

Peak Crossing State School

"Success Through Diligence"

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Newsletter

Produced fortnightly for the Peak Crossing School Community

31/01/2017

BE SAFE

BE RESPECTFUL

BE RESPONSIBLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
30 th Jan – 5 th Feb	Year 6 Camp – Tallebudgera Beach School
1 st Feb	Department of Education and Training – Day 8 Figures due
7 th Feb	Tennis lessons start
10 ^h Feb – 24 th March	Yr 4-6 Swimming Lessons commence (Boonah)
1 st March	Peter Carnavas (Author Visit)
17 th March	Year 4-6 Swimming Carnival (Boonah)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to all of our staff, students and families, and a very big special welcome to all of our new students and families joining our wonderful school in 2017.

On behalf of all the staff at Peak Crossing State School, we look forward to engaging in positive partnerships between home and school to ensure that we are working together to enhance and improve student outcomes to ensure that **'Every State School Student is Succeeding'**.

Staffing and Student numbers

Over the holidays, Shaan Eldridge (previous Head of Curriculum) and myself, interviewed for the Acting Head of Curriculum position at our school. I would like to inform you that the successful applicant was Dallas Schmidt. I would like to welcome Dallas to the team. Dallas has previously worked as a small school Principal at Abergowrie State School in North Queensland. Prior to that, Dallas worked as a Classroom Teacher at Bundamba State School. Dallas will be acting in this position until the end of term one. Please also welcome Sarah Wright who comes to us from Amberley State School. Sarah is an experienced teacher and is teaching our year three class this year. A special welcome also to Jayne Matis. Jayne is taking the year two class for Liz King, while she is on leave. Mrs King will return on the 6th of March. We also have a new Speech Therapist, her name is Renee Dhnaram. Renee will be based at a different school, but will be allocated time to service our school, and will be out to visit us within the next few weeks.

I would also like to inform you that over the weekend Mr Kim Lam had a baby girl. Layla Jane was born at 12.19pm and weighed in at 3.47kg. I would like to extend our congratulations to Kim and her partner and wish them every success. Kim will remain on Maternity leave for the rest of 2017.

Our school currently has 239 students allocated across ten classes. Our student enrolment numbers are indicative of the number of teachers and teacher-aide hours that our school is allocated. On Thursday the 2nd of February, Principals in every school are mandated to input student enrolment numbers. The Department of Education and Training, obtain this data to confirm the number of staff allocated to each school, based on student enrolments. At this stage we are reasonably confident that our current staffing will remain in place. To the contrary, if you know of someone who is looking to enrol at our school, or you are a family who is leaving, could you please make contact with our school at the earliest possible convenience? It is imperative that we have up-to-date and accurate data to prepare for any foreseeable changes.

Our current staffing and their roles are as follows:

Principal	Jennifer Fenwick (Acting – Term 1 2017)
Head of Curriculum	Dallas Schmidt (Acting – Term 1 2017)
Administration Officers	Lynette Evans (Monday & Thursday); and Wendy List (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)
STLaN (Support teacher for Literacy and Numeracy)	Chris McLellan
Student Support Services Teachers' (SWD/Inclusion)	Shelley Myerson Kylie Ford
Classroom Teachers	Chris Harris – Year 6 Ashleigh Paull – Year 5/6 Melinda McMahon – Year 4/5 Robyn Rees – Year 4 Sarah Wright – Year 3 Sara Clark (M-Th)/Leah Tunks (F) – Year 2/3 Liz King (on leave 23/01/17 – 6/03/17) – replacement Jayne Matis – Year 2 Sam Swift – Year 1 Diane Gall – Prep/1 Sarah Curtis - Prep
L.O.T.E (German) Teacher/Social Skills Teacher	Maike Lablans
PE Teacher – 2-6	Peta Hayman
ICT Teacher/PE & Music Teacher lower School	Michael Eldridge
Music Teacher	Lauren Voigt
Instrumental Teacher	Simon Francis
Teacher-Aides	Mary McDonald Tracy Sheppard Tracey Stokan Sam Russell Leanne Hay Kaylene Spann Jennifer Harrison Sandra Hartley
Guidance Officer (1 day per week - Tuesday)	Clare Horne
Speech Therapist (Time allocation TBC)	Renee Dhnaram
Cleaners	Heather Range Karen Gunston Michele Dillon
Grounds Officer	Geoff Hounslow

Communication

Effective communication is a key to success. Please feel reassured that we aim to keep you well informed about your child's progress. Our school Newsletter is written and published every fortnight. To ensure that we are catering for family context, we will be sending home a small letter for you to indicate how you would like to receive our school newsletter.

We have three available options:

1. Our school newsletter is uploaded to our school website and can be accessed via the Q School's app which can be downloaded to your phone and provides you with notifications
2. The school newsletter can be directly emailed to your email address
3. If you have no internet access, or your internet access is intermittent, you can request a hardcopy to be sent home with the eldest child in your family.

In addition to our school newsletter, each term, class teachers', will be sending home a classroom newsletter, titled 'What's Learning at Peak Crossing'. This Newsletter will inform you of what concepts your child is learning about each term. From time to time additional letters may also be sent home from the school or classroom teachers.

Next Tuesday the 7th of February, we would also like to invite all parent and carers to an information session at our school. This will commence at 5pm and conclude at 6pm. If you could please assemble in the Undercover area near the Tuckshop, (please note: the hall will be occupied by Peak Kidz who run the before and after school care service), so that I can welcome you all and give you an overview of our school improvement agenda. Parent/s and Carer/s will then be invited to visit their children's classrooms between 5.15 pm and 6 pm. Teachers will provide an overview of the teaching and learning environment in their classrooms and will be available to answer any general questions you may have. If you have more than one child at the school, you may like to have a family member attend one classroom, while you attend another, or simply just pop in to each classroom for a period of time throughout the hour. If you cannot attend at all, please don't be concerned, as you will have access to the classroom newsletter

being sent home, which should keep you well informed. Once a term, every term, each classroom teacher, will be sending home a 'What's Learning at Peak Crossing State School' to keep you informed on what your child will be learning about.

Our school will also offer two opportunities to have a formal face to face Interview with your child's class teacher. This will occur in term one, and term three. Two formal Report Cards will also be sent home throughout the year, in term two and in term four. From time to time, things may pop up throughout the year, and you may wish to discuss a concern with your child's teacher/s. Any concerns should be addressed at the earliest possible convenient time, for both parent/s and carer/s, and classroom teachers. Please ensure however; that you make an appointment to see your child's teacher, as teachers are busy preparing lessons for the school day. Of course if something is urgent or it is paramount that a teacher knows something immediately, this is understandable. Communication and queries can also be directed through to our school Administration Officers, and I also have an Open Door policy, in the event that you feel you need to direct your query or concern to me.

Respect our School, Respect our Staff.



The Queensland Government's commitment to tackle the issue of violence and to continue to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and school staff is a priority. The department has launched a new campaign to raise awareness that violent or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated in Queensland state schools <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/respectourstaff/index.html>

The Respect our staff, respect our school campaign, aims to create safer and more respectful communities in Queensland state schools.

Violent or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated at this school. It's not just a courtesy, it's the law. Visit the website for more information. <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/respectourstaff/index.html>

We all have different beliefs, expectations and experiences, so there are inevitably going to be times where conflicts or disagreements can occur in schools. How we handle those conflicts can make a significant difference to the learning and development of our students and the positive environments we aim to foster.

The safety of our students and staff is the number one priority and everyone in the community plays a part in ensuring learning environments are safe. All members of the community are encouraged to work together to prevent abuse and violence directed towards school staff.

Multi-Age Classes

Being a small school we are bound to have multi-age classes. Please note, that even in a straight year level class, not all students are working at the same level and teachers provide differentiation to support student needs. This can happen in numerous ways using a variety of resources and strategies. Regardless of whether your child is in a multi-age class or not, all students are assessed at their year level standard. In addition, some concepts are repeated and reinforced in every year level, some just get more complex.

School Annual Review

Last year, during the last term of school we had our School Annual Review and we were provided with some recommendation strategies for improvement.

One of these strategies was to:

Collaboratively develop, document and implement a clear strategic vision for the future improvement of the school.

In our next school Newsletter, I will be inviting you to participate in an activity to contribute your ideas. A hard copy will also be sent home, so please keep an eye out for this.

Every Day Counts

Please remember that 'Every Day Counts'.

It is compulsory for all eligible aged children to attend school every day and it is the parents and carers responsibility to ensure that this happens. The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for the department. Parents need to know if their child hasn't turned up for school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. State schools are now required to notify parents on the same day that any student is absent from school without explanation from their parents and or carers.

Therefore, If for any reason your child is unwell and is unable to attend school, please contact the school via phone, or send an email to our Administration department: admin@peakcrosss.eq.edu.au , or alternatively pop in, or send a note to your child's class teacher. All student absences must be explained! If you know in advance that your child will be away for at least 10 or more days, an application to the Principal for an exemption from participating in compulsory schooling must be applied for. The Principal will consider all applications and discuss and inform parents and caregivers of the outcome.

The following table shows the impact that absenteeism can have on learning outcomes!

If your child misses....	That Equals.....	Which is.....	And over 13 years of Schooling, that's....	Which means the best your child might perform is....
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years	Equal to finishing in Grade 11
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years	Equal to finishing in grade 10
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Equal to finishing in Grade 7
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years	Equal to finishing in Grade 4

Please remember that school starts at **9.00am** and concludes at **3.00pm**. Children should not be coming to school before 8.30am, and teachers are not rostered on for duty to supervise children before school. This is a Queensland Teacher's Union and Department of education and Training recommendation. If your child enters the school at 8.30am, they are to make their way to the undercover area, where two of our Teacher-Aides will keep an eye on them. It is important that students are engaging in a low key activity during this time.

Please also ensure that your child is on time every day and is not left waiting for extended periods of time after school to be collected. Children who miss important morning routines or who are left waiting for extended periods of time after school, may become anxious. If for some reason you cannot collect your child on time, please phone the Office, as soon as possible, so that we can reassure your child. In addition, if you require supervision of your child/ren before 8.30am or after 3pm, please seek some information regarding enrolling your child in before and after school care, which is available via Peak Kidz at a reasonable cost and provided on our school site.

Positive Behaviour Learning Journey

Last year our school began venturing on a Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL) journey and looking at reviewing the School Responsible Behaviour Plan. This year our school has an opportunity to apply to officially register as a PBL school. We intend to make this application, however, regardless of whether the application is successful or not, we will continue to function using the same principles.

Here is some information from the Department of Education regarding this evidence based model of behaviour.

Why adopt a school-wide approach with PBL?

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), previously known in state schools as Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), is a whole-school approach to creating a safe and supportive environment that has a strong evidence-base and is used in many Queensland state schools.

Schools should consider PBL if:

- they want to improve academic outcomes
- they want to reduce rates of problem behaviour across the school
- parents and community want to raise the positive public profile of their school
- the school's Responsible behaviour plan for students needs to be updated to ensure that everyone is consistently managing problem behaviour
- teachers want to improve the way problem behaviour is being managed
- staff want to increase teaching time and the positive feeling tone (climate) of the school and classrooms.

(Ed Qld, 2016).

Peak Crossing State School rules are:

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Peak Crossing State School Motto:

'Success through Diligence'

Our School Responsible Behaviour Plan will continue to be reviewed this year, and our school staff look forward to collaborating with key stakeholders and engaging in feedback around this. Once we have completed reviewing procedures the School Responsible Behaviour Plan will be updated, communicated with all key stakeholders and uploaded to our school website.

Staff have collaborated on establishing the difference between minor and major behaviours and schoolwide expectations for what it looks like to be safe, respectful and responsible across all areas of the school. These expectations will be taught to students, practised, reinforced, and corrected where required. We will soon be commencing a focus behaviour for each week, which we will communicate on assembly and in the school newsletter. We are in the process of still reviewing our schoolwide process of behaviour consequences; however our aim to focus on preventative and proactive measures. Currently in place, all teachers will teach the schoolwide expectations to students and ensure students are redirected and given fair warning if not following the school rules. If come strike three, students are still not displaying the desired behaviour, students may be sent to a thinking/time out space for ten minutes (classroom or playground). Students may also be sent to a Buddy Classroom, or receive a lunchtime detention. On occasions, students may be referred to the Office when major behaviours are displayed. Parents or Carers will be notified if their child receives a detention, or is sent to the Principal's Office for any serious school code of conduct breach.

We have been reviewing our reward system and have made some amendments. We will still continue to have all of our end of year Success Awards. We award one child in each year level with an Academic and Behaviour Award. Teachers collaborate and use criteria and data to make the decision on who receives this award. Awards in year six, are also presented for Sportsperson of the Year, Citizenship, and Dux of the school.

We have tweaked our whole school reward system and added a new layer.

Students will each receive a school made positive behaviour book, called a 'Gotcha Book'. Our school has made some 'Success Gotcha's' to correlate with our school rules. When students receive these, they will go into our whole school box and three will be drawn out on Parade for students to receive a water ice-block. The Gotcha's will then be returned to students to glue into their Gotcha Book. When students receive the following number of Gotcha's, teachers will certify this, and then students will receive a Behaviour Success Award on Assembly.

25: Bronze Behaviour Success Award

50: Silver Behaviour Success Award

75: Gold Behaviour Success Award

100: Platinum Behaviour Success Award

We look forward to keeping you updated throughout this journey.

Family and Medical Information

If you have changed any family information, including your address, phone or email, could you please inform the Office so that we can make this change in our system. If you're emergency contact person and/or details have changed, if we could also please also have this vital information.

If your child has any medical condition, or important information, including medication that needs to be administered, could you please also ensure that we have this important information. It is a Department of Education and Training requirement that all medication that is required to be administered to a child is stored at the office. It must be in the original packaging and contain the child's name and dosage. A letter from your child's doctor is also required for staff to be able to administer medication and this should correlate with the label on the medication. If your child has a medical condition, such as, but not limited to Anaphylaxis, Epilepsy, and Asthma etc.... it is a departmental requirement that we have a medical management plan with detailed information from the treating medical doctor or specialist that supports the management of your child/ren. This should be signed by the doctor and include an accompanying letter to inform of the medical condition that is needing to be monitored and treated.

From time to time information may change, and in order to ensure that we are providing the best care, we would appreciate you updating all of this important information, as is relevant to your child's situation.

Year 6 Camp

Our year six students are off on a Leadership camp with Miss Paull and Mr Harris to Tallebudgera Beach School. I am sure that this will be a wonderful lifelong learning experience for our year six students. Miss Paull has prepared work for her year five students and they are completing this work under the supervision of other teachers at our school. This is a good opportunity for them to work responsibly and independently. Of course help is available via both our supervising teacher and teacher-aide where required. The year five students are also receiving some Literacy and Numeracy Intervention lessons from our Learning Support teacher Mrs McLellan.

Student Leader Positions

Our 2017 School Captains and Sporting House Captains were announced at our Awards Ceremony at the end of last year. **William Dobbin and Ashley Leatch** are our **2017 School Captains**; and our **2017 Sporting House Captains** are: **Flinders: Emily Muller and Emma Windolf**; and for **Goolman: Lilly Cobbin and Logan Hay**. To add to our School Leaders for 2017, forms have just gone home for an opportunity for year six students to nominate for a Music Captain position or a Student Council position. Year fives also have an opportunity to apply for a shadow Student Council Position. These nomination forms are due to be returned by Thursday the 9th of February. Speeches will be held on Assembly on Monday the 13th February. Staff and students will then vote and students will be informed of the outcome. All Student Leaders will then be presented with their badge on Assembly on Monday 20th February.

Swimming and Met West Swimming Championships

Swimming is usually conducted for Prep to Year three students in term four. We will continue to do this again this year. In addition, our school has decided to ensure all students get the opportunity to swim each year. This term, commencing in week three on Friday the 10th of February, students in years' 4-6 have an opportunity to go swimming. The year 4-6 students will be travelling to Boonah State High School for their swimming lessons. These lessons will be conducted by qualified swim instructors from Boonah, who also all hold their Surf Lifesaving Bronze Medallions. Swimming permission notes and invoices will be sent home tomorrow. These forms need to be returned as soon as possible, as swimming start next Friday.

Please also note: The **Metropolitan West Swimming Championships** are being held at Chandler on Wednesday the 22nd of February. There are no trials being held, but in order for a student to make the Fassifern Swimming team, they need to obtain the qualifying times either at a school/district event last year, and/or at a recognised swim club meet. Nominations for students who qualify have to be submitted to our school **as soon as possible**, as we need to forward these on to Melita Mackay at Rosewood SS, by Monday 7th February 2017. If you think that your child may qualify, could you please make contact with our school as soon as possible, as swimming times need to be verified and nomination forms need to be filled in and signed and sent off. Students with the fastest 5 verified times across the Fassifern District, will be selected in the Fassifern District Team to contest the Met West Championships at Chandler on Wednesday 22nd February.

Assembly

Assembly is held each Monday, commencing Monday 6th of February a 9.15am. Please come along to hear our key messages and share in the success of our students.

Visitors

Just a reminder that all visitors, spending time at the school to assist with any school based activity, must sign in and out using the Visitors Book kept at the Office. This is an Education Queensland requirement to ascertain who is on the school premises at all times. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Feedback

If you ever have any feedback you would like to provide, or any ideas or suggestions for our school, I would love to hear from you. I have an open door policy, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a fantastic fortnight of learning,

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Fenwick
(Acting Principal Peak Crossing State School)

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

P & C Announcements

The next P & C Meeting will be held on Monday the 20th February at 7pm.

Special thanks to Trish Weatherhead for giving up her own time to sell our School Uniforms at the Uniforms at the Uniform Shop.

Special thanks also to the P & C who applied for a grant for our school through 'Earth Frequency' and were successful. The P & C have picked up \$2900 to go towards a Buddy Bench at our school.

TUCKSHOP

The Tuckshop will reopen this Friday 3/02/17

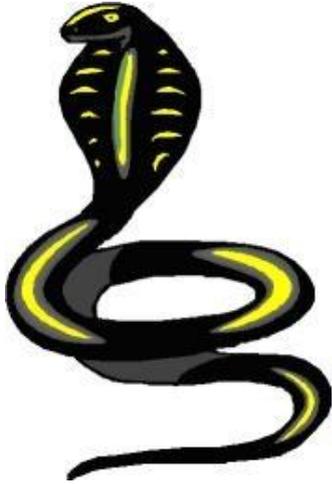
Thank you to those of you that have helped out in the Tuckshop on a Friday, it is greatly appreciated and wouldn't open without you.

If you would like to help out in the Tuckshop this term please don't hesitate to contact Bel on: 0405 199 453. It really is an easy and enjoyable day.

Bus Meeting

Next Wednesday 8th February there will be a Limestone Ridges bus meeting at 9.00am in the Admin Office. If you have concerns regarding bus travel you are more than welcome to attend.

FASSIFERN COBRAS



SOCCER CLUB SIGN ON

*“Be a part of a local community sports group, were it’s
all about the kids having fun”*

Saturday, 28th January 2017 – 10am till 12 noon

Saturday, 4th February 2017 – 10am till 11am

Fassifern Cobras Soccer Shed

Kalbar Showgrounds - Edward St Entrance

For more information please phone

0407 021 480

**Everyone is WELCOME, new members will require birth certificate at
sign on.**

COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN!!!