Hi Parents

It was fantastic to see so many of you at the Sports Day last Friday. Thank you to all our volunteers for your help on the day. A special thank you needs to go to Ray Robbins for his assistance, tips and advice leading up to and on sports day. I would also like to acknowledge those parents who provided feedback throughout the day. It is always good to receive feedback from parents as it helps us to improve our events each year.

Last week I was away at the CQ Regional Principal Conference. We were fortunate enough to engage with the Disability Standards in Education and attend a forum with the Director General during the week. It certainly was an inspiring week and great to hear the ‘big picture’ messages from the Director General. The highlight of the week for me was listening to the Key Note Speakers, and in particular, Professor John Munro. John Munro’s work around oral language was the foundation of our Great Results Guarantee, so hearing his thoughts on effective literacy pedagogies was timely. He challenged our thinking on current practices and suggested ways forward. As a staff, we have started to unpack his thinking and we will continue to do so as we refine and improve our pedagogy here at Prospect Creek.

I have attached an article on the importance of oral language in literacy development as a reminder of our Great Results Guarantee focus. Our Great Results Guarantee is to improve oral language across the school (spoken sentences and vocabulary), as the research shows that unless students can say it, they can’t read it or write it. The article can also be found online at http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/chattering-classes-point-way-to-success-20110826-1je5n.html

TALKING TIPS

*Help children to learn new words and build a richer vocabulary. Encourage them to name items, actions and use descriptive words.

*Encourage them to talk in sentences about experiences and events, expressing what they think and feel.

*Show them how to use a broader range of sentences when they are playing with toys, listening to a story or talking with others.

*Build their listening capacity. Share stories and play games in which they need to listen, respond to information and follow instructions.

*Help them listen for and use sound patterns in words. Encourage them to rhyme words, sing and read stories that have rhyming words.

*Teach them to ask different types of questions and to use questions to learn new ideas.

*Ask them to predict what could happen next when sharing an experience such as shopping or playing, reading them a story or playing with toys.

*Ask them to retell experiences. Show them photos of experiences you have shared or videos they have seen and ask them to say what happened.

Yesterday we had a visit from our Assistant Regional director, David Roach. David spent the afternoon with us visiting classrooms and discussing our improvement agenda. It was great to have David visit our school and follow up on some of the priorities from the conference.

Just a reminder that on Monday we have the Queen’s Birthday holiday. School resumes back on Tuesday 10th June. We will have a short week next week as Friday we have the Small School Sports Day in Goovigen. Newsletters will go home on Thursday next week.

SPORTS DAYS COMING UP

A reminder that students will be required at Goovigen next Friday by 8:15am ready for an 8:30am start. Please remember to wear orange shirt, black pants, black hat and bring a water bottle.

Students who are successful at Goovigen on Friday will compete in the Callide Valley Sports Day to be held at Redeemer College on Friday 20th June.

SEMESTER REPORTS

A reminder that reports will go home slightly earlier this semester to enable parent meetings to occur in week 10 if required. All students will receive a grade based on a 5 point scale in all learning areas. For students demonstrating a sound understanding of the curriculum content, being able to apply understandings independently, a ‘C’ grade or equivalent is given. Thus, a student receiving a ‘working with’ in prep, ‘sound’ in years 1 and 2 or ‘C’ in years 3-7 are demonstrating a satisfactory level of knowledge and understanding of content for their age. Only students demonstrating a high level of understanding and application receive an A or B equivalent in semester reports. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at school.

P&C MEETING

A reminder that the next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday at 3:15pm. We will start in the library to use the ICT and then move downstairs for the remainder of the meeting. The P&C is a great way to meet other families, hear what is happening in the school and have your say. I will be taking the P&C through some school performance data and discussing priorities for next term. We look forward to seeing you all there.
Hi All,

Next week is construction week for science. Please send any materials they have collected for this assessment with them by Wednesday as this is the day we will be doing the construction. Preps are making a wind chime, Year 1 a boat and Year 2 a lunch box. Here are a couple of pictures of mighty constructions made by the Preps this week.

Hi All,

I am noticing students are beginning to lapse a little with their homework. Each week students are required to complete 1 literacy and numeracy task along with nightly reading and spelling. Spelling each night should consist of a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check. Students should not just be pasting their words into their books, in fact, words are just given to students so they can look at them prior to spelling. Your assistance in encouraging students to complete both literacy and numeracy components of the homework independently would be appreciated. This needs to be handed in on Friday so it can be marked on the weekend.

History assessments

Although history assessments are being completed in class, students may wish to do some research at home. Any information they find can wither be printed or sent to school via a USB stick. Alternatively, students can use their webmail to email me their information ready for history lessons on Monday and Friday.

A reminder that my email is inort105@eq.edu.au. Students can access their webmail from home using webmail.eq.edu.au.

Next week for homework students will bring home information for their assessment which they have researched at school. They will be asked to put this into their own words ready to present as part of their assessment. This could by typed on a computer or written neatly on paper.

Years 3, 4 and 5 – How has Federation changed Australia today? Find different sources (pictures, information, maps etc.) to illustrate this. Present your information in your own words as a poster.

Year 6 and 7 – Locate and present different sources to show your understanding of Athens and Sparta in Ancient Greece. Discuss women, slaves and democracy of Athens and Sparta.

BATTERY DRIVE

Well done and thank you to our community for their support with our battery drive. So far we have collected just over 6 tonne of batteries with a few more tonne still to go. Our battery drive will continue as long as the batteries are coming in. If you do know of anyone who has old batteries lying around, please ask them to give the school a ring. Well done P&C, another fantastic fundraiser.

School Attendance Term 2

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TARGET—95%

Happy Birthday

Emma Natoli—8th June
Miss Warry—9th June
Mrs Pace—11th June
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Ezekiel Jackson — Excellent work in class
Aaron Hite — Working hard and improving

School Sports Day
DATES TO REMEMBER

Queen’s Birthday Holiday — Monday 9th June
P&C meeting — Tuesday 10th June (3.15pm)
Book club orders returned — Thursday 12th June
Callide Valley Small School Athletics Carnival (Goovigen) - Friday 13th June
School Reports sent home— Friday 20th June
Last day of term 2 – Friday 27th June
First day of term 3— Monday 14th July
Betty Bawden’s luncheon — Saturday 19th July

INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Chattering classes point way to success
- Callide Valley Small School Athletics Carnival program – Goovigen