News from the Principal—Sharon McMorrow

PARKING AROUND YARRILEE STATE SCHOOL

Over the past fortnight I have been involved in numerous meetings with local residents, the police, council parking officers, Education Qld Infrastructure Branch and parents regarding the lack of parking around Yarrilee State School.

As you would know Yarrilee is unlike any other school in the Bay as it is surrounded by bush or land held by developers and there are very few streets for parents to park in. These limited streets are very narrow and are not conducive to high volume parking. The school is in a high growth area and our enrolments continue to expand, however there has been no increase in available places for parents to park. The car park was built when the school had 200 students we are now a school of 800 students and growing every day.

The map to the right highlights our school boundaries.

The carpark and bus zone at the front of the school is not on school land and many parents are given advice from the council to take their parking concerns to the Principal. Whilst I am happy to address issues and concerns from parents I have no jurisdiction over the roads, surrounding streets, footpaths or the public car park located at the front of the school. This car park only has 50 car parks and very limited disabled parking, which is also a concern.
The public carpark contains a very short “Stop, Drop and Go Zone” but this only accommodates 7 cars at one time and the traffic then becomes banked up around the corner and out on to Scrub Hill Road and Pialba Burrum Heads Road. The flow of traffic in the car park and “Stop Drop and Go Zone” becomes halted when vehicles exiting the car park attempt to exit right. The school has located all staff parking inside the school grounds so that the council public car park is not being utilised by staff.

We continue to advise parents to stagger their pick up times after school in an effort to minimise the amount of traffic in the “Stop, Drop and Go Zone.”

The safety of our students and parents is our top priority and concern. The school and the P&C continue to meet with the council to highlight our concerns above on behalf of the school community and local residents. Please contact our P&C for ways in which you may be able to assist and support with the information campaign to the local council.

**OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION PRIORITIES FOR 2017**

**Statement of Intent for 2017**

**Mission:**

Yarrilee State School aims to ignite creative, imaginative, problem solving, engaged students and staff through an innovative learning environment embracing our seaside location of Hervey Bay.

**Core Values/ Guiding Principles:**

Yarrilee SS embraces a range of learners and recognises the importance of creating pathways that allow all children to develop to their full potential. Yarrilee SS values the importance of “developing strong foundations to support growth” in our core priority areas of:

- Whole School Reading
- Whole School Writing/ Word Study
- Whole School Numeracy
- Whole School STEM and Digital Technology

As an IPS school Yarrilee SS provides Excellence Programs that are above and beyond the regular classrooms. “Excellence in Music and Performing Arts”, “Excellence in HPE and Sport”, “Excellence in STEM and Digital Technology”.

On our school Facebook page and via school newsletters this year we will be sharing some of the innovative and focussed work that is occurring across our school in the areas of Reading, Writing/ Word Study, Numeracy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and Digital Technology. Our fabulous P&C continue to support our improvement priorities by providing funding to purchase additional laptops, robotics and coding devices so our students may engage in these state of the art programs preparing them for a future that is far beyond our own.

**PARENT OPEN CLASSROOM AFTERNOONS**

This week classes have conducted “Parent Open Classroom Afternoons” across all 3 Mini Schools. Senior School Classes and the Lighthouse had open afternoons on Tuesday.

Middle School Classes had open afternoons on Wednesday.

Junior School Classes had open afternoons on Thursday. The purpose of the afternoons was to provide an opportunity for you to get to know your child’s teacher, join in and participate in classroom learning activities together with your child and learn more about how your child’s classroom operates.

Teachers coordinated various activities that highlighted our key priority learning areas to provide parents with an insight into the types of hands on learning that children may participate in as part of their class programs.

We have had wonderful support and attendance at these sessions this week which has been very pleasing to see.

Each classroom teacher has also prepared a brochure or handout providing more information about themselves, how their classroom operates, learning expectations, upcoming important dates and more to help keep parents informed. These brochures and handouts have been distributed to students this week to share with their parents.

If you were unable to attend the “Open Classroom Afternoon” scheduled for this week due to work or other commitments, teachers would welcome the opportunity to arrange an alternative time to catch up, at a mutually convenient time. The contact details for your child’s teacher will be displayed in the brochure/handout coming home. Please feel free to make contact with your child’s teacher to arrange a time to meet.

We look forward to the opportunity to work together with our families throughout the 2017 school year.

**OUR FABULOUS MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM IN 2017**

This year we welcome 2 teachers to our Music Program at Yarrilee.

Miss Rowe who is teaching Prep – Year 2 classroom Music is also leading our Yarrilee Voices choral program.

Mr Frangos who is teaching Yr 3-6 classroom Music is also leading our Guitar Groups and Rock Band enrichment programs.

Ms Jenny Conlon has been appointed as our Strings teacher in for 2017. Strings lessons are conducted on Tuesdays with String Ensemble rehearsals before school from 8.00am.

Ms Brianna Harper returns as our Brass, Woodwind and Percussion teacher in 2017. These lessons are conducted on Thursdays with Band rehearsals before school on Thursday from 8.00am.

We look forward to a dynamic Music and Performing Arts year as our Yarrilee Voices, Guitar Groups, Rock Band, String Ensemble and Band share their talents with our school and broader community.

We also look forward to our new partnership with League Studios, the dance studio now operating out of our school hall of an afternoon and on Saturdays. As the year progresses some of our students may have the opportunity to work with Candice and Brad from League Studios as part of our Performing Arts program.
BRINGING THE CLASSROOM TO PARENTS VIA OUR SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE
Did you know that Yarrilee State School is on Facebook? Our school Facebook page provides us with another form of communication with our parents and wider community.
I regularly post information and photos on the school Facebook page about school happenings, reminders, updates and general information about things that have been happening in classrooms.
If you have not visited our school Facebook page for a while please take the time to visit and see what is new at https://www.facebook.com/YarrileeStateSchool/. By “liking” our school Facebook page you will then receive updates and postings regularly through your Facebook feed.
Have a wonderful fortnight.

Sharon McMorrow
Principal

CANBERRA CAMP 2017 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Reminder: Once again we have been able to offer a strictly limited special camp experience for students in Years 5 and 6. This camp is in addition to the normal school camping program and is only on offer to a limited number of students. All spots have been filled however, if you would like your child to be placed on the expression of interest list, please contact the admin office for a form. For parents who have had their child's position confirmed, final costs and invoices will be forwarded next week and the final payment day is Friday 9th June 2017.
For those families who have already paid the $400.00 deposit, please be aware that you can part pay weekly, fortnightly or monthly to help with the cost of the camp.

SPORTS SPACE

DEAR PARENTS,

AFL Auskick has commenced after school on Tuesdays for the next 6 weeks. This program gives students a fun and introductory experience with AFL. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend other Auskick centres in the Bay during the year.
At a school level, Mr Grimsley’s after school AFL Development Program will commence next Monday, February 13. This program is for interested students aged 9 to 12. They don’t have to be world beaters, but should have a desire to play the game and participate fully in all activities. To register your child’s interest in this program, a note will be going out by Friday. There will be no cost involved but all participants will be expected to follow behaviour protocols and as stated previously, participate to the max. As the Yarrilee SS Cubs teams will not be happening as it has in previous years I am working on ways for these participants to have future opportunities to play games against other schools during the year.
Jett Wright will soon be participating in the Wide Bay Aquathlon. Jett follows a Wright dynasty of sporting success and we wish him all the best for this event.

Upcoming events
13 Feb: Swimming nominations for 10 years and up are due on Monday February 13. Students must be attending swimming club and should be training regularly to be any chance for consideration. See Mr Grimsley for more information.
21 Feb: AFL Gala Day is coming up for Year 5/6 boys and girls. There have been some delays with confirming this date. A note will be sent home regarding this day shortly.
23 Feb: Hervey Bay District trials for AFL (boys) and Softball (boys & girls) is happening on February 23. If your child is aged 10 or up and plays these sports at representative standard, please send them to see Mr Grimsley or Mr Boon for trial information.
It is great to see so many students being organised for HPE and participating to the best of their ability.

Remember your hat!
Cheers
Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Boon

LIGHTHOUSE
Last week our Lighthouse Kitchen Garden Program started for the year. We would just like to thank all the wonderful parents and teachers that have donated food staples for our program. It has been a huge help to keep the cost of running the program down.
We welcome and appreciate any donations of food staples or seeds for the garden.

REEF GUARDIAN SCHOOL
Yarrilee State School is a Reef Guardian School and to help guard the reef Yarrilee SS classrooms are minimising waste in the following ways;
· A container with a lid for compost scraps (compost collection for the school garden compost bins)
· A collection tub for paper to be recycled (Recycle paper for the recycle skip)
· A recycle box for printer cartridges (Parents and others can bring them into the school office)

In Term 1, our Year 2 students will be coordinating the collection of recyclable materials through their Science curriculum – the chemistry strand. In Chemistry, students look at the types of concepts and topics related to recycling, reusing and reducing waste. Lots of important discussions and activities are possible, both at school and in your homes as this is a valuable life skill and environmentalist practice which benefits us, our future and our Earth.

P & C NEWS
The next general meeting for our P & C will be held on Thursday 23rd Feb at 3.10pm in the staffroom (Admin block). To help support our school and our P & C we would love to see new faces at the meeting.

You Can Do It Keys to Success: Week 4 – Persistence Week 5 - Resilience
DENTAL VAN NEWS
We would like to advise parents that we are now at Yarrilee State School and our aim is to firstly see Year 5 and Year 1 students. We will complete any outstanding current Year 6 students not seen in 2016. If there are any students NEW to Year 6, please come to the dental van to receive a medical consent form. Please be patient, as all students who return their medical consent forms, when issued, will be seen at our earliest convenience. (Forms will be issued as we progress through the year levels.)
If you have any further concerns, please contact us at the dental van or phone and leave a message on 0419762925. We will be opened every Monday, Wednesday and Friday only.

TUCKSHOP AND UNIFORM SHOP
Just a reminder the Tuckshop will operate on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The uniform shop also has resumed its normal hours and will open on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30am and Thursday afternoons from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. If you have any enquiries, please phone the office.

FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE 2016 FOR STUDENTS
All Queensland state school students can now download multiple free copies of the latest Microsoft Office to their personal home computers and mobile devices.
Students will need to use their school email address to sign in. The subscription lasts for as long as they are a Queensland State School student.
To download Office 2016 to a PC or Mac, visit portal.office.com, log in using your school email address, click through to install and follow the on-screen process. For tablets and smartphones, download from the app store and sign in with your school email address. Detailed instructions are available at education.qld.gov.au/office2016.