers of magnetic toys. If swallowed, magnets can result in serious injury or even death. For more information about product safety visit the www.productsafety.gov.au

Supporting your child’s wellbeing and learning
When children have a strong sense of wellbeing, they experience greater success in learning.

Our school is strongly committed to enhancing the wellbeing of our students which is why we have a range of activities and supports across our school that help students feel and function the best they can.

This is part of a Queensland-wide recognition of the importance of wellbeing and is supported by a series of webisodes delivered by respected psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. The short video presentations are available at: http://deta.qld.gov.au/initiatives/learningandwellbeing/resources.html

What our students say about how they demonstrate our School Rules......

At Byfield State School we demonstrate our school rules—
- Be Safe! - Be Responsible! - Be Respectful! - Reach Beyond! -

Be Safe
Do not run on cement—Brendan
Don’t climb trees at school—Yasmin
Do not jump off the spider web—Jade

Be Responsible
Show examples to the younger students and take pride in our school.—Aidyn
Always having a tidy desk—Mia

Be Respectful
Don’t talk when the teacher is talking—Van / When someone is talking; listen—Paige
Always knock before coming into a classroom—Hayden / Always using manners—Talia

Reach Beyond
Try your hardest—Jessie / Handing in my homework every week—Michael
Having a neat and tidy uniform—Maya