Principal’s Message

Last Monday night I presented to our P&C our school’s plans for this year. We now have a lot of good practices and systems in place that we plan to consolidate in order to improve student outcomes. We also have areas that we will focus such as writing to ensure increased improvement for all students.

As we do each term, we have attached to this newsletter an overview of the curriculum for each class over this term, to give parents an idea of what their children are learning about. Please see your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

Thanks very much for your cooperation in helping keep our students safe by using the crossing. It is much appreciated.

I will be absent this Thursday and Friday on leave and Mrs Bowe will be acting principal.

Mark Hooson

Student Attendance

Last year our overall student attendance was only 93.2%. Attendance was very good in Years 3 – 6 and was over 95%, but it was around 90% in year Prep to 2. This is worrying as it means that on average students in the lower year levels were missing one day of learning every fortnight. If students are sick they need to stay at home but it is not OK for them to have a day off if they are not sick.

This year I think a target of 95% for the whole school is a reasonable one to aim for. I will report throughout the year on our progress.

Instrumental Music Starts

We had 30 students attend the start of instrumental music last Thursday which is an amazing response. There were 13 new students to the program.

Updating Student Information

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our current information that we have on your child. It is important that all information we have is up to date, especially parent contact details as quite regularly we cannot contact parents as their details have changed and we have not been notified. We are asking that all parents sign and return the form even if details are correct. That way we can be certain that all parents have checked the information that we have on record. Thanks for your cooperation.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Belle Rohde who turns 5 on Wednesday, Megan Crago who turns 11 on Thursday, and to Saxon Muirhead who turns 7 on Saturday.
Sporting Schools

Last year we successfully applied for and received a grant for term one and term two to allow us to employ specialised sporting groups within the community to work with all our students. This term we will have Pop Dickerson, a well-known identity in Toowoomba basketball, coach our students making use of our upgraded basketball facilities. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their first session last Tuesday and lessons will continue for the rest of this term.

Stephie Dau take a shot under the watchful eye of ‘Coach Pop’.

‘You Can Do It’ Awards

Awards this week were presented to the following students for getting along and working cooperatively with others

P1: Memphis Richmond
12: Tomo Wright
34: Douglas Gosper
56: Angus Johns

STEM SHACK! (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Now here is something to get excited about! We are starting a new lunchtime activity this year called STEM SHACK, where students from across the school can engage in activities that help to develop Social/Emotional and technological skills simultaneously. We will achieve this through the use of Coding, MinecraftEDU, Robotics and Yu-Gi-Oh cards. Sounds fun right? Well it will be.

This will be a voluntary activity where students can opt in and out at any time. I think the only problem we will have is finding enough space for all the kids that want to be a part of it.

Regards
Jay Wright

Monthly Meeting

Last Monday we had our first meeting for the year and it was great to see a few new faces. Minutes for this meeting are attached to your newsletter.

Meet and Greet BBQ

The Vale View State School P&C would like to invite all families to a ‘Meet and Greet BBQ’ on Friday 19 February at school from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm. Hamburgers and sausage in bread are available to purchase as well as soft-drink and water. Tea and coffee will be served at no cost. Each family is asked to bring a plate to share for dessert.

Please fill in the attached expression of interest to help us with catering.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 29 February where we will elect office bearers for 2016.

Community News

RUNNIN REBELS BASKETBALL CLUB starts this Saturday and Monday at Harristown High School – Hennessy Street, Toowoomba.

Saturdays
- 10:00 to 11:00am training for 12/under, 10/under, 8/under
- 11:00 to 12:00noon – games for 12/under, 10/under, 8/under

Mondays
- 4:30 to 5:30pm training and games 11, 12, 13 yrs.
- 5:30 to 6:30pm training and games 14 to 17 yrs.

Just show up on the day!
Fee - $7.00 per session - you can participate in one or all sessions provided in your age group

Contact details:
Head Coach, Pop Dickerson – 0417196151
Secretary, Penny Drakos – 0400229720
E-mail – runninrebels@toowoombabasketball.com.au