Principals Pen,

We had a perfect day for our sports carnival last week and I would like to congratulate all students for their participation. Well done to those students who received places on the day. I would like to thank Mr Kavney for organising the carnival and to teaching and nonteaching staff for supervising and supporting our students during the day. We must also thank members of the P&C Committee for organising the tuckshop and to parents and staff who helped set-up and pack up all the equipment. It was a great day for all involved.

Congratulations to the students who were involved in the program “TEAM UP” that was organised and delivered by the Dalby PCYC. “TEAM UP” is a leadership program which will enhance our student leaders’ capacity to work as a team as well as improving their confidence levels. I would like to acknowledge the work demonstrated by our local Police Officers – Sergeant Brett, Constable Annie and Liaison Officer Neil for their assistance. Thank you to Mr Bach for supervising the students while attending the “TEAM UP” program.

Homework:
Recently, I have shared with staff some results that were collected last year regarding homework. It was interesting to read the positive and the negative comments around homework that have been experienced by students, teachers and parents. This information was also shared at last week’s P&C meeting. As a result of these discussions, our school is in the process of revising its homework policy to ensure that homework can be seen as something that is meaningful and achievable for all stakeholders.

At Dalby State School it is our belief that homework can add value to the school curriculum when it focuses on consolidating skills, concepts and understanding. However, the benefit of homework does not come from pages of unrelated photocopied worksheets or unreasonable levels of parental assistance. At our school, it is expected that the homework practice will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs appropriate to the developmental needs of the student. Teachers will ensure that individual classroom homework procedures are communicated clearly to parents and students.

Recent studies relating to the effectiveness and value of homework, report wide variations in the recommended amount of time that should be spent on homework and its associated academic benefits. Most research findings do agree that the number of out of school hours per day spent on homework is positively related to student academic achievement but reaches a point where too much appears to be detrimental.

“Overall it seems that some homework is better than too much or none at all, however the time on homework needs to be responsive to the student’s age and development. The research indicates that a ‘more homework the better’ view is misleading and should not be the basis for policy or practice.” (‘Homework Literature Review’ Dept. Education and Arts Queensland– November 2004)

As a school we want to ensure that the homework policy meets the needs of all our learners and that we implement a homework policy that will suit you and your child while at Dalby State School. Therefore, homework will look different for students in the early phase (Prep to Year 2), middle phase (Year 3-4) and upper phase (Year 5-7).

One of the most significant expectations around homework at our school is for students to be given reading homework. Students will need to be involved in reading texts/chapter books/home readers depending on their year level. We also will try and set homework that is relevant to the completion of assessment tasks or assignments related to C2C units taught in class. There is also the opportunity for students to access online programs that enhance one’s learning in literacy and maths (e.g. Reading Eggs, Mathletics, and phonics and spelling programs). By the middle of this term, you will receive more detailed information regarding our homework policy.

If you have feedback around homework that you would like to share, please email these comments to admin@dalbyss.eq.edu.au
Principals Pen Continued.....

Curriculum Update:
In 2014 schools will continue to implement the Australian Curriculum History Units and they will start the implementation of the Australian Curriculum Geography Units in P–10. Schools may choose to continue with Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) content in 2014. If taught as stand-alone units the SOSE content will be reported as SOSE. If incorporated within History and/or Geography, reporting will only be on that subject. From 2015 the complete Australian Curriculum Humanities and Social Sciences learning area will replace the Queensland SOSE Curriculum.

Early Start materials are being developed to generate data about students’ literacy and numeracy achievement and progress in Prep to Year 2. Tasks and marking guides for Prep will be available via OneSchool from 2014 and for Years 1–2 from 2015.

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority has extended the Australian Curriculum general capabilities learning continua for literacy and numeracy supporting inclusiveness of all students with disability.

National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program
The National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP) supports school communities to establish school chaplaincy and student welfare services or to enhance existing services.

As part of this program, I will complete an annual Progress Report on the overall delivery of the Chaplaincy service including the services delivered, benefits to the school and any feedback. Our P&C has supported the Chaplaincy service at our school and wishes to continue the Chaplaincy program in 2014. I am happy to receive any feedback about the Chaplaincy program before the completion of the Annual Progress report.

Expectations
By setting consistent standards, Dalby State School ensures continuity of instruction and clarifies expectations for students. This enables each successive teacher to build upon the foundations established in earlier grades. Bookwork represents a record of student achievement in various key learning areas. It is therefore essential that students are encouraged to develop good habits and take pride in their books. Recognition by teachers of improvement in bookwork gives the student great satisfaction and is a powerful incentive for future efforts.

Bookwork
Excellent Bookwork is what we want to strive for and achieve. Our expectations around bookwork are described below:

Prep – Year 7:
- We use a sharp lead pencil for writing until we earn our pen license in the upper school.
- When writing, we draw up a straight margin using a ruler.
- The date is always written at the top of our work.
- Our writing is neat, well sized, close together and spaced correctly.
- Our drawings and colouring-in reflect our best effort.
- Headings are underlined with a ruled line.
- We use all pages in our book. We do not leave any blank pages.
- Sheets are glued into books properly – the corners are not flapping, sheets are straight.
- We make sure we hand our work in when asked.
- If a mistake is made we rub it out completely. From Year 4 we use a single line to cross it out when appropriate.

Handwriting:
- Prep to Year 2 – Beginner’s alphabet
- Mid-Year 2 – Introduce exits and entries to beginner’s alphabet
- Year 3 to Year 7 – Queensland Cursive with a Pen License being introduced in Semester 2 of Year 6

Students in Prep to Year 3 classes have Write for Queensland on their booklist. This is to form part of their handwriting lessons – being supplemented from C2C and other gross/fine motor exercises as needed.

Explicit Teaching:
Explicit Instruction has been a regular topic of discussion at staff meetings at our school. I would hope that when visiting our classrooms that you will see some evidence of “Explicit Teaching” occurring.

Finally, our LIFT and LIFT OFF programs have been a great success and evidence of these programs working can be seen at Groom Hall on their advertised days.

Our Preppie and Parent information morning will occur Wednesday morning (31st July), 9:15 – 11am. I am looking forward to catching up with our incoming Prep students for 2014 as well as our new parents.

If you have any queries, please see me in the administration building. Have a wonderful week.

Regards,
Mona Anau (Principal)

IMPORTANT DATES:
- 28 July Dalby Choral Festival at Jondaryan Woolshed
- 01 August Creekside Market Devonshire Tea Meeting from 3.15pm
- 02 August Jump Rope for Heart - jump off
- 09 August Bunya Districts Athletics
- 17 August Dalby 150 Years Celebrations
- 19 August Free dress day Gold coin donation - supporting the Kidney foundation’s visit to our school
- 22 August Creekside Market Bottle Collection Day
- 25 August Opti-Minds in Gatton
- 31 August Lantern Festival

LIFT Learning Is Fun Together
LIFT Playgroup is on every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00-11.00.

We hope to see new faces and familiar faces at playgroup.

Our fun Mr Music Man sessions are now starting at 9.30 on Friday.

DALBY STATE SCHOOL CREED
“I am proud to be at Dalby State School. I will try my best to make the right choices and will respect others, all property and myself. Ever Onward.”
THIS WEEKS COOL TOOL

WEEK 3:
'KEEP HANDS, FEET AND OBJECTS TO YOURSELF'

Musical Helpers

We are looking for help with our musical Aladdin Jnr in the following areas: costuming, props, advertising, backdrops, front of house, ticketing, hair and makeup and ushers. We would greatly appreciate your help even if you don’t have a child in the musical. If you are interested in helping we are having a meeting on Thursday 1st August at 4:30pm in the Music Room. Let me know if you have any queries.

Thanks,
Ben McPherson
Classroom Music

P&C NEWS

Dalby Town is Celebrating 150 years from the 17th to 24th August, 2013

There will be a street parade on Saturday morning 17th August and Dalby State school will be entering a float. We are holding a meeting in the school library tomorrow (Thursday 25/7) from 3.15pm to discuss construction and decoration ideas, so if you have an artistic flair or would just like to be involved, you’re most welcome to come along. After the parade there will be food stalls and activities, our school will be operating a Hot Chips and Cold Drinks stall, so again if you would like to be involved or can help out in anyway, please come along to the meeting or email: melissal@bmo.com.au.

Year 8 in 2014

Parents and guardians of students attending Dalby State High School in 2014 now have the ability to start paying Student Resource Scheme fees by instalment. A discount applies for fees paid in full by 1st December 2013. Layby of uniforms is also available. Ring Joann or Kerry on 4669 0953 at the Resource Outlet between 8:30am and 2:30pm Monday to Friday for further information.