<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember – November/December</th>
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<td><strong>Lifeguard Training</strong></td>
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**SCHOOL NEWS**

No.35

**School Holidays**


Presently the school is organising for pool lifeguards to be trained. The school, with the help of a Council grant, will be paying for the training, so there is no cost to the participants. All we ask in return is that each person volunteers some time to do lifeguard duty at the pool during public opening times. Public opening times are 2pm to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays from October to the end of March, and for as many days of the school holidays as we can, depending on the availability of our lifeguards. During last year’s school
holidays the pool was open to the public every day except for Christmas Day.

Lifeguard training has been organised for Sunday, 4 December. Participants need to have a current first aid certificate and may also need to do a little bit of work online before the training day.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in doing this training and helping out as a volunteer lifeguard over some weekends and days in the school holidays, please get them to contact the school on PH (07) 55 404 333.

Parent –Teacher Interviews

For the information of those parents who are new to our school, our school conducts parent-teacher interviews in conjunction with handing out report cards at the end of each semester. We just ask parents to come to school about 10 minutes before their appointment time so that they can sit with their child and look at their schoolwork and their report cards before coming to the interview with the teacher.

As staff, we find these discussions very important in helping to improve the way we help your child to achieve in his/her learning. The children themselves enjoy it when they see Mum and/or Dad come to school to see their work and to look at their report cards with them. It helps the students deepen their commitment to their own learning when they see their parents taking an active interest in how they are going at school.

*There is much evidence to support the difference it makes to a child’s success in education when parents are actively involved. It is one of the best things you can do to set your child up for a successful future.*

Rathdowney Swimming Pool is Open to Public

Saturday & Sundays

2pm – 5pm

Social Swimming for Adults

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

6.00pm – 6.30pm

$3 or season pass

Come along and swim laps, or just exercise in the water at your own pace – we are a friendly bunch and would love to meet some new people, so come along and give it a go!

*For more info, phone Carol 0457 474888*
For this semester the date for interviews is Wednesday, 30 November. Notes were sent home with last week’s newsletter, asking parents to nominate a preferred time for interviews on that day. If no note is returned to school, an appointment time will still be allocated on the day unless other arrangements have been made with the school or the child’s teacher.

**Prep -2 News**

This week, we have just about finished all of our testing for report cards and parent teacher interviews. We are just catching up with the students who have been absent. All of the students have really tried their best with their testing. I am very proud of all of them.

Over the next few weeks, we will be starting play practice in the hall to get ready for concert night. If your child will not be attending on the night, could you please let me know so I can organise partners and choreography knowing who will and won’t be there?

We are still finishing the few textbooks we have left and will continue to do so until they are all complete.

Thank you to all parents who helped complete part of the geography assessment with their child. I really appreciated your assistance with this task. It was very interesting to discuss the information with the students.

More from us next week!

Kasey, Cathy, Kay and Ellen

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**Monday 28th November**

9:00 am – 3:10 pm

Beaudesert State High School

Orientation Day 2016

Year 6 students are invited to attend a ‘hands-on’ taste of life at Beaudesert State High School.

Throughout the day students will:

- Meet key personnel so that they can put a ‘face to the name’
- Experience our beautiful school grounds
- Interact with our YELPs (Year Eleven Leadership Program mentors)
- Master the art of reading a high school timetable
- Interact with other Year 6 students from neighbouring feeder schools
- Do hands-on activities for a selection of subjects including, but not limited to:
  - Design and Technology
  - Science
  - The Arts
  - Agricultural Science
  - Mathematics
  - Health & Physical Education
  - English

*(Please note the allocation of subjects will be at random on the day. Each student will only get to experience 4 of the above subjects)*

Students will need to make their own way to and from the High School and will need to assemble at the ‘OVAL STAIRS’ at 9:00 am sharp.

There will be YELPs about to help guide Year 6 students to the correct locations.

Important information:

- Wear your primary school uniform.
- Bring a pen, a highlighter and something to write on.
- Bring your morning tea & lunch

*(Please note that Year 6 students will have access to our school’s canteen)*

For more information please contact Beaudesert State High School on:

Phone: (07) 5542 9111  Email: mjpreet1@eq.edu.au

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**Tuckshop Cancelled**

Due to no parent helpers being available, there will be **No Tuckshop** on Wednesday November 23.
At this week’s P&C meeting, it was decided to postpone the school’s Trivia Night until first term next year. This was done because many of the people who were involved in the organisation of the event, as well as interested participants, had conflicting commitments on the date. Understandably, the P&C decided the event would be better held early next year.

Please tell anyone whom you know was intending to come to this event, that we will still be holding it, but it will now be held on 11 March, 2017. The theme for the night will be the same. So hang on to your costumes!

The P&C sincerely apologises for any inconvenience this change of date may cause.

**P&C Trivia Night**
**Postponed to Term 1, 2017**

_Tuckshop 2017_

_Tuckshop will commence on Wednesday January 25th, 2017._

In order to continue having tuckshop on a weekly basis we are asking all parents to help in some way, either by working in the tuckshop or by donating 24 cakes, slices or jelly cups.

If we are unable to get enough parents to help we will unfortunately have to change tuckshop to a _monthly_ basis.

_A blue_ form was sent home this week, could you please return it to the school by _Friday December 2nd, 2016_ so a tuckshop roster can be sent out before the end of the school year.
BE PART OF SOMETHING LIFE-CHANGING

The Qld Government is giving parents and carers free access to evidence-based parenting support through the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program. Join us on Facebook to get quality parenting information, and visit www.triplep-parenting.net to see parents in your area. More seminars and group sessions coming soon.

SET YOUR KIDS UP FOR SUCCESS IN 2017

We all want our kids to do well at school – and in life! Set your kids up for success by learning how to positively parent. Find out how to encourage kids to be respectful, make good decisions and feel positive about themselves. And it’s all free! Why not do Triple P Online over the holidays (Teen version coming soon)? You can register online 24/7.

NEW PARENTING MAGAZINE OUT NOW

Japanese Day

Students from years 4/5/6 attended Japanese Children’s Day today at Beaudesert State School. They participated in kite making, kimono dressing, sushi making, karate demonstrations and soroban (abacus) activities. The students enjoyed a traditional Japanese lunch.

DID YOU KNOW TRIPLE P TRAINING IS FREE?

Do you have practitioners who would like to deliver Triple P sessions to parents? Free training and support is now available. For more details visit our training schedule. If there’s no training in your area or for the course you want, email training@triplep.net and let’s talk. If you have more than 15 people interested, we may be able to run a course just for your group. Call 3236 1212 for more details.

Parents please note:

If your child is participating in after school swimming training and there is lightning about, please assume swimming training is cancelled. As soon as lighting is seen all swimmers are required to exit pool immediately.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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Principal’s Report for the P&C Meeting - 15.11.16

Staff and Students

In the past month, we have had a new enrolment in Year 3. Taylah has settled into our school life well and has made many new friends within the class and with the younger students. We are expecting 5 new preps for 2017. These children have been coming along to our Pre-Prep program this term.

This term, Ms Ellen Masen has been working here on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays each week as a teacher aide and is also the swimming coach for two afternoon swimming training sessions, namely on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3pm to 4pm.

Student Council

The Student Council is presently selling ice-blocks at school on Fridays, for the remainder of this term. With help from the Rathdowney Hotel, the Council is also hoping to raffle another great Christmas hamper at the end of the year.

In the next week or so, the members of the Student Council will be writing “Thank You” cards to all the generous people who performed in the Theatre restaurant in August. We have had special cards printed and will now be able to send them out to people who have no children at our school, but gave up every Sunday evening to rehearse and put on a show to raise the money needed to send our Year 4-6 students to Sydney, Canberra, the snow and the Blue Mountains this year. We couldn’t have done it without them!!

The Student Council hopes to plant new vegetable gardens at the start of 2017. The students will be planning for this and costing materials to repair and enhance the garden. There may be a need to move the current vegetable garden to a more suitable location in the BRING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France next year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our High schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. All the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au

Yoga Class is back on again in Rathdowney Hall

Every Saturday 9am – 10am
$10 per session

PH: Amy 0408 778192 or just come along

Great for building strength and flexibility and for relaxation!
Staff Professional Development

During weekly staff meetings for most of this year, we have been reviewing the school’s present pedagogical framework and comparing and adapting the framework to current best practice based on recent research. The new Pedagogical Framework is ready for publication and will replace the current framework on our school’s website. Hard copies of the framework will also be sent home to each of our families. We have adopted a ‘signature’ Rathdowney pedagogy “I Do We Do, You Do” which is based on the “gradual release of responsibility” model of teaching. This means that every teacher and teacher aide will know that there is one special way that we teach and learn new concepts at our school. More importantly, the children themselves will know that this is the way we learn things at Rathdowney State School.

Mr Wes Kroll has completed an online course in the new STEM subject being introduced into all schools from next year onwards. He is now our resident expert on coding and robotics. We recently purchased some resources to help the students from Prep to Year 6 learn more about this important subject.

Recently, Mrs Trish Williams attended a PD for Business Service Managers and Administration Officers to help them get ready for school budgeting at the beginning of 2017.

School Events

During the next school vacation, the teachers will be taking about 13 or so of our students for a citizenship/attendance reward outing to the movies and lunch at Sizzler at Loganholme. Every school holiday period, students who have earned 50 award stickers for good citizenship, or who have a record of 50 weeks of perfect school attendance, are given the opportunity to go out with the teachers for a day in the school holidays as a reward for their efforts. For this term, we will be taking the students out on Tuesday, 20 December, 2016.

This term we have been revising all three of our school rules, “Be Respectful”, “Be Responsible” and “Be Safe” with the students on weekly parades. We have continued with the HI-5 response to teasing and bullying as part of our school’s behaviour management plan for the year. Our year’s focus on “being kind to others” both in words and deeds will continue throughout this term. This year the students have really taken these rules, strategies and the focus on kindness on board and they are continuing to apply them very effectively in the school playground.

Our regular Wednesday playgroup sessions are continuing with a number of families using our facilities each week. Playgroup operates on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:00pm in the old preschool building. This week is the last week of our annual, very successful, six-week pre-Prep program which has been running on Wednesdays from 10am to 11am each week. This program helps the new 2017 Preps get to know the school, the other kids and the teachers.
who work here, thus ensuring a smooth transition into school for next year. This week parents are invited to morning tea with the teachers and will be invited to stay afterwards for an information session, where they can ask all sorts of questions about the school.

The school successfully applied for a government grant to fund a swim coach for after school swim training sessions for this term. There are quite a number of students (10-15 students) taking advantage of this opportunity each Wednesday and Friday afternoon after school. Together with their school swimming each week, these students are becoming very fast and competent swimmers.

Chappy Rob has continued with ‘breakfast at school’ mornings each week. The children are served a healthy breakfast of cereal and toast every Thursday. There is no cost for this, as the ingredients are all donated by the YMCA which supports our local chaplaincy programs. Each week there are plenty of students with great appetites lining up for breakfast. It’s also a nice social time for the students where they can sit around and talk, while all sharing the same food.

Recently, the arborists arrived at school to remove dead trees and branches from the trees in our school playground that presented a significant risk to the safety of the students. We now have a lovely pile of tree mulch for our school garden beds. There is one more tree that couldn’t be removed on the day because of an owl nest. We’re just waiting for the tawny frogmouth owl chicks to leave the nest before removing that tree. Watching the nest, and watching the baby birds growing, has been of great interest to all the students.

Last week we had a visit from Bravehearts. This organisation visits many schools around the country teaching students about personal safety. Two weeks ago, the students were all treated to a visit from Phoebe from 4G Incursions. She spoke to all the students about Diwali, an annual Indian festival where people ‘turn over a new leaf’ in their lives by cleaning houses and buying new clothes and giving presents to each other. We also learned some traditional Indian dances. It was a lot of fun.

Our year 5 and 6 students were invited to a special ‘behind the scenes’ visit to Beaudesert State High School two weeks ago. The Year 6 girls have also received an invitation to the Year 6 high school orientation day on 28 November.

Both classes have started rehearsing the plays they will be performing for concert night at the end of the year. Parts have been decided and students are starting to learn their lines and songs in preparation for the big night which is now only about 3 weeks away!

Both classes are presently doing assessments for the end of the year report cards. Parent-teacher interview day will be on Wednesday, 30 November. Offers for appointment times were in last week’s newsletter.

The annual School Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday, 8 December. Parents are all cordially invited to come along and see the wonderful improvement the children have made in their swimming ability over this past year.

The senior school leaders’ dinner for all our Year 5 and 6 students will be held on Thursday December 1. The venue is yet to be decided. The girls will also be going on their senior leaders’ team-building day in the last week. Mr Kroll will be accompanying the girls. If possible, we are hoping to organise a day of activities that are new to the girls and should be a lot of fun.