Principals Pen,

The Choral Festival held at the Jondaryan Woolshed was a great success. The event gave the State Schools from the district the opportunity to showcase their school choirs to the wider community. Well done to the Senior Choir for their polished and quality performance.

A huge thank to Mr Ben McPherson and Mrs Jenny Smith for their lead roles in coordinating our choral program at Dalby State School as well as supporting our students during lunchtime rehearsals and performances.

Congratulations to our concert band students for their performance on the day. Thanks to Miss Katie Commens for leading and assisting our band students. Well done to a number of staff members who also performed on the day, supporting the event.

Thank you also to parents for your support on the day. Overall, Dalby State School’s contribution, either as performers, members of the audience or as participants in the choral workshop was clearly seen during the Choral Festival. Well done to everyone involved!

The ‘International Competitions and Assessment for Schools’ English test will occur this week and the Mathematics test will occur on Tuesday 13th August. Good luck to all of the students involved in the ICAS tests.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English tests assess reading and language skills in a range of contexts. The following aspects of texts are assessed and reported on: reading for meaning in literary texts, reading for meaning in factual texts, textual devices, syntax and vocabulary. The questions require students to locate, identify, interpret, infer and synthesise information in and about texts.

Students read a variety of texts which narrate, describe, explain, argue, persuade and review. The types of texts include extracts from picture books, novels, poems, and play scripts, transcripts of interviews, letters, diary entries, advertisements, webpages, feature articles, opinion pieces and comics. These texts cover a range of topics and may include tables, diagrams, maps and other visual information.

This year, we have extended the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) to students in Year 2. This exciting development brings the well-known benefits of ICAS forward to Year 2, creating an extra 12 months for teachers to diagnose students’ strengths and weaknesses in the subjects of English/Literacy and Mathematics.

The benefits of participating in the ICAS test:
- A rigorous independent assessment of students’ english literacy strengths and weaknesses
- A rigorous independent assessment of students’ numeracy strengths and weaknesses
- Good practice that will assist with attaining skills needed when sitting NAPLAN
- Gives students an opportunity to experience external assessments in the core curriculum areas of english and mathematics
- Students can receive certificates of achievement including high distinction, distinction, credit and participation.

Again, I would like to remind everyone, that teaching and non-teaching staff continue to discuss the Independent Public School Initiative. Please read below for more information regarding Independent Public Schools.

How will Queensland Independent Public Schools differ from other State Schools?

Queensland’s State Schools already have a good deal of autonomy. Independent Public Schools will be provided with an opportunity for greater involvement of their school community in scoping their strategic direction to embrace innovation and tailor school programs to meet the individual needs of their community.

How many schools will be involved?

Up to 30 Independent Public Schools were selected to commence in 2013. A total of 120 Independent Public Schools will be involved in the initiative – 30 each year from 2013 to 2016.
Principals Pen Continued.....

What will school governance look like in an Independent Public School?

Independent Public Schools will be required to have a School Council. This will enable greater involvement of the school community in setting the strategic direction of the school. School Councils will inform and monitor the school’s strategic direction, strengthening local decision making. In addition, principals will have a performance agreement with the Director-General.

How will staffing processes differ for Independent Public Schools?

Principals at Independent Public Schools will be able to choose between directly recruiting teachers (where vacancies exist) or by filling vacancies through existing department applicant pools or the transfer system. Principals at Independent Public Schools will also be able to recruit classified teachers without having to go through the relocation process.

Will Independent Public Schools have to follow departmental policies?

While Independent Public Schools will not be required to follow a majority of operational procedures, they will be required to operate within legislation, industrial instruments, directives, delegations, whole-of-government policy and national agreements.

What will school governance look like in an Independent Public School?

Independent Public Schools will have the freedom to directly recruit teachers and to build a team that is able to shape and deliver innovative educational practices. They will also have more autonomy to manage and utilise infrastructure and financial resources. Independent Public Schools will have a direct line of communication with the Director-General and other Senior Executives who will cut red tape and help prioritise innovation.

So far, I have shared information at staff meetings, teacher aide meetings, cleaners and administration officer meetings, the Local Consultative Committee meeting and the P&C meeting. I will continue to disseminate information to staff regarding the initiative and more information will also be provided to parents via the P&C meeting in August. A voting process will then take place and if a majority of stakeholders (staff and parents) are supportive of the initiative, then our school will put in an expression of interest. If you have any feedback, please contact me in the office or email feedback to admin@dalbyss.eq.edu.au

This term, a number of classes will participate in excursions or field trips. So far, we have had the Year 2 students participate in a heritage walk around Dalby, looking at the historical sites that surround our school.

Year 3 are travelling to Jondaryan Woolshed today, studying the history of early settlers in a local context. Students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast some of the past and current components of our living environment, such as transport, work, education and natural and built environments.

Year 5 will be travelling to the Prophet Gold Mine in Kilkivan. Students will recognise key events during Colonial Australian times. Students will also investigate reasons why people migrated to Australia and appreciate the impact of the gold rush and the Eureka Stockade.

Our Prep students will participate in our annual excursion to Amaroo, which is always enjoyed by students, staff and parents.

Our goal this year is to ensure that each year level have the opportunity to participate in an excursion or field trip related to the curriculum studied in class. Students in year 7 have already participated in the year 7 camp, which is part of our curriculum, leadership and well-being program. I would like to acknowledge and thank the P&C for the financial support that they have contributed to assist with transportation of students to specific locations as part of their class excursion or field trip.

Today, we held our “Preppie and Parent information morning”. I enjoyed meeting with the new and the current parents who will be enrolling their students in Prep in 2014. Our Pre-prep program is now running at Groom Hall (LiFT-OFF program) and our playgroup continues to grow in numbers (LiFT program).

We have a ‘Rookies to Red’ presentation during this Friday’s parade, where students will receive information about the Rugby Union workshops to be offered on Sunday 4th August at the Dalby Rugby Union oval. Jump Rope for Heart will also occur this Friday. Our school will be involved in Dalby’s 150th celebrations by participating in the celebration march, lantern making activities as well as marching in the lantern parade. Our school has also submitted an editorial to be included in the Dalby’s 150th magazine.

As a school, we are really trying to be “out and about”, sharing the great things we do at Dalby State School. I do believe we are heading in the right direction towards ensuring the best outcomes for our students, as well as building a school that is intentionally welcoming for all stakeholders.

Have a wonderful week!
Mona Anau, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:
- 01 August Creekside 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 Kidney foundation’s visit to our school at 9am
- 22 August Creekside Market Bottle Collection Day & free dress day
- 24 August Lantern Festival
- 25 August Opti-Minds in Gatton

“GOTCHA”

Students are being “got” left, right and centre, the Gotcha Prize Shop is now doing a brisk trade in bronze-level prizes. With only 10 Gotcha tickets needed for a bronze prize – and plenty of great behaviour out there for teachers to reward, “shopkeepers” Mrs McKeon and Mrs Maguire are being kept on their toes during lunch breaks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Yesterday, students were happily exchanging tickets for mini Lego sets, stamp sets, skate decks and “so gross” collections.

While there are those who can’t wait to cash in, there are also plenty of students who have set their sights on bigger and better things – the silver (25 gotchas) and gold (60 gotchas) rewards. It is great to see so many steadily working towards their goal by making great behaviour choices in the playground every day!

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**

**BE READY TO LEARN**

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**Jump Rope For Heart**

Our school “Jump Rope” jump off will be on Friday August 2nd

Yr 3 - 11.30am, Yr 4/5 - 12.15pm, Yr 6/7 - 2.15pm.

Children can wear red and white and bring a healthy snack.

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**Week 4:**

**Come and join the Celebrations**

This year Dalby is set to celebrate it’s 150th year since it was formally gazetted as a town. Presently a committee made up of local people is planning the celebrations. To date we have planned: A Street Parade along Cunningham Street to start at 12 noon on Saturday 17 August 2013 Followed by Family entertainment and activities in Cunningham Street from 12.30pm – 5.00pm. There will be markets and opportunity for your schools to have a stall with food or other goodies. Dalby’s Amazing Race for school children will be on this day and students will be required to follow clues along the way. The participants will each be given a set of questions and will need to use their observation and calculating skills to answer each question. The race will take part in the main street of town only and will not require any crossing of streets where there would be traffic.

The first 50 children to return with the correct answers will receive a commemorative medallion as a memento of the day and each age section will be awarded first, second and third prizes by a draw after the conclusion of the race.

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**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.

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**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.

**Also please remember to return your Aladdin polo shirt order form and money to the school office as soon as possible.**

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**Creekside Markets Reminder:**

Devonshire Tea helpers meeting
Thursday 1st August
3.15pm in undercover area

If you can’t make it but would like to help in some way please phone Katrina 0438 924 259 or email bingtrine@bigpond.com

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**A note from the Chaplain.**

Hi everyone, just letting the school community know I am always available if you ever wish to talk to me, I am available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's.

I also run a craft group two lunch times a week. Donations of old magazines and 4L ice-cream containers would be appreciated. If you can donate any of these items please leave them at the school office.

Our local Chaplaincy Committee is running a stall at the Delightful and Delicious cultural festival, so look for the Mexican stall selling Nachos.

Regards,

Chappy Heather

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