FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

This week I have had a number of parents talk to me in regards to homework. One of our challenges this year will be to discuss and shape homework to the National Curriculum. Guidelines for Queensland State Schools about levels of student homework emphasise a need for balance between family life and consolidating classroom learning. They provide a very solid basis for schools to develop their own individual homework policy in conjunction with the school community, particularly the P&C. There is an emphasis on helping students establish a positive routine of regular, independent study, without going overboard.

Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)

In the Early Phase of Learning all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Homework tasks may include: daily reading to, with, and by parents, caregivers or other family members; familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, discussions about what is happening at school, preparation for oral presentations and opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

Middle Phase (Years 4 to 9)

In the Middle Phase some homework can be completed daily, over a weekly or fortnightly period and may include daily independent reading, be coordinated across different subject areas, for example setting a task such as writing a letter (English) to the local member of parliament (Civics) about a local environmental matter (Science), include extension of class work, projects and research.

Helping students take responsibility for their own learning

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by setting homework on a regular basis, explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework, while clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of homework.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school’s homework policy;
- discussing homework expectations with their parents or caregivers;
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set timeframes;
- following up on comments made by teachers;
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise, organizing their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

How can you help your children to learn?

Through their Parents and Citizens’ Association, parents can have a key role in the development of a school’s homework policy. Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- reading to them, talking with them and involving them at home, checking homework, playing computer games, playing games and physical activity, helping them complete homework tasks by discussing key questions, or directing them to resources, encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning and organization of time, encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events, helping them balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities, working part-time, and contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children’s approach to the homework.

I hope this can be of some assistance.

Dave Bosworth
Health News

Please be aware that within the school community and wider community illnesses such as
• Vomiting
• Chicken Pox
• School Sores
• Stomach Pains
• Viruses
• Diarrhoea
are affecting many.
If your child is unwell please keep them home due to the risk of infection.

Tuckshop News
Due to there being insufficient time for Prep to Year 3’s to eat their food and have an ice block or Slush Puppie at First Break, we have decided to change their time to have these items from the tuckshop at SECOND BREAK. Years 4-7 can now purchase their ice blocks and Slush Puppies at FIRST BREAK as they are able to eat quicker than the little ones. I apologise for any inconvenience caused.
The Oakey Show is just around the corner. If anyone is able to donate any of the following to ensure its success it would be greatly appreciated. BBQ and tomato sauce, Chill, g electrolyte drink, Tea, coffee, serviettes and plastic spoons. Them items can be dropped into the office or left at the tuckshop on Wed, Thurs and Fridays.
Could the following please donate to the tuckshop needs this week.
Debbie Peters—Tinned Fruit Salad, Heather Bradford—

COMMUNITY NOTICES
OAKLEY AQUATIC CENTRE would like to advise that a 5-6 week learn to swim block will commence mid February weather permitting. If you would like to enrol your child please contact the Oakey Swimming Pool on 4691038 for enquiries.

Limited spots available.
PANTHERS NETBALL CLINIC
The program starts Wednesday 1st February and for enrolment please contact the school prior to commencement on 46920333.

DUCTS TO REMEMBER:
• Wednesday 15th– Zone Swimming
• Thursday 16th– Year 7 Parent information/Canberra trip evening. 5.30 p.m

February 2012

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STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
Congratulations to the following students for the great job they have done at school this past week.
Prep A, Prep B – Whole Class
1. Sharmesha, Paige
2. Lily, Shakira
3. Byron, Aimee
4. Zachary, Kallaire, Darcy, Chloe
5. Nick, Cheynna, Daniel, Seth, Mitchell, Shantina
6. Lachlan, Ty, Patricia
7. Angela, Jacinta

Katlyn specializes in teaching English, mathematics, and science to students of all ages. She has a proven track record of helping students improve their grades and develop a love for learning. Her areas of expertise include exam preparation, homework help, and test-taking strategies. She is known for her patient and engaging teaching style, which has earned her a loyal following of satisfied clients. In her free time, Katlyn enjoys reading, hiking, and spending time with her family.