Dear Parents,

We have just finished a very full and exciting week. Lots of learning opportunities for both staff, parents and students.

We were extremely excited to have Eric Frangenheim, owner of Rodin Educational Consultancy and Director of ITC Publications. Eric’s work is around the Thinking Skills Framework, which is clearly displayed in the library and both classrooms. He modelled how to utilise this effectively in the 3-6 classroom and demonstrated how to incorporate cooperative thinking strategies in our context. Eric stayed behind to go through some lesson planning with teachers in the afternoon. The students responded extremely well to Eric’s lesson and it was pleasing to see how excited and engaged they were for the entire day. Thank you to the parents and colleagues from other schools who came along to share the day with us.

The thinking skills framework is based on Bloom’s Taxonomy. Usually when questioning our children we ask them to recall, to demonstrate understanding and to apply their knowledge by completing a task.

Another key idea presented by Eric is that we should be questioning our children about their day to which they reply, “boring”? How often do we ask our children what they learned today? Why was it your favourite?

The Thinking Skills Framework, including some suggested verbs, are electronically attached to this newsletter.

On Wednesday we had our second session with Libby Jachles, Writing Traits coach. This was a fantastic session providing us with innovative ways to improve our students’ writing. The focus of this session was around assessment and using this assessment to provide explicit feedback to students on how to improve.

Thank you to our Treat Kitchen helpers Nicole Holmes, Trudy Tappin and Liz Norman. Our sandwiches tasted yummy and were toasted to perfection!

It was great to see our students in green today as we raised money for Thangool State School. Thank you to Nicole Holmes who baked the biscuits for us.

On Monday I will be in Jambin with other Band 5/6 principals discussing our NAPLAN preparation and school data with our Project Officer from Gladstone. Patrice Baird will be replacing me on this day. Routines will remain as normal.

3-6 Camp

Thank you to those families who have already returned their camp note. A reminder that this note, with a $50 deposit is due by Friday 13 March please. The camp is not compulsory and any students not attending will remain at school for the week. Fundraising options will be discussed at our next P&C meeting on Tuesday 10 March.

Cross Country

Cross Country will take place at 9am sharp on Friday 13 March. This should have the event concluding by 11am. All students will participate in this event. Prospect Creek State School is then hosting the Small Schools Cross Country event. This will take place on Friday 27 March at 9:30am. This event is only for students who are aged 9 and older. Students who make the distance without stopping and are aged 10 and older will be eligible for selection at the Port Curtis event.

Traits writing

I must say, I am extremely impressed with how our writing is improving after only 5 weeks of Traits writing. This week, students looked at crafting fluent sentences. They were identifying the different types of sentences and discussing how varying the lengths of sentences help create a cohesive, engaging text. Next week, we are back to the Ideas Trait. Once students have found a topic, it is time to focus the topic and ensure that it is not too broad. This is something that our students struggle with. They often have so many wonderful ideas and they want to get them all down.

Attachments to the Newsletter

You may have noticed that we are sending home more and more attachments with each newsletter. Community groups often send us flyers promoting various events and we enjoy supporting our community in this way. As you can imagine, with these flyers, photocopying and collating becomes a big task. Starting from this newsletter, flyers will be listed in the newsletter as an attachment and these will be sent home via the electronic newsletter only. Permission notes and other notes which require a response from you will continue to go home as a hard copy so you can sign it and return it to school. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

School Sores (Impetigo)

We have confirmed case of School Sores in the school. Please be on the lookout for any sores. If you are concerned or would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school office.
Hi All,

Thankyou to all that have sent in photos for the history assessment. If you haven’t yet, please have a look through the last two newsletters for what is required or contact me and I will let you know what you need to send.

Hi All,

Hopefully students shared with you their writing goals. These are different for every student and identifies for each of the traits, what they are working on. If you missed seeing these, just flick back a couple of pages and you will see it when they bring their homework home again on Monday.

We absolutely loved having Mr F teach us for a day on Tuesday. Feedback from throughout the day was that the lesson was exciting but exhausting. No doubt students came home to tell you all about their learning – Don’t forget to start with the verb!

I have noticed in the homework that students are completing their maths but not doing their writing. This may be because it is more of an open task which requires thinking. These tasks are follow ups from our previous work in writing and it is important to help consolidate these skills. Please encourage your child to complete these as it will help them to achieve their writing goals.

On Thursday EVERY child is required to borrow from our library to ensure reading happens EVERY night. It is important that students bring their books back to school on Thursday to enable them to continue borrowing. Students are starting to forget their books and are using this as an excuse to not borrow. Your assistance in ensuring library books are ready to be returned on Thursday is appreciated.

Students have been learning about writing a variety of sentences with different beginnings. Students were asked to choose three things they liked doing after school and write three different sentences using these things.

- Horse ridding
- Soccer
- Motor bike ridding

I like to do horse riding, soccer and motor bike riding.

I like to horse ride and play soccer. I like riding my motor bike as well.

I like to horse ride and play soccer with my friends and sometimes I even like motorbike riding.

Ivy

- Play Tennis
- Play Soccer
- Listen to music

I like to play tennis, soccer and listen to music.

I like to play tennis and soccer. I also like to listening to music.

I am a tennis playing, music listening person that loves to play soccer.

Kahu
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Quaid Blyton — Improved organisation and effort in class.
Ivy Neve — Consistently showing a great attitude in class. Well done.

School Attendance Term 1, 2015

TARGET — 95%

P&C Meeting

Just a reminder that the March P&C meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 March at 3:30pm. Our discussions will include fundraising options for the 3-6 camp. Please come along to be involved in decision making for our school.
DATES TO REMEMBER

Cross Country — Friday 13th March 9-11am
Small Schools Cross Country — Friday 27th March (Years 4-6) 9.30am
Last day of term — Thursday 2nd April
Term Two starts — Monday 20th April
Biloela Anzac Memorial Club Raffles — Friday 24th April (volunteers needed)
Biloela Anzac Memorial Club Raffles — Friday 8th May (volunteers needed)